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That's experience.

For more than 35 years, Toro has led central control system product innovation. Because we understand that it's not just irrigation control, it's sophisticated irrigation management.

Managing our valuable natural resources.
Managing the health and beauty of your turf.
Managing your people and your time. Toro will always provide you with solutions that meet your needs.

That's leadership.

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That's innovation.

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TORO



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Superintendents who want powerful centralized control without becoming computer experts rely on TouchNet — the simple, economically sound solution to centralized irrigation system management. Its programming is menu-driven with built-in prompts and sequences. No personal computer required. No keyboards. No complicated calculations. And with TouchNet, we give you easy installation and operation with a touch-screen interface that's as easy to use as an ATM.

**For E-Series™ OSMAC® and Network LTC™ Plus field hardware.*



SitePro™ 2000 Irrigation Control System

Picture-Perfect Irrigation Control.

SitePro was designed to accommodate a short learning curve and a long list of features. We based it on the popular, easy-to-use Windows 95 and 98 operating systems and eliminated tedious keystrokes and layers of spreadsheets — replacing them with point-and-click simplicity.

Whether your system is wireless or wireline-based, uses one-way or two-way communication, or requires advanced field sensing, Toro has you covered. Simply choose the Toro field hardware that meets your needs, and all the benefits of SitePro are yours. Toro pioneered centralized irrigation control — developing features that set the standard for productivity in the industry. Now, those same features are all in a single software package for picture-perfect irrigation control.

Two types of field hardware — the choice is yours.

	OSMAC RDR and E-Series OSMAC	Network LTC Plus
Communication Mode	One-Way, Digital Wireless Paging	2-Way Wireline 2-Way Wireless 2-Way Telephone
Number of Satellites Per TouchNet Central	35	35
Number of Stations Per Satellite	8 to 48 in 8-Station Increments	16 to 64 in 8-Station Increments
Number of Irrigation Programs	12	8
Number of Start Times Per Program	12	12
Optional Surge Protection Packages	Yes	Yes
Current Detection	No	Yes
Hand-Held Radio Capability	Yes	Yes



**To some golf is a religion.
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Irrigation renovation that respects its surroundings. Golfers are passionate about their game. Which can put a lot of stress on a superintendent when it's time to renovate an irrigation system. Your Toro distributor will work with you every step of the way, to ensure you get the best possible system with the least disruption to your course. We have the industry's largest selection of quality products, and the most comprehensive after-sale support. What's more, we offer total solutions for your turf maintenance needs. Contact your Toro distributor or visit www.TORO.com for more information.

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No. 6,
Binion's Bluff,
Southern Dunes
G&CC

**SPRING
2001**

FOREWORDS LESS WATER, MORE CONTROL 4

President Cary Lewis says we are going to have to manage our golf courses with less water. The only question is, who's going to control how and when we get it: you or the other guys?

SPOTLIGHT DISTINGUISHED SERVICE 8

Joe Ondo's unprecedented service of 14 consecutive years as external vice president for Central Florida followed by four years of rotating through the chairs has brought him the FGCSA's highest award, The Distinguished Service Award.

COVER STORY THE WINNING STREAK CONTINUES 16

Southern Dunes G&CC north of Haines City is a classic links-style course lying gently on central Florida's sandy ridge. It features 187 bunkers, all filled with native soil.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SELLING STORIES AND HITTING CURVES 34

Superintendent John Cunningham of Martin Downs says his annual Turf Field Day is a great way to sell the maintenance story to his members. More than 150 attended this year. USGA agronomist Chris Hartwiger says superintendents who emphasize playability over presentation are more likely to keep their jobs in tough economic times.

HANDS ON FERTILIZING THE 'GREEN' WAY 42

Managing nitrogen on the golf course is as much a political issue as it is an agronomic one, and this issue's Hands On section has some help on both fronts.

INDUSTRY ROUNDUP MAKING A DIFFERENCE 48

Don Benham, FTGA director of public affairs, uses his inaugural *Florida Green* column to enumerate the ways our two organizations can accomplish more together than separately. Regulators are willing to listen to the industry... if its members will only speak up, says Joel Jackson. First concept plan for the turfgrass plots at UF/IFAS's new Pine Acres center south of Gainesville already has researchers and regulators drooling.

STEWARDSHIP BMP'S AND AUDUBON 52

USGA Green Section's Shelly Foy describes a high school turf and landscape management program. UF's Dr. Grady Miller contrasts Best Management Practices for Golf Courses with the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program guidelines.

RESEARCH GAINING GROUND ON TURF'S TOP ENEMY 54

Dr. Rick Brandenburg, extension entomologist at North Carolina State University and recipient of a major USGA grant, summarizes progress in the industry's battle against mole crickets, the most challenging pest it faces.

