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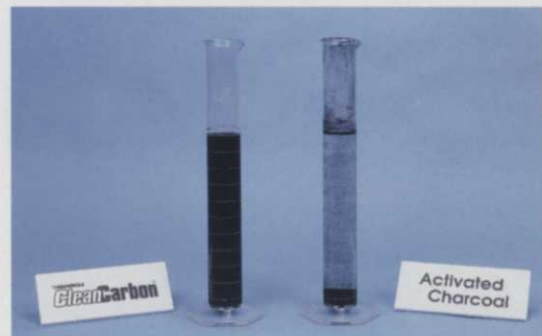
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


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Suncoast GCSA President Troy Smith (left) presents FGCSA Director of Communications, Joel Jackson with a check for \$2,500 for the FGCSA Research Fund at the 1999 Suncoast Scramble held at the Misty Creek C.C. in Sarasota. Photo by Tom Hilferty.

This format provides a great venue for all facets of the superintendent's business world to get together for some fun and informal education and networking.

The day's events included an abbreviated Suncoast Chapter business meeting, a guest speaker, a catered lunch, comedy entertainment with a golf flavor by Les McCurdy and his band of comics, a golf tournament and all capped off with an awards reception at the end of the day. The proceeds from this local event provide funds to support local charities and junior golf programs in the Bradenton-Sarasota area. In addition, the Suncoast Chapter presented a check for \$2,500 for the FGCSA Research Fund.

NORTH FLA'S RICHARDS MEMORIAL

Melnyk Praises Superintendents as Professionals

Every April the Jacksonville area golf commu-

nity rallies to honor the memory of two leaders in our business, Mike Richards and Alan MacCurrach. Richards was a sales manager for Tresca Industries and MacCurrach was an agronomist for the PGA Tour. The event was started seven years ago in Mike's memory and was expanded to include homage to Alan after his passing three years ago.

This year three Lake City Community College students were awarded scholarships. Wayne Durkee, a third-year student in the golf course operations program was awarded the \$3,000 Mike Richards Scholarship. Durkee also holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Flagler College. Durkee credits his association with superintendents Frank Sabarro (Sawgrass CC) and Tom List (Ocean City G&YC) as having a tremendous influence on



Steve Melnyk, second from left, presented Alan MacCurrach and Mike Richards scholarships to Kyle Tapp, David Younger and Matt Durkee all Lake City Golf Operations students. Melnyk, an ABC Sports golf announcer and former PGA Tour player, was also the keynote speaker at the Mike Richards Memorial Scholarship Tournament at the Jacksonville Golf & Country Club. Photo by Joel Jackson

his commitment to the industry and respect for the environment.

David Younger and Kyle Tapp were each presented with a \$1,500 Alan MacCurrach scholarship. Younger is also a third-year student in the LCCC golf course operation program and currently holds a 3.8 GPA.

Younger cites gaining valuable experience in his chosen field under the tutelage of North Florida superintendents David Lowe (The Plantation CC) and David Amirault (Deerwood CC).

Tapp will graduate from Lake City's turf equipment managers program in May. Building on a strong mechanical background, he plans to seek a career in golf course operations where he can apply his collective experience. Tapp garnered high praise from his instructors in the TEM program.

The event was held at the Jacksonville Golf and Country Club under the guidance of host superintendent Greg Tharp and

golf professional Chip Dutton. The course and service were exemplary. The kudos for the planning and implementation of the event go to the outstanding committee of Kim Shine, Jim Shine, Tom Brennan, Clayton Estes, Kelli Bohn, Steve Richards and Paul Hamrick.

Keynote speaker was former Gator golfer and PGA Tour star Steve Melnyk. Melnyk is currently an announcer for ABC Sports and also is active in golf course design. Melnyk had high praise for the superintendent profession in general and special kinship with the Jacksonville area association. He helped present the scholarships after the tournament and urged the recipients to stay in the area if possible and to be active in the profession.

SEVEN RIVERS ENVIROTRON CLASSIC

Biggest Fund-Raiser For Turf Research Keeps Growing

This event just keeps getting bigger and

A problem as common as goosegrass shouldn't promote a panic. But it did.



