

North Florida Past President Clayton Estes, CGCS, left, presents Tom Cowan with the much deserved FGCSA President's Award for Lifetime Service.

## Tom Cowan-Service with a Smile

Glen Klauk

Those who know Tom Cowan would say he could have been equally successful as a stand-up comedian, karaoke singer, or impersonator. However, he chose the golf and turf industry to become his routine. Cowan started his career at San Jose Country Club like many others in the north Florida area. He started in the food and beverage side of the club business but was promptly fired from his first job by the head chef when he dropped a platter of roast beef in front of 200 members who were waiting for the Sunday Brunch to commence. He quickly found out that outside the clubhouse was the place to be.

During Cowan's career he has worked at Killearn Golf Club in Tallahassee and Rio Pinar in Orlando, helping to host two Citrus Opens (now known as The Bay Hill Classic). While attending Lake City Community College, he worked at John's Island in Vero Beach and Ponte Vedra in Jacksonville. Upon graduation he was hired as Paul Hickman's, superintendent at the Grenelefe Resort in Winter Haven. Under Hickman's tutelage he helped direct the construction and grow-in

of the South Course, completing the 54-hole, Grenelefe Project. After three years with Hickman, he moved back to Jacksonville where he became the superintendent at Deerwood Country Club for 12

While at Deerwood, Cowan became very active in the North Florida chapter. He volunteered for all the positions on the board of directors and helped make the association what it is today. After leaving Deerwood he worked with Vigoro for three years and then went to work with Pike Creek Turf. His enthusiasm has helped Pike Creek become a major supplier in the turf industry today. After three years with Pike Creek, Cowan moved on to work with John Gamble at Wesco Turf Supply where he won the Rookie of the Year award.

Cowan continues to be active in the NFGCSA as an industry advisor to the board of directors. He was the chairman of the Lake City Community College Advisory Board and was the driving force behind the Action for Excellence Endowment program. He is a long-term committee member of the Florida USGA Green Section, having recently published articles in the USGA Green Section Record.

Cowan's career has truly touched all aspects of the golf and turf industry. Through all of his endeavors he has never missed the opportunity to help a fellow superintendent. It may be to help solve a turf problem or just to lend a sympathetic ear. We in the North Florida

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Crowfoot Open Chairman Tom Alex

(left) presents Joe Ondo, CGCS with

the engraved crystal Larry Kamphaus

Award for 2002 at the Crowfoot Open

Grand Cypress Golf Club hosted the 26th Annual Crowfoot Open. The North, South and East nines were ready for an 8 a.m. shotgun start Aug. 4 with 164 players hoping they had brought their A games.

Mark Henderson, Palm
Beach GCSA, birdied five of his last six
holes to card a fine 69 to edge out
defending champion Chris Cartin by
two shots in the Superintendent
Division. Henderson now joins Bob
Harper (Poa winner) in qualifying for
FGCSA's national team. Cartin
redeemed himself by taking first in the
Stableford competition and leading the
Central Florida team of Bruce Kosmer,

Chapter can count on Tom as we always have through his lifetime of service.

Upon receiving the award, Cowan as all can imagine, had much to say. He started by introducing some special guests who have meant so much to his career. The gentlemen present for the ceremony were Lloyd Clifton, his son George, Paul Hickman, David Barnes, Jimmy Allen, and John Gamble. As Cowan introduced each of them, he relayed what each of these men had done for him: each one had given him an opportunity to learn and grow within the industry.

Clifton first met Cowan at Rio Pinar when Cowan was a staff member and Clifton had built the course and was acting consultant. He later became Cowan's consultant at Deerwood. Cowan recalled some of the reports and even brought copies to present back to Clifton, whom he called his lifelong mentor.

Hickman took a chance on a student fresh out of Lake City. "Paul was an incredible teacher." Cowan recalls.

David Barnes not only

gave Cowan fishing advice, but also helped him move into the sales and marketing side of the golf industry, which proved to be a perfect fit, as his knowledge, reputation, and gift for gab opened many doors that were closed to those before him.