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.

The Florida Green

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Is it ever going to rain again in Florida? We have experienced droughts in Florida before but this year just may be the most devastating from our industry's view. The effects are being felt everywhere and will likely continue.

It has been known for several years that our population growth alone will put severe pressure on our potable water supply. With that growth the use of water we have become accustomed to will change. Our industry will be

facing some tough situations and, without question, tightening of the existing water rules and laws are on the horizon.

Each area of Florida will have its specific challenges due to the diversity of water supply resources in each district. We can no longer sit back and hope that someone will look out for our water needs. I think we would all agree that a dependable source of irrigation supply is

paramount for our success as turfgrass managers. There are many things we can do to help improve our chances of survival. Believe me, survival may just be what is in the near future if we don't get some relief on many of our golf courses.

I have just heard a frightening story at our national convention. As I understood it, a water management district in New Jersey determined to respond to a drought condition by making an example of the golf courses. They decided it would be a good political move to drastically reduce the amount of water they would allow golf courses. Golf courses are very visible and the district felt it needed to make a statement, and of course everyone knows they must be using all the water.

In reality it was discovered all the green industries were only using .1 percent of the water and golf courses specifically were only using .003 percent of the total water consumed in the state!

Now I ask you, how fair is that and what good would that really do to conserve the water supply? Is that scenario too far-fetched for us in Florida? I don't think so if we are not involved in our water management districts decision making process.

Some of our members have realized the need to be involved; one is Stuart Bozeman in the Seven Rivers Chapter. Stuart has been attending the SWFWMD meetings on a regular basis, letting management officials know that we are smart managers of water and we follow sound scientific and agronomic irrigation practices. The equipment we use to apply the required irrigation is state of the art and many courses even have weather stations on their property to help determine the irrigation needs.

Stuart has suggested the district consider changing the way it restricts golf course water usage. He suggested instead of restricting us to days of the week that a percentage reduction from the annual permitted amount would make more sense. For example under a phase-one restriction the user would be required to reduce 10 percent; under phase two, a reduction of 15 percent from the permitted amount. This allows the superintendent to determine where and when to apply the irrigation to best suit the needs of the turf.

He brought this idea to the FGCSA Board of Directors and we felt this does make a lot of sense. I sent a letter recommending and supporting this concept to the governing board at SWFWMD. The letter has already received their attention as I have received phone calls from SWFWMD to discuss our proposals. They have questions on how much more could we cut if the drought worsens and about the timing of implementation. These are valid questions, but it is through our involvement that we can make a difference and help them make informed decisions instead of radical regulations.

I thank Mr. Bozeman and applaud his efforts to get involved. He has made a difference. I ask all of you to think about this and help us. Get involved. Get informed and make a difference.

Less Water, More Control

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Cary N. Lewis, CGCS



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*Thanks to all of you who voted us **number one** in mole cricket control. (And it was, pretty much, all of you.)*



In just a few short years, the vast majority of you have come to depend on Chipco® Choice™ to take care of one of your biggest problems: mole crickets. In fact, in a recent GCSAA study*, you chose Chipco Choice over the second-place product by a margin of more than 2 to 1. And it looks like you're pretty pleased with the job we've been doing, too, since a whopping 91% of you rated Chipco Choice as "excellent" in efficacy.

To be honest, our overwhelming popularity does make sense. After all, Chipco Choice has several very attractive qualities, if we do say so ourselves:

For instance, there's the unique mode of action of our amazing active ingredient, fipronil. (Fipronil works two ways, killing mole crickets both through ingestion and through contact.)

Then there's the long residual control — six months with just one application. And the low-dose efficacy: Just one pound of our fipronil works as well as 200 pounds of an organophosphate.



All in all, Chipco Choice offers a combination of benefits that no other mole cricket insecticide can match. A winning combination, you might say. In fact, that's just what you did say.



* Superintendents were surveyed as part of the 2000 GCSAA Plant Protectant & Fertilizer Usage Study.



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Joe Ondo, CGCS, left, receives his FGCSA Distinguished Service Award from FGCSA Director of Communications Joel Jackson, CGCS, at the 2000 Crowfoot Open banquet in August. Photo by Stuart Leventhal.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
FGCSA Honors Joe Ondo's Years of Service

I haven't checked the Guinness Book of Records, but I can go by my own eyewitness experience to verify that Joe Ondo, CGCS has one of the longest-running records of service and FGCSA Board Meeting attendance of any active superintendent.

