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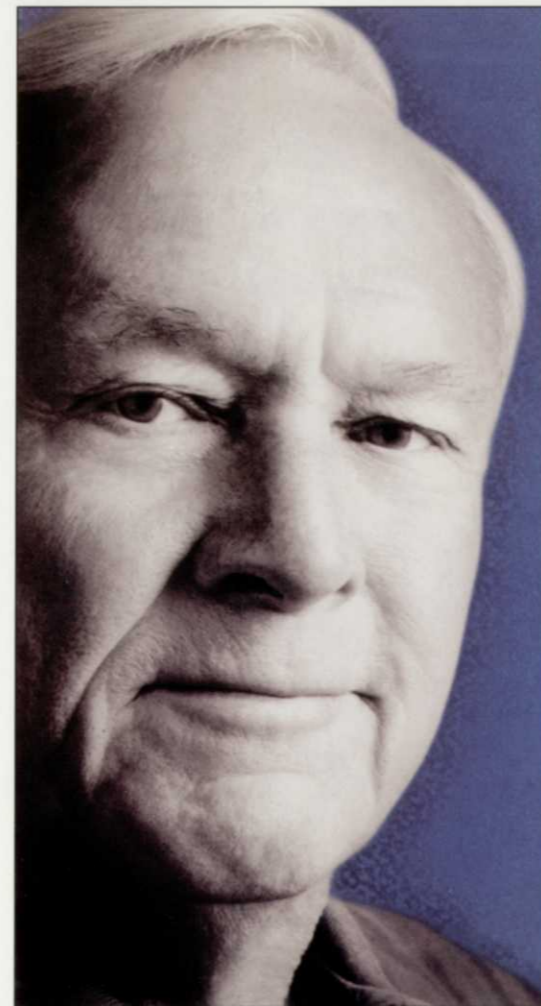
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**SUMMER
1999**

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Killearn CC and Inn in Tallahassee, a 27-hole private/resort course that meanders through rolling piney woods, is the inaugural "cover course" for the Coastal Plains Chapter. It also marks the first cover appearance of a golf course managed by a woman.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CRITICISM, LOYALTY, RUMORS 38
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About the use of trade names: The use of trade names in this magazine is solely for the purpose of providing specific information and does not imply endorsement of the products named nor discrimination against similar unnamed products. It is the responsibility of the user to determine that product use is consistent with the directions on the label.

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Undoubtedly by now all of our members are aware of the “blue tag” seed rebate program being sponsored by Turf-Seed, Inc. and Tee-2-Green and administered by the GCSAA. This program is an excellent opportunity to raise funds for both and the state and national organization as well.

While this information may have reached us too late for this year, after purchasing decisions were already made, keep it in mind for the following years. The program runs for a five-year period. If you did not directly purchase

one of these company’s products, be sure to check the seed tag of what you did purchase for the proper prefixes. Their product may still be part of your blend this year and still qualifies for the the rebate.

I am not one to advocate the support of any vendor over another. However, our association like many others is desperately seeking new sources of

income to support our programs without having to raise membership dues. The day may not be far off when organizations such as ours and other local and regional groups stop relying on commercial vendors to support our various programs. Any vendor group that proposes such a program as the “blue tag” rebate warrants our consideration and support.

This is my last message as your president. It has been an honor to have served in this capacity for the last year. I would like to thank the officers and board of directors for their services this year, and my utmost appreciation to Marie and Joel for their efforts.

As my final thought, I would implore you the membership to become more involved! Apathy appears to be our greatest obstacle to overcome. This situation prevails at all levels. Have you been to a local meeting lately? Recognize anyone? No matter what your situation – young or old, our association can best be measured by the sum of our members input. The vast majority right now are silent. Stand up and shout! Your association needs to hear from you.

Opportunity is Knocking

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



Michael Perham,
CGCS
President
FGCSA

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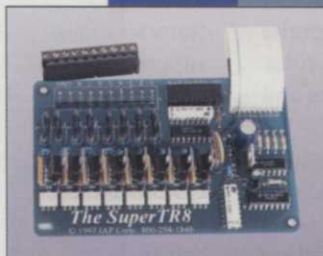
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Chapter Fundraisers Bring Big Bucks

USGA Road Show Draws Crowds to Fla.

April brought another twin billing of USGA Regional Conferences to Florida. Once again the successful sites of Orlando and West Palm Beach were used to reach to most amount of people. There were approximately 100 superintendents, golf professionals and club managers in attendance at each location.

It was good to see Roger Harvie of the USGA Southeast Region office hosting the meetings. Roger recently underwent an angioplasty to correct a blocked artery that was causing him some problems. Glad to see him back

in action and as feisty and fun as ever.

