

The Five-Minute Guide to the GCSAA Show

By now, you've probably heard and read a zillion words about February's GCSAA Conference & Show in Orlando, so we'll spare you the usual stuff and give you our five-minute preview.

Size does matter

The show will be huge. Expect 22,000 or more. Orlando has historically been the best-attended site for the event, thanks to the easy access for Southeastern superintendents who normally can't attend because of peak-season job responsibilities.

Orlando ad infinitum

Note the weary looks on the faces of the golf car manufacturers and other industry representatives who will have just spent a grueling week in the same place during the PGA Merchandise Show.

People are talking

The top three topics of conversation around the show floor and hospitality suites will be 1) Jobs, 2) Jobs, and 3) Jobs. Related topics: The growing need for GCSAA membership standards, ethics code violations (job poaching), salary stagnation and assistants competing for superintendent's positions.

Hats off?

Now that Jacobsen is just one of the Textron brands, what will attendees who've religiously collected "Jake Hats" find when they rush to the Textron booth? Golfdom knows (but we promised not to tell) and collectors won't be disappointed.

Pearls of wisdom at the Opening Session

Barbara Bush? Apparently, George couldn't make it because of the pressing demands of gloating about his successor's impeachment.

Old Tom

What can we say about Jimmy Patino? How about, simply, that he is a gentleman, a visionary and a better friend to superintendents than most will ever know.



PHOTO CREDIT: GCSAA

A deserving selection, particularly when compared to yet another celebrity or tour player.

Rock of ages

How old are the guys in Blood Sweat and Tears? Their performance contract for the GCSAA President's Dinner Show includes a clause calling for chilled Geritol in their dressing room (insert rim-shot here).

Blatant self-promotion

Don't forget to drop by the Golfdom booth (#417) on the show floor to help us celebrate the rebirth of the industry's oldest and newest magazine.

See next page for complete list of show tips

OUT IN THE STREET

We asked Orlando-area superintendents, concierges from leading hotels and other insiders to help us compile their recommendations for the best ways to maximize your trip to the GCSAA Show.



Best formal dining (expensive)

Peter Scott, Longwood
Arthur 27, Wyndham Palace at Disney Village
Black Swan, Villas at Grand Cypress
Christini's in the Dr. Phillips Marketplace
Atlantis Room, Renaissance Hotel (South I-Drive, near Sea World)

Best casual dining

Finn's Seafood Grill, Disney Hilton
Tasca Tacon, Pine Street, downtown
The Outback at the Wyndham Palace
Hemingways, Hyatt Grand Cypress
Bergamos, The Mercado on International Drive
Bahama Breeze, International Drive

Best coffee houses

Harold & Maude, Washington Street
White Wolf Cafe, Ivanhoe Road
Barnies
Forty-Thirst Street, Downtown Disney, west side

Best dining with the kids

The Rainforest Cafe at Walt Disney World & Animal Kingdom
1900 Park Fare, The Grand Floridian Resort
Chef Mickey's, the Contemporary Resort
Covington Mill, Disney Hilton
Jungle Jim's, Church Street

Best sports bars

ESPN, Walt Disney World Boardwalk
Orlando Ale House, Kirkman Road
Front Row, International Drive
JB's Sports, S. Kirkman Road
The Player's Grill at Pointe Orlando, International Drive

Best local bars and entertainment areas

Church Street (take your pick)
Washington Street (Kit Kat Club, One-Eyed Jacks)
Barbarella's (dancing)
Saphire Supper Club (live music)
The Laughing Kookaburra, Wyndham Palace, (live band, dancing)
Downtown Disney West Side/Pleasure Island

Best-kept secrets (cool tourist activities)

Wekiva Spring (canoeing and swimming)
Old-fashioned airboat rides in Christmas, Fla.
Canoeing and airboat rides in Kissimmee, Fla.
Leu Gardens
Bok Tower, Lake Wales
Complimentary sundown champagne, Wyndham Palace Hotel
Lake Buena Vista for dynamite views of Disney fireworks

Things to avoid

Friday traffic on I-4 and International Drive
West side of I-4 access from Church Street
Noon lunch or 7 p.m. dinner at any theme park/tourist area

Best of Central Florida

French restaurant—Le Coq Au Vin, South Orange Avenue
Green fees under \$50—Highlands Reserve GC. U.S. 27, north of I-4
Nearby public courses—Diamondback, Grenelefe West, Southern Dunes
Haines City
Falcon's Fire & Celebration—Kissimmee

Tips for the show

Pace yourself
Wear comfy shoes
Take only the literature you really want
Drink in moderation
If you can't remember someone's name, call them "Bud," "Pal" or "Chum"