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Superintendent Jerry Baker (right) and his Assistant, Tim Haskins had the course in great shape for the competition. An IGM managed facility, the Pelican Strand CC is a 7,400 yard Gordon Lewis design with FloraDwarf greens and GN1 bermuda tees and fairways. It was the first opportunity many of the golfers have had to putt on one of the new ultra-dwarf grasses. They were rolling very smooth and true.



Winners A Flight: Odell Spainhower, left, and Walt Shirey



Winners B Flight: L-R Jim Leiseberg & Gary Sorenson



During lunch at the Interlachen CC, Cary Lewis, CGCS, left, congratulates Tim Hiers, CGCS on his presentation to the joint audience of superintendents and club officials at the 10th Annual Central Florida FTGA Research Tournament. Photo by Joel Jackson.

challenge of communicating the golf superintendent's message to employers, golfers and the public by saying, "People not involved in the business don't have the time or interest in learning the technology behind what we do. We have to find ways to get our point across in terms they can visualize and understand.

"Don't tell a disgruntled club member the course is closed because it rained eight inches yesterday. Tell him it was like the course was subjected to the equivalent of Niagara Falls falling on the course for a minute."

After the educational program, the group dined on the always-fabulous gourmet lunch on the veranda.

Following lunch the twoman scramble golf event was held with Tom Trammel, CGCS and his partner, Brad Hauer of MetroWest CC taking low gross honors in the First Flight with a score of 66. Other gross winners: Second Flight, Buck Buckner and Brent Jorgenson of Isleworth CC (69); Third Flight, Jim Schleutker and Tom Brewer of La Cita CC (74). Net Winners:1st Flight, Barry Schurman and Ron Parris of Timacuan CC (65);

2nd Flight, John Lammerish and Art Morgan of Orange Lake CC (65); 3rd Flight, John Kopack and Tom Forbes of Alaqua CC.

FTGA/IFAS Run 5 Regional Seminars

The Florida Turfgrass in conjunction with the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) sponsored a series of five turf management conferences around the state.

Featuring speakers from universities and industry the programs dealt with topics ranging from weed and insect control to regulations and products in the future.

These conferences were held in West Palm Beach, Ft. Myers, Sanford, Tampa and Jacksonville. Attendees earned CEU credits toward renewal of their Commercial Applicators Licenses.

Ultradwarf Review at SW Seminar

The 1998 Southwest Florida Turfgrass Management Seminar sponsored by the Everglades GCSA drew a crowd of 180 to the IFAS program at the Sheraton Thank you to the following sponsors of the

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Regulatory compliance guru Bert McKee of United Horticultural supply spoke to a crowd of nearly 400 superintendents, spray techs and lawn care operators in Sanford. The FTGA and IFAS sponsored a series of five regional turf seminars across the state in January and February. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Place in Ft. Myers Jan. 20.

Topics included an update in biological control of mole crickets. Modest successes have Dr. Howard Frank returning to South America to look for cold-hardier strains of parasitic nematodes.

Trapping and monitoring statistics show that some biocontrol agents such as the red-eyed fly and parasitic wasps have established populations and spread naturally. Mole cricket populations are down slightly.

Dr. Jerry Sartain discussed projects at the Envirotron and his evaluation of several new fertilizer materials on turfgrass. Research biologist Ernesto De la Vega of the Ft. Myers Hyacinth Control District urged the audience to use an integrated management plan of mechanical, chemical and biological controls to keep waterways clear.

Dr. Dennis Howard, environmental administrator of FDACS in Tallahassee discussed recommendations and common-sense practices for fill and wash pads and chemical storage facilities. A local professor, Dr. William Berndt from Edison Community College, spoke about creating a turf program to help train people for the turf job market with an eye to a degree program.

The highlight of the afternoon portion was a panel discussion of the new ultradwarf grasses now being installed on courses in the area. Matt Taylor gave an account of the grow-in of the Champion variety at the Bonita Bay East project.