In recognition of his devotion and dedicated service to his peers through his board service and committee work, Ondo was selected as the recipient of the FGCSA's Distinguished Service Award for 2000. The award was presented at the 24th Annual Larry Kamphaus Crowfoot Open last August at the Bay Hill Club in Orlando.

Ondo wasn't out to set any records. He only volunteered his time and energy because he loves this business and the

game of golf and he respects the pioneering work done by those who paved the way for the rest of us.

After an unprecedented 14 years as the external vice president for the Central Florida chapter, Ondo then rotated through the chairs of the state association becoming the 17th FGCSA president in 1997. Ten years prior

to that, Ondo had served two terms as the president of the Central Florida chapter from 1985 to 1987. For the past 10 years he has chaired the FGCSA golf committee, coordinating the selection of the FGCSA's No. 1 team to represent the state at the annual GCSAA Golf Championship.

Ondo's quiet, unassuming manner belies the passion which he harbors for his profession and the game of golf. He is an avid reader and collector of books not only on turf management but also on course design and histories of the profession and the game itself. Those who have competed against him on the course how consistent his swing and his temperament are under fire.

Because he plays a lot of amateur golf in the central Florida area, Ondo gets asked a lot of questions from golfers about their courses and their superintendent's methods. Ondo politely tells them that it wouldn't be ethical for him to second

guess his peer's decisions and he steers them around to the fact that they need to talk to their own superintendent instead of asking a stranger about their courses.

Ondo is a consistent contributor to The Florida Green sharing his hands-on experiences at the Winter Pines Golf Club where he has been the superintendent since 1979. He praises the work of his tight-knit crew of eight that helps him keep the course in great shape even under the pressure of more than 85,000 rounds a year.

Ondo also appreciates the strong working relationship with his owner Ed McMillin and the Club President and General Manager Jon McMillian. Along with Head Golf Professional John Pohira, this team consistently provides an outstanding public golf facility to Orlando area residents.

I offer my own personal congratulations to my long time friend and golf partner for many a G. C. Horn Memorial Tournament.



The Gang's All Here... Finally

Timing is everything! During our cover story visit for the Winter issue, the Olde Hickory G&CC maintenance staff was too busy to stop for a photo session. Superintendent John Stach sent in this picture to be sure the staff got it's well deserved recognition for a job well done. Photo by John Stach.



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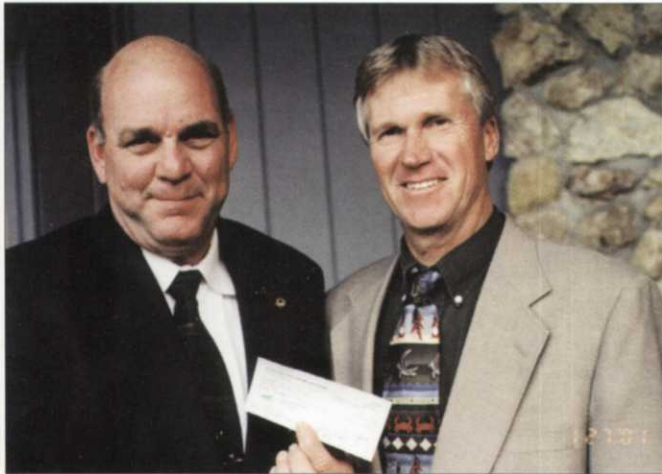
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Everglades GCSA Research Donation

FGCSA President Cary Lewis, CGCS, left, accepts a \$4,000 check for the FGCSA Turf Research Fund presented by Everglades Chapter External Vice President Dale Walters, CGCS at the FGCSA winter board meeting in Orlando. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Smokin' Joe you're a great guy, a true professional superintendent and one heck of a golfer. Thank you for

your very distinguished service to all of us in the profession.

JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

GCSAA CONFERENCE & SHOW

Dallas No Hit But Conference a Big Winner for All

As a GCSAA conference and show site, Dallas was not a big hit. The cold, wet weather and conference center construction did not help matters, nor did the spread-out nature of the hotels and strange street

grid system help in getting around. Some people reported different taxi fares to and from the same locations depending on the time of day.

But we did not come for the tourist attractions and sightseeing, we came to participate in our industry's biggest event of the year, and by all accounts that part of the trip was successful for everyone. This 72nd

GCSAA Distinguished Service Award Winners

"With this award you have put a turtle on a fence post. A turtle can't get up there by himself." - Dr. Euel Coates, Mississippi State University.

"I believe the GCSAA has helped to provide the training and leadership for us to provide the best playing conditions ever in golf." - L. W. Sonny Dubose, CGCS.

"A round of golf is like music that can refresh your soul." - Arthur P. Weber

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