Here in Florida, a goosegrass escape isn't exactly front page news. But when a super who I've dealt with for years called me in something close to panic because his goosegrass treatment was leaving ugly brown spots, it got my attention. Seems the problem was caused by an old fashioned herbicide that he'd used for years. I suggested he change to an Illoxan® Herbicide postemergent program to control goosegrass right through the year. He liked the idea, incorporating it into his IPM program. Even sent me a goose call in the mail, just in case the problem should ever reoccur. Fortunately, it hasn't.



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*Brian MacCurrach,
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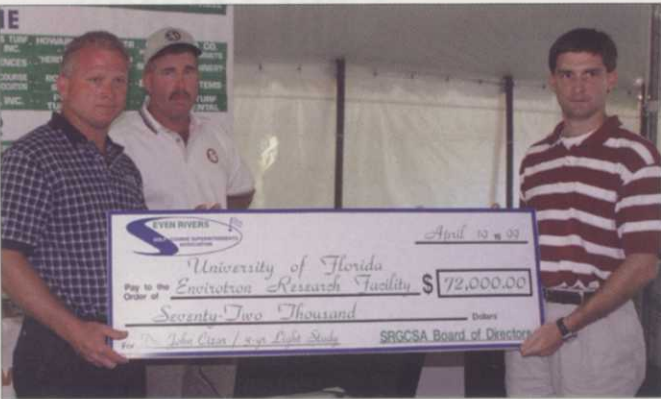
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The Seven Rivers GCSA, in conjunction with the Florida Turfgrass Association, awarded \$72,000 from Envirotron Classic proceeds to the University of Florida for a three-year light/shade study on putting greens. On hand for the presentation are, from left, Scott Wahlin, CGCS, president of the FTGA; Mike Swinson, CGCS, president of the Seven Rivers GCSA and Dr. Grady Miller of UF. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Dr. Jerry Sartain, also received a grant of \$26,000 from the Envirotron Classic Research fund to continue his turf fertility studies at the University of Florida. Scott Wahlin, CGCS, left and Mike Swinson, CGCS, make the presentation on behalf of the FTGA and the Seven Rivers GCSA. Photo by Joel Jackson.

From UF President John Lombardi...

I want to thank you for your efforts on behalf of the University of Florida earlier this year. I am humbled and inspired by your support throughout the difficult period we experienced. Your hard work during this time is a tribute to the love many share for the university, and you have my sincere gratitude.

As you are all aware, turfgrass plays an important and vital role in the state of Florida and the nation. Turfgrass is among the top environmental resources we have today, from providing a safe and comfortable setting for athletics, as well as a lush, attractive carpet for home lawns, business, and educational institutions.

The Envirotron Research Laboratory at the University of Florida provides scientists with a first-rate facility through which to study the entire turfgrass system and develop new growth and and maintenance procedures. At the University of Florida we feel that 1999 will bring positive results from new and innovative ideas and concepts as well as a positive movement forward with administration changes. Your support of the Envirotron Golf Classic will help perpetuate this progress. We greatly appreciate your effort for this tournament.

I am as ever committed to the University of Florida, and look forward with excitement to the future.

All of us at the University appreciate your generous investment of time and effort. The University of Florida is fortunate to count you as a friend and supporter.

Sincerely yours,
John Lombardi

by golf construction company, Barbaron, Inc., the Champion Sponsor, the 1999 event topped the \$50,000 mark in proceeds.

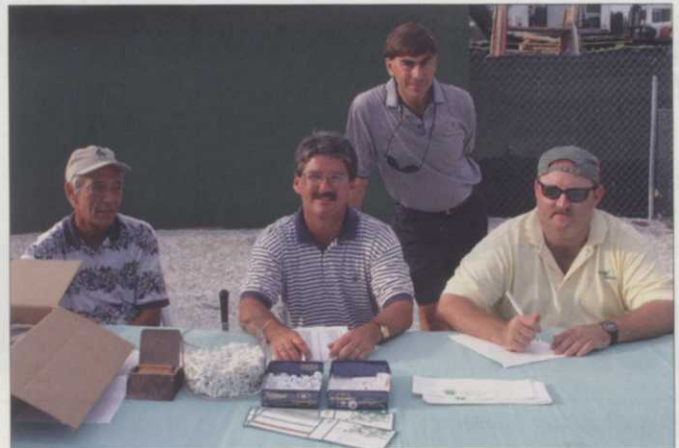
The Seven Rivers Chapter goes about their daily work quietly and each year throws a blockbuster event that pumps much needed funding into the University of Florida. The hard work that goes into this event and the superb results did not go unrecognized by Dr. John Lombardi, president of the University of