Darren Davis talked about the preparations and precautions taken to establish the test green at Olde Florida that has four of the new grasses. Rick Tatum discussed rebuilding and replanting his greens on the Bobcat course at The Forest.

While each superintendent had some unique experiences and observations, one thing they all agreed upon was that the new ultradwarfs do not offer a miracle cure. They encouraged superintendents contemplating a grass change to first grow and maintain a large plot under playing conditions to learn how the grass responds to different environmental and cultural pressures.

The new grasses aren't necessarily easier to manage, they're just different!

Palm Beach Runs Assistants' Seminar

The Palm Beach Chapter's

annual turfgrass conference for the assistant superintendents and key crew members on Southeast Florida golf courses is held on the Palm Beach Community College campus and is moderated by adjunct professor and turf consultant Joe Konwinski.

Konwinski, the feisty 82year-old former superintendent, took the class through an anecdotal history of turf management. The patriarch of South Florida turf's wit made the day pass quickly.

The Palm Beach program has been providing muchneeded training and education in turf management to key golf course employees for 19 years.

FGCSA Actions Look to Future

The FGCSA moved at the Winter Board Meeting in Orlando to strengthen its position in the future. In a morning meeting with officers and board members of both the FGCSA and FTGA, Joe O'Brien of the GCSAA facilitated a meeting to build on the associations' common areas of interest.

Recognizing that the most sucessful turfgrass associa-

tions partner with a strong university-based turf program, both associations see the need for the University of Florida to get the turf program organized and moving forward. The slow process of naming a coordinator for the University of Florida's turfgrass program has made supporters in both camps anxious and impatient.

The FTGA with its Research Foundation is the main institution for dealing with the university since it encompasses all members of the turf industry. Both associations have vowed to improve communication to build a stronger turfgrass program which will benefit everyone. Both associations agreed to have a board member sit in on each other's meetings to improve continuity, and the FGCSA volunteered to organize the golf turf education portion of the FTGA Conference and Show.

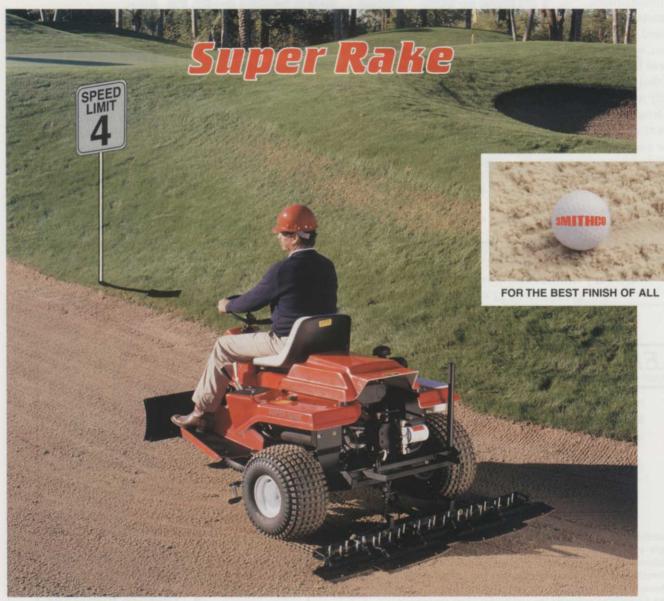
Later that day in the FGCSA board meeting, President Joe Ondo opened the discussion on the subject of creating a new staff position for the association. The Board, acting on several



Instructor Joe Konwinski, at podium, introduces superintendents (from left) Tom Vlack, CGCS; David Court, CGCS; Randy Bushway; Steve Kuhn and Jeff Klontz, all of whom answered questions at the Palm Beach Chapter's 19th Annual Turfgrass Conference for assistant superintendents and crew members. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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past Long Range Committee recommendations and on the results of the FGCSA Strategic Planning Meeting last November, agreed to create the position of director of communications.

