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FGCSA

The FGCSA Golf Committee members decided that good deeds shouldn't go unrewarded and so at the 2006 FGCSA Golf Championship at the Southern Dunes G.C. in Haines City, Kevin Downing, CGCS and Joe Pantaleo presented "Golf Chairman for Life" Joe Ondo, CGCS with a token of our appreciation for his service in organizing FGCSA golf events and team selection and record keeping.

In the government relations arena, FGCSA Secretary/Treasurer Shane Bass, CGCS and Director

of Communications Joel Jackson, CGCS Retired have represented golf course superintendents at two Florida Fertilizer Rule Making Workshops, one in Tallahassee and most recently in Bartow. See the Official Business section for a more detailed report on this issue.

It is time to consider nominations for FGCSA Honors and Awards. Chapters should send their nominations along with supporting documentation of why the named person deserves consideration for the award. The eligible awards are Distinguished Service Award, Presidents Award and The Marie Roberts Award. See the FGCSA Membership Directory for qualifications and past winners.

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Florida's own GCSAA Director Bob Randquist, CGCS left greets the Florida delegates attending the October 2006 GCSAA Delegates meeting in Kansas City: Front row – Dale Kuehner, CGCS, Nancy Miller, Brian Main and Eric Reiter. Back row – Darren Davis, Bill Kistler and Rip Phillips. Photo by Joel Jackson.

It is time to consider nominations for FGCSA Honors and Awards. Chapters should send their nominations along with supporting documentation.

If you are planning your educational opportunities for your PDI education points, the FGCSA will once again host a GCSAA Leadership Series Seminar in May at the Poa Annu Classic in Naples. You need not register for the entire event to participate in just the education. Bruce Williams, CGCS, past president of the GCSAA will be the guest speaker.

Congratulations to Robert R. Bittner, CGCS at The Club Pelican Bay, Naples, Fla. for completing the renewal process for maintaining his status as a certified golf course superintendent with the GCSAA.

Bittner, a 24-year GCSAA member, has been at The Club Pelican Bay since 1990. He initially achieved his certification in 1992 and is among approximately 2,000 golf course superintendents worldwide to hold CGCS status.



Joel Jackson, CGCS (left) and Bob Solms represented the Central Florida and Ridge chapters at the GCSAA Delegates meeting in Kansas City.

Photo by Rip Phillips.

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Thank you to all who participated in the tournament or donated raffle prizes to make this year's event so successful.



15TH ANNUAL LCCC ENDOWMENT TOURNAMENT

One for the History Books

6-Iron Ace nets BMW for Toro's Gary Dorsch

Gary Dorsch, a regional field manager for the Toro Company hit the 6-iron shot of his life on the Nov. 2 during the annual Lake City Endowment Tournament. The ball went into the cup and earned Dorsch a set of keys to a brand new BMW Z4 convertible.

Playing in the second-to-last group, Dorsch aced the 15th hole to win the hole-in-one prize that retails for about \$40,000 and was offered by BMW of Fort Myers, which had insurance, of course. Another contestant ended up just inches from the hole. Ironically, only one hole-in-one was insured so any ace after the first one would win the player only a big bar tab.

After the tournament John Piersol, director of the Landscape and Golf Operations Department at the Lake City Community College, told the crowd that the cumulative funding spearheaded by this event and matched with state funds has meant more than \$250,000 to the school. Piersol thanked the alumni, sponsors and participants who make this event so special for the school.

It turned out to be a doubly lucky day for Dorsch and his partner Steve Simpson as they ended up winning the Low Gross division, no doubt helped by that 1 on the



Chuck "The Hit Man" Hiter put on a dazzling and dizzying display of golf ball whacking to entertain the crowd while the scores were being tabulated. Photo by Joel Jackson.

scorecard. Maybe it ended up being a net zero if he got handicap strokes. Meanwhile Melanie Mark and Greg Plotner teamed up to take the Low Net honors.