Jimmy Allen and John Gamble also gave Cowan the opportunity to learn and grow within the industry as the leader of their sales forces.

His usual sense of humor was laced throughout each story along with moments of emotional gratitude. Tom finished his acceptance speech with a poem about friendship and remembering those friends (See sidebar).

How soon we tend to forget, and not stay in touch with those that really mean so much to us as friends, colleagues, and mentors. We all get bound up in our own little piece of life, but it really is never too late to tell people what they mean to you and say, Thank you for what you do or have done for me. We can all take a lesson from that little poem, I know this writer did. Thanks Tom.



The Crowfoot Committee for 2002 From left, front row: Bob Lloyd, Jan Lloyd, Vilma Kamphaus and Tom Alex. Back row: Joel Jackson, Joe Ondo, Dwight Kummer and Lisa McDowell. Not pictured Stuart Leventhal.





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The Central Florida chapter nets the team trophy, thanks to players who brought their A games to Grand Cypress. From left: Bruce Kosmer, Kevin Rotti, Brett Harris and Chris Cartin. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Brett Harris and Kevin Rotti to defend the chapter team title with a 10-shot win over the Ridge and Palm Beach Chapters. In the Commercial Division, the low gross winner was Keith Nicoletta followed by Gary Wilhelm and Ken Ezell. Net Division winners, in order, were Tom Diggens, Fred Marshall and Rich Skorepa.

Special thanks to all our sponsors and especially to our presenting sponsors Harrell's Fertilizer, Howard Fertilizer, and Lesco for their extra support of the reception, tourna-

ment and after-golf luncheon. We'd also like to thank all the players and spouses who participated in this year's activities.

Tournament Chairman
Tom Alex and his superintendents, Jeff
Clark, Jim Sullivan and Pat Gibaratz
and the golf maintenance staff had the
courses in excellent condition. It's
always a pleasure to play a great golf
course and Grand Cypress is one of the
best. If you didn't win something on the
golf course or at the reception raffle, I
still hope you enjoyed the fine facilities
and camaraderie.

Around the corner I have a friend, In this great city that has no end.

Yet days go by, and weeks rush on,
And ere I know it, a year has gone.

And I never see my old friend's face.

For life is a swift and terrible race.

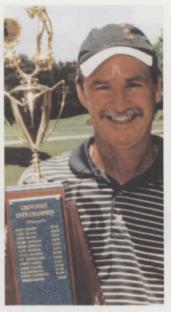
He knows I like him just as well,
As in the days when I rang his bell,
and he rang mine.

We were younger then,
And now we are busy and tired men.
Tired of playing a foolish game,
Tired of trying to make a name.
"Tomorrow," I say, "I'll call on Jim,
Just to show I am thinking of him."
But tomorrow comes and tomorrow
goes. Around the corner, yet miles
away. "Here's a telegram sir - Jim died
today!"

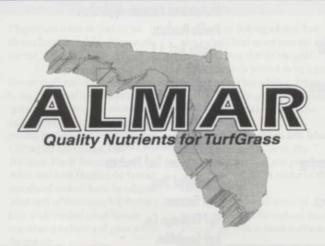
And that's what we get and deserve in the end;

Around the corner - a vanished friend."

Tom Cowan



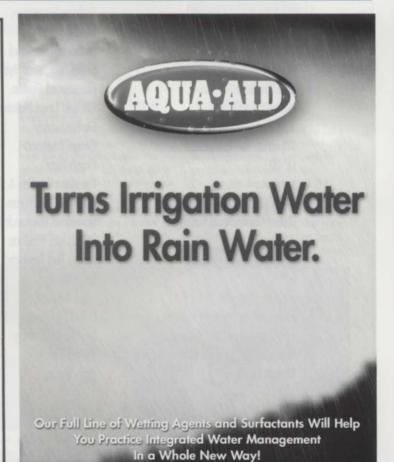
Perennial Palm Beach competitor and past Poa champion Mark Henderson added another title to his career "Superintendent Slam" by birdying five of his last six holes. He joins Bob Harper from South Florida on the FGCSA's 2003 national golf team. Photo by Joel Jackson.