Florida. A letter from Lombardi to the Seven Rivers Chapter Lombardi accompanies this article

29TH ANNUAL POA ANNUA CLASSIC

Naples Gathering Becoming FGCSA Family Reunion

Over the years we have watched the Naples Beach Club grow and renovate as we make our way each May to Naples for business, golf, education, networking and



No event just happens! Key members of this year's successful Poa Annuu Classic weekend included (l-r): Odell Spainhour, Jim Osburn, Steve Durand and Mike Smith. Photo by Joel Jackson.

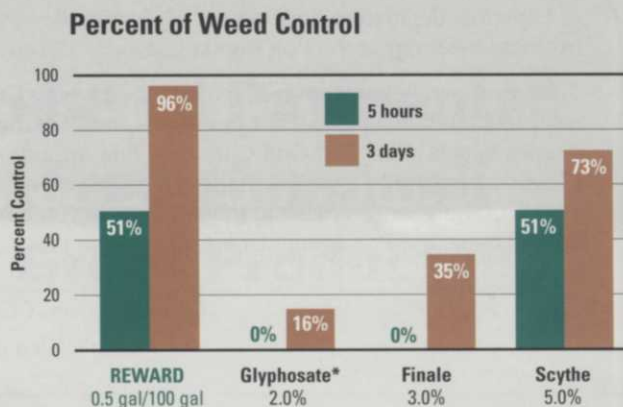
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History of the Poa Annua

The Everglades Chapter of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association was two years old when it invited the the South Florida Chapter over to Marco Island for a casual get-together. It was 1970 and Stan Clark along with a few other superintendents decided to set up a golf match after the meeting. Things went pretty well and the following year Dwight Wilson suggested that a bucket of Poa annua be given as a gag prize to the winners of the golf match. Since then "Poa" has been associated with the annual meeting.

Around 1972, Doc Anderson offered to supply a meal at the meeting. He left nothing out. Roast pig, sweet corn, ribs, and almost anything anyone wanted was served up barbecue style. In 1975 the get-together was officially dubbed the Poa Annua Golf Classic. As it continued to grow, other chapters were invited and the location of the event was changed to other courses like Lehigh, Mirror Lakes, and Oxbow. It was while the tournament was at Mirror Lakes that the FGCSA Board of Directors decided to have one of it's biannual business meetings at the Poa Annua Classic.

The event was held for several years at the Oxbow GC until 1980, when a permanent home was found at the Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club. The Poa Annua Classic has matured into one of the most enjoyable events of the year. We wish to thank all those you have helped make the Poa Annua Golf Classic what it is today.

*Bob Sanderson, CGCS
Heron's Glen GC*



After all the strokes were counted, Mark Hopkins (left) had the fewest and won Low Gross honors. Presenting Mark with his trophy clock and gift certificate are (l-r) Steve Durand, Everglades GCSA Treasurer and Jim Osburn Poa Tournament Chairman. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Dr. Rick Brandenburg of North Carolina State University gave a two hour presentation on the latest Mole Cricket research and management techniques during the FGCSA Educational Seminar at the 1999 Poa Annua Classic. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Professor of Distinction, Dr. George Snyder of the University of Florida rounded out the four hour educational program with a presentation on the value of chemical and physical soil testing and their relevancy in managing turfgrass. Photo by Joel Jackson.

some family fun and relaxation. Many of the staff are old friends. This year was no exception as a large construction project is under way to modernize the pro shop and Brasserie restaurant into a conference center, spa and new restaurant and golf and tennis facilities.

But the beachside amenities were in full swing and well utilized as the FGCSA spring board meeting, education seminar, and traditional Poa Annua Luau, complete with roasted pig took place on Friday, May 14th. In the Board

meeting, officers and directors met Don Benham of the Florida Turfgrass Association as Don outlined his grass roots fundraising plan. The board also spent the better part of the meeting working on the details for the 1999-2000 budget to be voted on at the Annual Meeting in August.

After lunch, Dr. Rick Brandenburg, entomologist from North Carolina State University spoke on "Effective Mole Cricket Management." Dr. Brandenburg said, "The key to effective