Once again WCI Communities donated the venue. This year it was The Colony Golf & Bay Club in Bonita Springs. Host superintendent Scott Hamm and staff had the course in flawless condition. Chuck "The Hit Man" Hiter made an impressive encore presentation with his amazing ability to hit golf balls from the most precarious positions imaginable, and he kept the audience in stitches while the committee totaled up the golf scores.

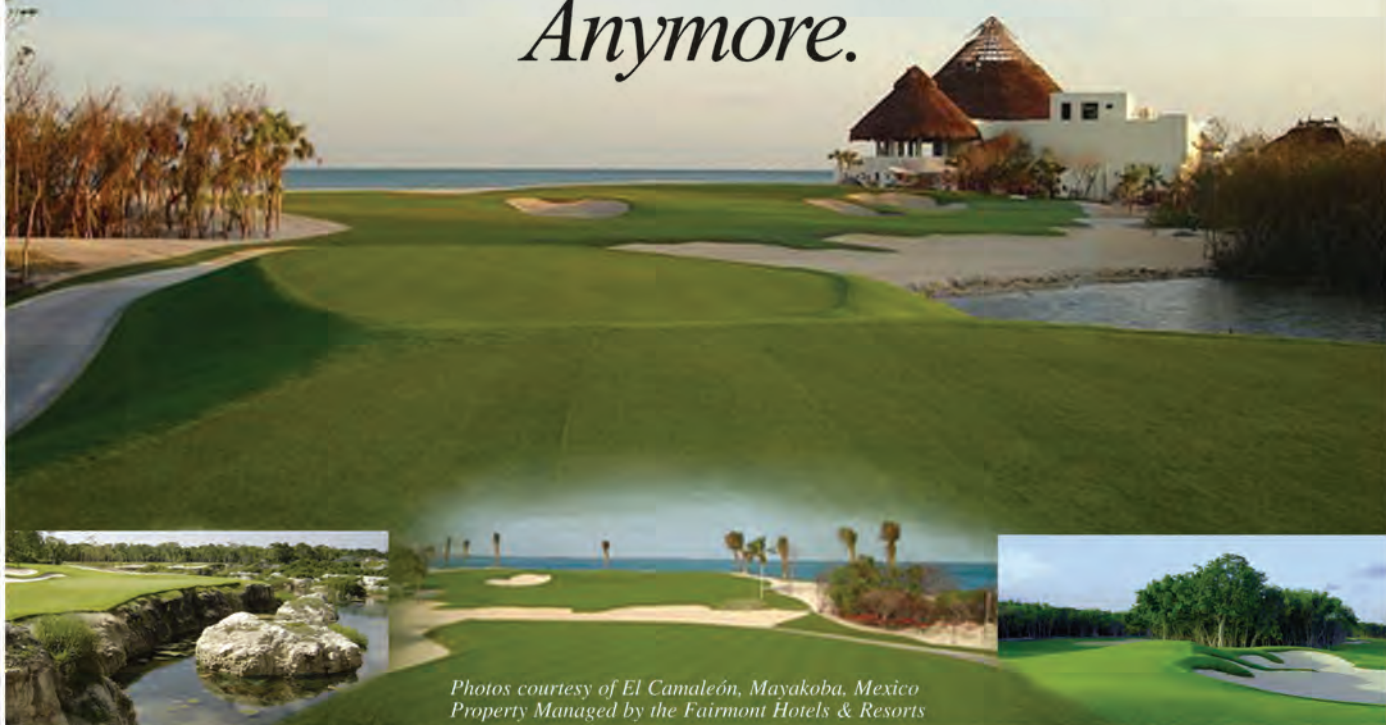
Kudos also to the Tournament Committee for its work to put together another