The conferences as usual were well stocked with expert speakers on a variety of topics to make everyone more aware of the science of golf course conditioning:

- Dr. John Cisar, UF - Nitrate Leaching
- Chris Hartwiger, USGA - Preparing for a Tournament
- John Foy, USGA - Putting Green Construction
- Matt Nelson, USGA - Understanding Organic Products

Better ways to manage golf course impacts on the environment were discussed by:

- Joellen Zeh, Audubon International - Environmental Planning
- Tom Stone, NaturGolf - Identifying and Enhancing Ecosystems

Education in turf research grants and employment law issues were presented by:

- Dr. Kimberly Erusha, USGA - USGA Grant Programs
- Stuart Charlson, West Coast Employers Association - Looking to the Future

Television personality Peter Kessler of the Golf Channel was the kickoff speaker with the offbeat topic, "The Man Who Almost Killed Arnie and Jack!" Kessler has one of those great voices like John Facenda who used to narrate all those NFL highlight films. Kessler told of two incidents involving Arnie and Jack where he was instrumental in almost doing bodily harm to both of them. Quite by accident of course.

Kessler went on to praise those present for their roles in providing the service and preparation of golf's facilities and playing fields.

Attendees to these USGA conferences earn professional continuing education credits as class A golf professionals and certified golf course superintendents.

RIDGE INVITATIONAL

Fund-Raiser Players Test Nike Tour Sunday Pin Spots

March First did come in like a lion at the Grasslands C. C. in Lakeland. A full field of contestants teed it up on a breezy Monday morning to battle par and balky golf swings in the name of turf research



Southpaw golfer Buck Buckner, superintendent of the Isleworth C.C. took low gross honors at the 8th Annual Ridge Invitational played at the Grasslands C.C. in Lakeland. Photo by Joel Jackson.

and to help the Ridge GCSA support local charities.

Golfers were treated or tortured by the pin locations served up by host superintendent Roy Wilshire, CGCS. Roy used the Sunday locations from the Nike tour event, The Lakeland Classic, which he had hosted only a few weeks before. The secret to winning on the windswept course was to play it backwards, and that's what lefthanded superintendent Buck Buckner from the Isleworth County Club in Windermere did.

For the scoring challenged, there was the 100-foot-plus putting contest and Ray Cuzzone and Roy Wilshire had their stock cars on display. One lucky raffle winner got a couple of laps around the parking lot with Ray and a day at the Richard Petty Race Experi-



Peter Kessler (left) of the Golf Channel was billed as "The Man Who Almost Killed Arnie and Jack" at the USGA Regional Conference held in Orlando this past April. Roger Harvie of the USGA's Southeastern Regional office hosted the event. Photo by Joel Jackson.



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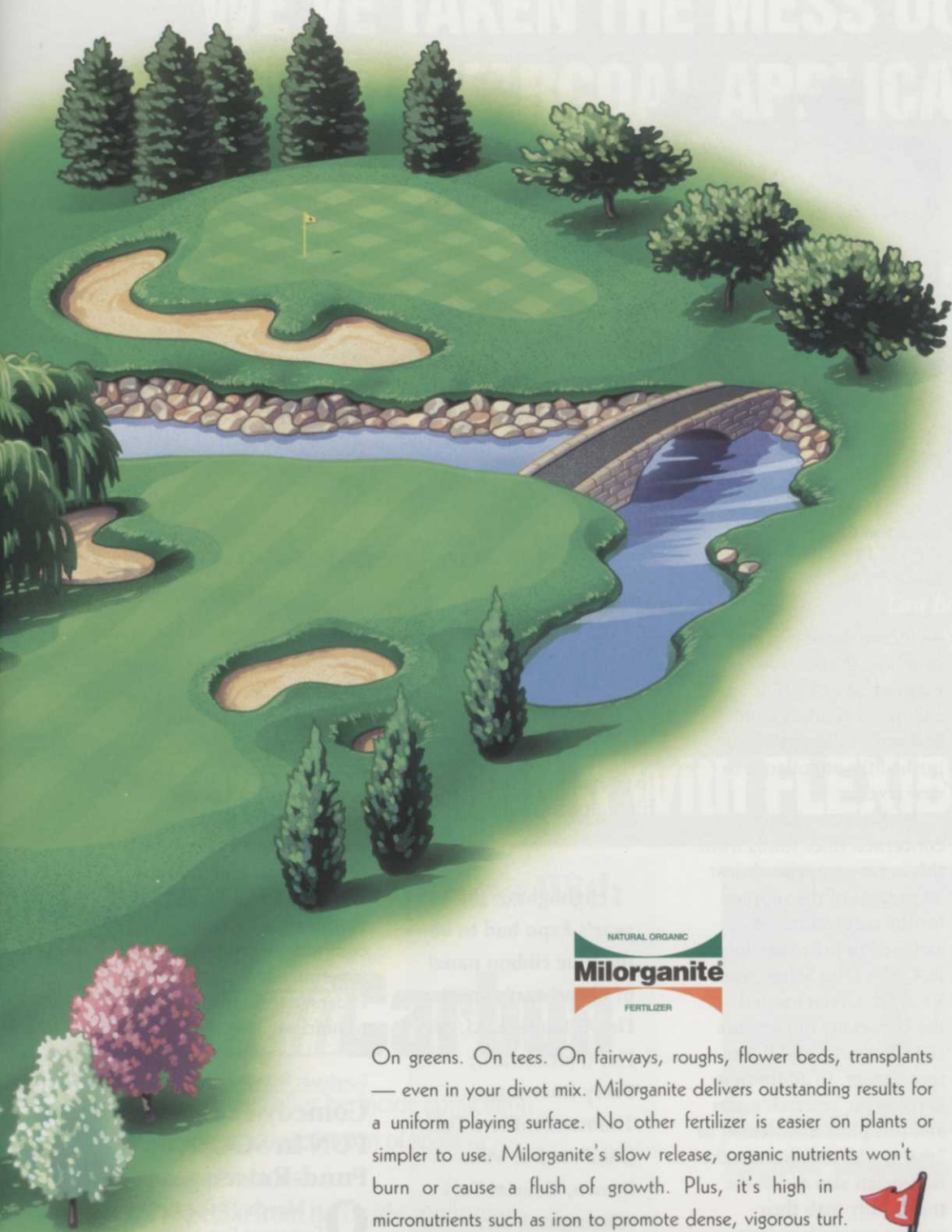
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ence at Disney World. David Pursell of Pursell Industries was on hand and donated one of his coveted golf legend drawings of Ken Venturi to the post-game raffle.