A motion was made and approved to appoint Joel Jackson, CGCS, current editor of the Florida Green to fill that position. Jackson recently took early retirement from the Walt Disney company after 20 years of service and has been working with members of the Board to develop a job description for the position. The position was approved for a one-year trial period to evaluate the benefits and successes.



FGCSA President Joe Ondo, CGCS, left, accepts a \$7,500 donation for turf research from Valent's Peter Blum for Valent's 1997 Right Course rebate program. The FTGA also received \$7,500 from Valent. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Initially, duties of the director will include being

the full time editor of the Florida Green magazine and Green Sheet newsletter. The editor will now be able to cover more events and report on the positive contributions made by each local chapter. Additionally, the director will work on public and media relations, Inter-chapter communications and help all FGCSA committees in membership, education, government relations, allied association relations and fund raising.

In the past two months since he began, Jackson represented the FGCSA at meetings of the new Florida Golf Alliance; a coalition of Florida pesticide users to respond to the impact of the

Food Quality Act; golf media relations and ADA forums in Anaheim; given an interview to *Golf World* magazine on the effects of El Niño and attended several chapter events.

Jackson has also created a combined FGCSA/FTGA calendar of events and distributed it to all chapter external vice presidents to share with members. Current projects include creating an FGCSA mission statement and job descriptions for officers and committees; building a network of media contacts throughout the state; providing frequent informational bulletins and reports to the officers and board members.