Gary Dorsch (right) carded a BMW-winning ace to help partner Steve Simpson to also win low gross at the 15th Annual Lake City Endowment Tournament. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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El Camaleón Golf Course at the Mayakoba resort on the Riviera Maya just south of Cancun, Mexico is Greg Norman's latest masterpiece. The 7,000-yard layout is unique, not just to Mexico but to the entire world of golf. The course bends through three distinct landscapes - mangrove jungles, limestone canals and stunning oceanfront stretches of sandy beaches. El Camaleón is also a world-class showcase for SeaIsle1 Seashore Paspalum. The tees, greens, fairways and roughs are all getting rave reviews. No wonder the PGA chose El Camaleón for its first-ever tour event in Mexico. If you've got water quality problems or poor soils, you should consider SeaIsle1 even if you've got an inland location. SeaIsle1 can tolerate most types of alternate water sources, including effluent, wastewater, gray water, brackish water and even ocean water for



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SPOTLIGHT

brilliant reception and tournament: David Fry, COO/ senior vice president WCI Communities; Scott Hamm - director golf development/ superintendent, The Colony Golf & Bay Club; Glenn Zakany - owner, G to Z Turf Services, Inc.; John Johnson - project manager, RS Walsh Landscaping; Mike Smith, Odell Spainhour, Roy Bates and Celeste Langer.

Please see our Sponsor Thank-You ad on the adjacent page for all those generous vendors who helped to make this event a success.



John Piersol, 30-year veteran of Lake City's Golf Operations Department, thanks Scott Hamm, WCI director of golf development for hosting the 2006 tournament. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Melanie Mark and Greg Plotner, both with IGM, teamed up to win the Low Net prize in the Lake City Endowment Tournament. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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South Florida Repeats State Championship

The South Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association continues to dominate the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association's annual golf championship by taking the Chapter Team and Low Medalist honors. It was the third team victory in a row and Bob Harper from The Club at Emerald Hills won his second title in his last three tries. The tournament was held at the Southern Dunes Golf Club on Saturday, Oct. 7.

Harper had to battle teammate Stephen Fox from the Ocean Reef Club and Everglades GCSA superintendent Jim Torba (Wilderness Club, Naples) in a playoff for the low medalist title. All three shot 72s for the 18-hole event contested with some very demanding pin placements. Harper birdied the first two playoff holes to win the title.

Using the best four out of five net scores, the South Florida team shot 301 to beat the closest pursuer of six chapter teams, Central Florida with 309. South Florida team members were Bob Harper, Seth Strickland, Stephen Fox and Jason Bagwell, Westview C.C. in Miami.

Harper's individual victory qualifies him for the Florida GCSA team to compete in the GCSAA Golf Championship to be held in Palm Springs in February 2007. Joining Harper on the Florida team so far will be fellow south Floridians Stephen Fox, Ocean Reef who won the Poa Annuu Classic in May,



Prior to the tournament Joe Ondo, CGCS (center) was recognized for his years of service as FGCSA golf chairman. Flanking him from left: Kevin Downing, CGCS and Joe Pantaleo on the golf committee and Ward Pepperman, host superintendent and Kevin Woodard golf professional at Southern Dunes GC. Photo by Joel Jackson

and Seth Strickland, Miami Shores G.C., who won the Crowfoot Open in July. The fourth team member will be the superintendent with the lowest scoring average in two out of three of the statewide qualifying events.

Congratulations to Golf Course Superintendent Ward Pepperman for having the course in terrific shape for the event and to Head Pro Kevin Woodward and his staff for scoring and operational assistance. This is the 11th year that Southern Dunes has hosted the event.

Prior to teeing off, FGCSA Golf Committee members Kevin Downing and Joe Pantaleo presented perennial Golf Chairman Joe Ondo, CGCS an award for his many years of continuous service organizing FGCSA golf events, tracking qualifying scores and submitting the paperwork for the Florida team that competes in the GCSAA Championships every February.



Winners of the 2006 FGCSA Golf Team and Individual trophies: from left kneeling are Jason Bagwell and Stephen Fox; standing are Seth Strickland, Bob Harper (individual winner) and team captain Joe Pantaleo. Photo by Joel Jackson.

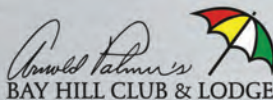
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