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We can't sign off without a big thank you to Lisa McDowell, Tommy's assistant, and her parents Jan and Bob Lloyd who take care of all the invitations, registration, and sponsor details behind the scenes to make this a successful event. The remainder of the Crowfoot Committee providing sponsor contacts and follow-up were Joel Jackson, Dwight Kummer, Stuart Leventhal and yours truly.

Joe Ondo, CGCS

Editor's Note: At the Saturday night reception, Tom Alex gave an eloquent tribute to former Crowfoot Chairman and Disney Superintendent Larry Kamphaus for whom the event was renamed. Alex recounted Kamphaus's career and his contributions to the Central Florida golf industry. Since Kamphaus's death in 1997 the Crowfoot Committee has annually presented the Larry Kamphaus Award to those in the business who exemplify those traits modeled by Kamphaus, including service to the industry and the association. This year's recipient was a totally surprised and most deserving Joe Ondo, who has unselfishly given his time and service to our profession for nearly 20 years.

## 2002 Summer Board Meeting Highlights

DOC: GCSAA will file a Methyl Bromide Critical Use Exemption application on behalf of the U.S. golf industry. Loss of this product in 2005 will affect grass certification and require more use of conventional pesticides during grow-in.

Editor: Fall Florida Green Spotlight section will feature comprehensive chapter news that will highlight every chapter's activities.

Awards: Bob Sanderson announced as the recipient of the 2002 Distinguished Service Award.

Education: Dr. Bob Carrow will speak on "14 Ways Greens Can Fail" at the FTGA Conference Sept. 16. The Palm Beach Chapter will host Dr. Ronnie Duncan's "Seashore Paspalum Management on Golf Courses" Oct. 2. Tommy Witt will be the speaker at the 2003 Poa Annua Classic. All of these GCSAA seminars will be eligible for CEUs.



Chris Leahy, left and Dale Mitchell, right, of Golf Agronomics Supply & Handling stopped by the board meeting at Grand Cypress on their way to a Crowfoot practice round to give FGCSA President Geoff Coggan their annual donation of \$3,000 to the FGCSA Research Fund. Thanks gentlemen. Your steadfast support is appreciated.

Membership Jim Miller of the Suncoast Chapter was approved as a Lifetime FGCSA member.

Golf: The FGCSA Golf Championship will be held at Southern Dunes GC Sept. 28.



FGCSA Director of Communications Joel Jackson presents outgoing President Geoff Coggan with a framed cover of the Fall 2001 Florida Green which profiled Coggan and his course, The Great Outdoors. Photo by Darren Davis.



Newly elected FGCSA President David Court, CGCS presents the mounted gavel to Immediate Past President Geoff Coggan, CGCS, MG in recognition for his service in leading the association in 2001-02.

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### 2002 Summer Board Meeting Highlights

Government/Public Relations: The GR committee is going to look at possible public relations efforts associated with professional tournament site during the March golf swing

IFAS: The South Florida Turfgrass Task Force has listed Immokalee REC as best site for relocating turf research plots from the Ft. Lauderdale REC.



North Florida GCSA President Glen Klauk (left) presents the \$5,000 from its summer fundraiser at Klauk's Pablo Creek Club to FGCSA President Coggan for the state association's turfgrass research account. Thank you, First Coasters, for your donation to the cause. Long Range Planning: The FGCSA will fund three Spokesperson Training sessions this year. The FGCSA will partner with the USGA and Audubon International to conduct four hands-on workshops the first week of December to help new members apply and old members obtain certification.



In recognition for serving two terms as past president, Geoff Coggan presents Darren Davis with a bound collection of all of Davis's Super Tip articles for The Florida Green. Davis will also be honored in Atlanta at the GCSAA Conference with his second Leo Feser Award for his writing in Golf Course Management. He's the first repeat winner. Photo by Joel Jackson.