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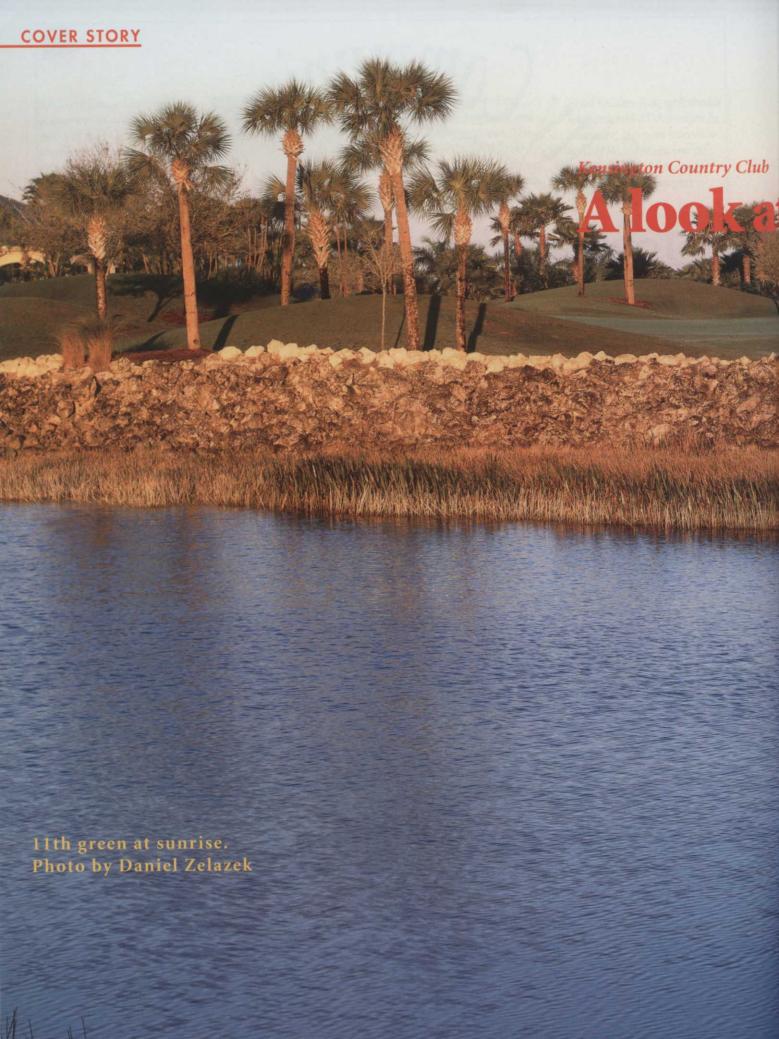
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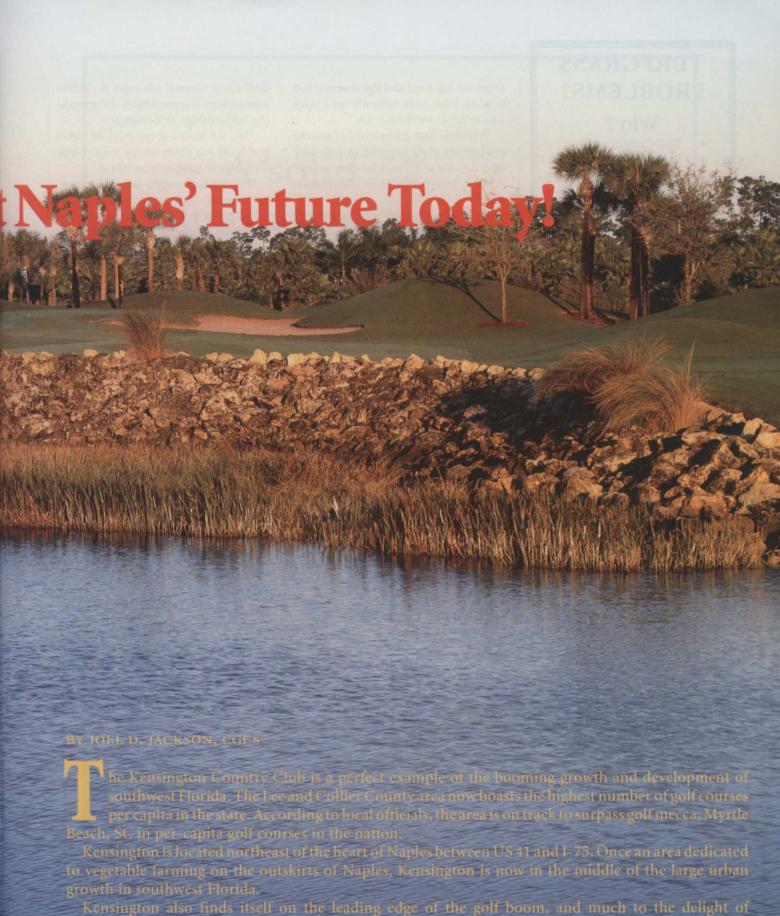
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superintendent Scott Whorrall, he finds himself part of a ownership/management team dedicated to providing a quality facility. Whorrall says, "Our owner, Mr. Anton Steiner, sees that we have what we need

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36 Years Experience Jensen Beach, Florida Ph: (407) 692-1221 to get the job done and that makes it fun to work here. I can honestly say I can't wait to get to work each day."

Whorrall just celebrated his second anniversary at Kensington in February after moving over from his assistant superintendent position at the Olde Florida

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6001 S.W. 19th STREET PLANTATION, FL 33317 MOBILE: (407) 479-9417 Golf Club. General Manager Bo White echoed Scott's appreciation of the working relationships at Kensington,

"We do have a great team in place, and Scott is a sharp young man. We're fortunate to have him on board."

Visiting Kensington was an interesting contrast to the many older established clubs and superintendents that have been profiled in recent cover stories. As we get closer to the new millennium it was good to take a look at a slice of the future of our business.

Once inside Kensington's gates, the rolling Robert Trent Jones, Jr. design offers golfers and residents an exciting visual contrast to the naturally flat, piney woods of the surrounding area. There are always a tradeoffs when you try to improve on Mother Nature. Those contours and slopes that provide interest and challenge to the golfers also affect Whorrall and his staff.

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