The crowd enjoyed a barbecue dinner of ribs and chicken to complete the day. Good fun, good food, good cause thanks to the efforts of Tom Barnett, Jeff Brown, Steve Ciardullo, Ray Cuzzone, Mark Hopkins, Bob Wagner and host Roy Wilshire.

SOUTH FLORIDA TURF EXPO

S. Florida Expo Attendance Hits Record Level

Following on the heels of the GCSAA Conference and Show in February, South Florida President Jim Walker was visibly concerned about the turnout and support for the 12th Annual Turf Expo in Fort Lauderdale.

The event scheduled for March 11 was running behind on commitments and registrations as the days

...funds from this event comprise almost 50 percent of the support for the turf technician assigned to maintain the FGCSA's Otto Schmeisser Research Green located at the University of Florida's IFAS Research and Education Center.



Hats off to these gentlemen for putting on another outstanding South Florida Turf Expo. From left: Jim Walker, president of the South Florida GCSA and superintendent of the Palmetto G.C. in Miami; Marcus Prevatte, former turf technician at the Research and Education Center – now assistant superintendent at Indian Creek C.C.; and Dr. John Cisar, IFAS turf coordinator for the University of Florida. Photo by Joel Jackson.

dwindled down to the deadline. Walker's fears evaporated as 11th-hour calls from vendors came in and walk-in registrations pushed the attendance to new levels.

Walker was rightly concerned since funds from this event comprise almost 50 percent of the support for the turf technician assigned to maintain the FGCSA's Otto Schmeisser Research Green located at the University of Florida's IFAS Research and Education Center. In addition to keeping the research green and turf plots maintained to "real world" conditions, the technician also assists the turf faculty with their various research projects. The remaining portion of the technician's salary comes from annual donations from the other 10 FGCSA chapters, who are encouraged to include this as a line item expense in their yearly budget plans. At the Poa Annua Classic in

Naples this past May, Walker proudly presented a check for \$24,000 to the FGCSA for the Research Green Fund.

Highlight of this year's Expo had to be the blue ribbon panel of ultradwarf

Highlight of this year's Expo had to be the blue ribbon panel of ultradwarf experts: Dr. Al Dudeck, U. of Fla. (Floradwarf); Barry Koonsman, Thomas Brothers Turf (MiniVerde); Mike Brown, Coastal Turf (Champion); Dr. Wayne Hanna, USDA (TifEagle); Rob Kloska, Jupiter Island Club (UTEP Trials); and Matt Fancher, Tiburon C.C. (Floradwarf).

experts: Dr. Al Dudeck, U. of Fla. (Floradwarf); Barry Koonsman, Thomas Brothers Turf (MiniVerde); Mike Brown, Coastal Turf (Champion); Dr. Wayne Hanna, USDA (TifEagle); Rob Kloska, Jupiter Island Club (UTEP Trials); and Matt Fancher, Tiburon C.C. (Floradwarf). Following their presentation, attendees visited a supplier showcase in the courtyard, toured the turf plots and watched equipment demonstrations.

A special thank-you to Ray Carruthers and Emerald Isle Turf for donating the food and beverages, which helped tremendously in making the event a financial success. This year's Expo was also the curtain call for 10-year veteran technician, Marcus Prevatte, who accepted an assistant superintendent's position with Joe Pantaleo at the Indian Creek C. C. on North Miami Beach. Two months after the Expo, a South Florida GCSA search committee hired former superintendent Gary Pederson to be the new technician.

SUNCOAST SCRAMBLE

Comedy Team Puts FUN in SGCSA Fund-Raiser

On March 23 the 1999 Suncoast Scramble celebrated 17 years of fund-raising by the Suncoast GCSA chapter. This year another full field flocked to the unique format of pairing a superintendent with his golf professional, a club official or influential member and a supplier.