FGCSA officers for 2002-03 from left: Dale Walters, CGCS secretary/treasurer, Greg Pheneger, vice president; Geoff Coggan, CGCS, MG past president and David Court, CGCS president. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Local chapter external vice presidents make up the board of directors for the FGCSA. Directors for 2002-03 from left; front row: Mark Henderson, Mike McCulloch, Chris Ansley, and Glen Klauk; back row: Jeff Brown, John Lammrish, GCSS, Darren Davis, and Joe Pantaleo. Not pictured: Doug Abbuhl, Clayton Estes, CGCS and Buddy Keene. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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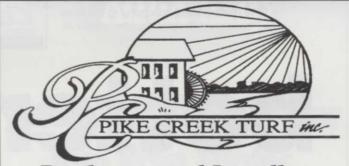
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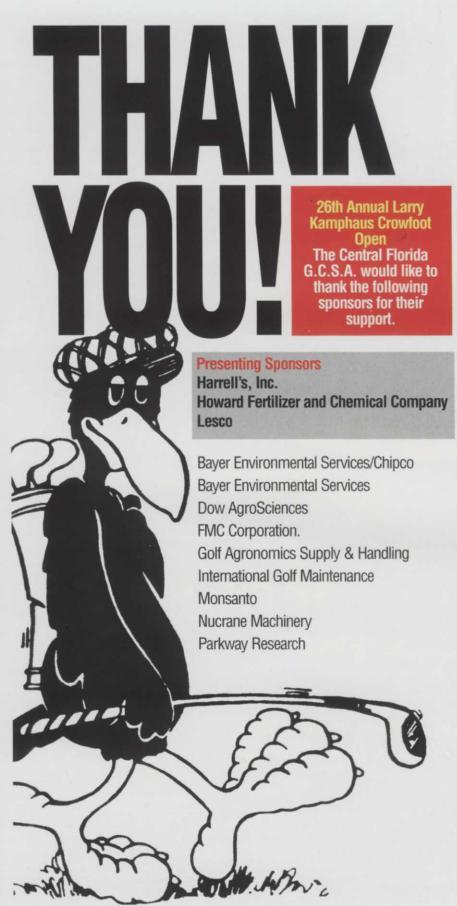
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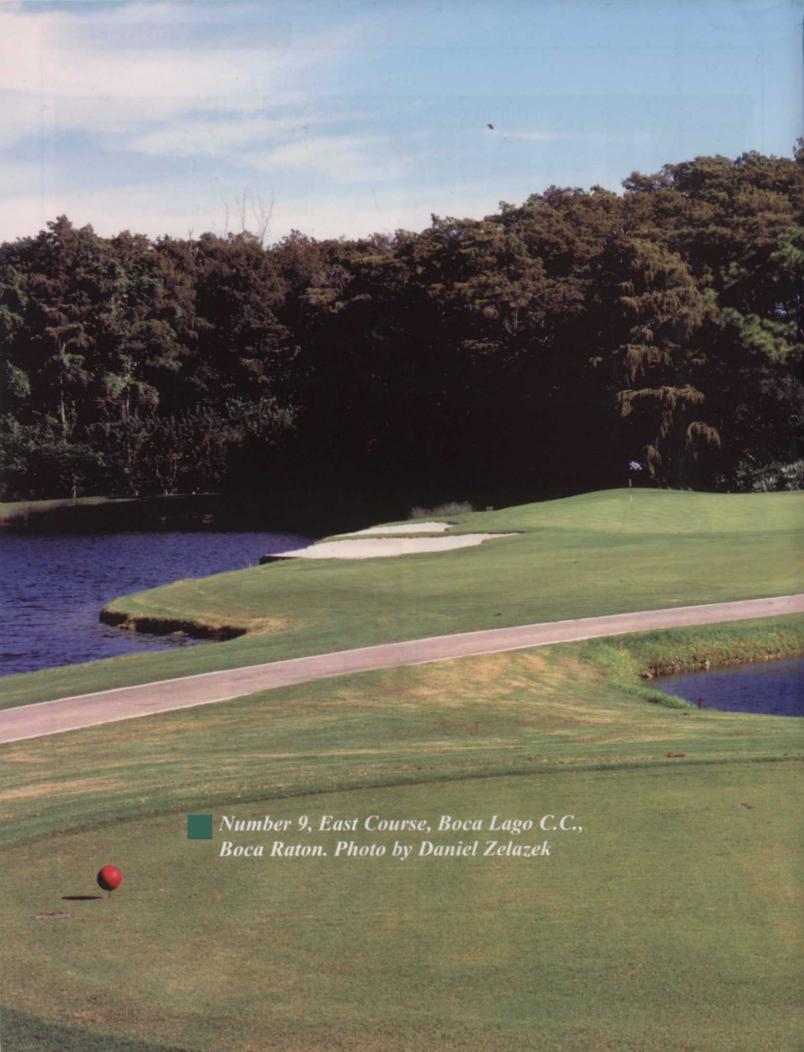
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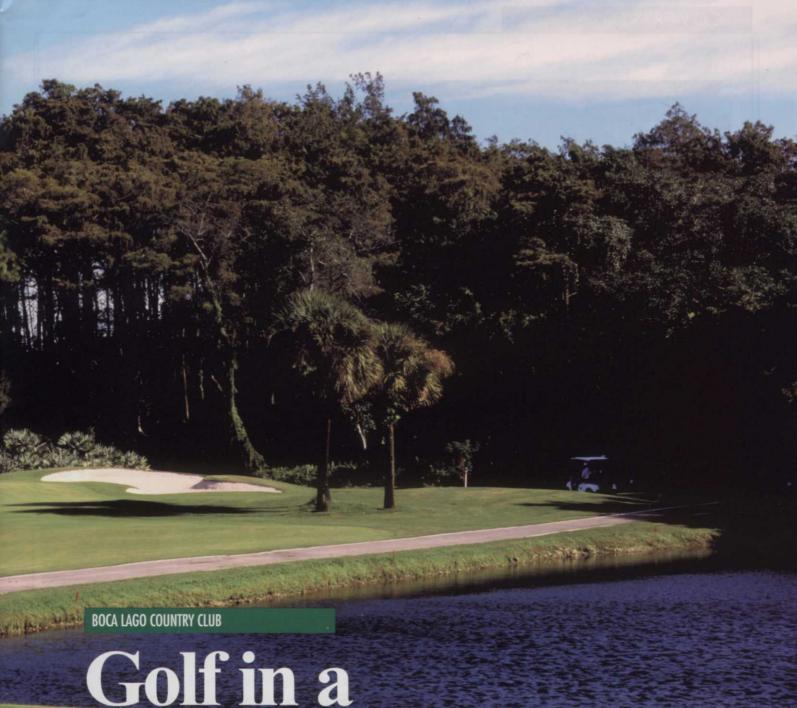


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## Golf in a Greenbelt Garden

By Joel Jackson, CGCS

"Thank goodness for the golf course green spaces in Palm Beach County!" says David Court, CGCS as we ride the 36-hole Boca Lago golf course complex in Boca Raton. Court has been at the 28-year -old course since 1981, and has watched the area grow exponentially since his family moved to Plantation when he was 9 years old. Court continues, "On our course alone we maintain 21 county-owned conservation/preservation areas

covering 30 acres and 50 acres of lakes and ponds."

Considering that 90 percent of Palm Beach County's population lives in a 12- to 15-mile-wide strip along the coast-line and takes up only 10 percent of the land space in the county, residents are lucky that there are so many golf courses to provide urban greenbelts to balance all the concrete and asphalt. Boca Lago is located halfway between the coast and the eastern edge of the Everglades, just west of



The green on No. 7 East guarded by three of the 110 bunkers on the course. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

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