

# THE GREEN SHEET



VOLUME XII, PART 2, MARCH/APRIL 1996

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION



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*See page 7 for  
recap of GCSAA  
Convention  
Activities*

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- |         |   |         |   |         |  |
|---------|---|---------|---|---------|--|
| Mar. 7  | NFGCSA chapter meeting, Magnolia Point G&CC     | Apr. 16 | NF/Mike Richards Memorial Tournament, Windsor Parke | May 14  | NFGCSA chapter meeting, Baymeadows GC                |
| Mar. 11 | U of F 1996 Turf Field Days, Gainesville campus | Apr. 18 | USGA Regional Conference Palm Beach Gardens         | May 17  | FGCSA Architecture seminar, Naples Beach Club        |
| Mar. 20 | TCGCSA chapter meeting, Indian River Planation  | Apr. 22 | Envirotron Tournament, World Woods GC               | May 17  | Poa Tournament, Naples - 19 Beach Hotel              |
| Mar. 27 | SFGCSA Exposition, Fort Lauderdale IFAS Center  | Apr. 23 | GCSAA Calibration & Pesticide Equipment Seminar     | June 14 | EGCSA/GCSAA Regional Seminar, Colliers Reserve       |
| Mar. 30 | CFGCSA/Danny Burgess Memorial, Windermere CC    | Apr. 25 | GCSAA Irrigation System Seminar, Deerfield Beach.   | Aug. 3  | Crowfoot Open, Walt - 5 Disney World                 |
| Apr. 15 | West Coast chapter meeting Belleview Mido       | Apr. 26 | Everglades spring seminar, Vanderbilt Beach, Naples | Aug. 28 | FGCSA/GCSAA Regional Seminar, Palm Beach             |
| Apr. 15 | USGA Regional Conference Orlando                | May 4   | TCGCSA Blue Pearl Tournament, Loblolly Pines        | Aug 23  | FTGA Conference & Show, - 26 Tampa Convention Center |

***FGCSA President, Greg Plotner CGCS, has relinquished his column this month so that Past President Tom Benefield can present the following report.***

Perhaps there is no other issue involving the maintenance of fine quality turf of more importance than that of having an ample available supply of quality irrigation water. Even with all the technical improvements and advances in research of the more drought tolerant varieties of grasses we still depend as much as ever on our irrigation water.

In the need for quality water we in the turf industry are no different than everyone else out there in this marvelous place we call mother earth. Agricultural interests are being pressured intensely on their usage. The "great society" of major cities in our state is in an ever-increasing need for more "public" water. And now we have another player in the quest for water supplies, the environmental water demand. This last player has become a formidable foe. All of this illustrates how competitive the demand for high grade top quality water has become.

We have seen for some time now that this carving up of the water supply was slowly moving towards the turf industry. It was as recently as 1990 and 1991 that

the powers to be wanted to reduce allocations by 80% (only our industry) and force us to take and pay exorbitant amounts for the low quality recycled pollution (effluent water) from the "great society". We managed to successfully prevent this from happening back then, but knew that this was not a subject which was going away and would have to be addressed again. Well that time has arrived.

As preparations for the legislative season are under way, we find a myriad of water supply changes being bantered about. It is in sharp contrast to the effort put forth last year in this political arena. You got the "Governors" select committee working on water issues facing Florida's future. Then there is the "House" select committee and their agendas, recommendations and legislative proposals. Add in the five autonomous Water Management Districts with their fund raising abilities, the DEP who has no money but has a healthy appetite for more power over the WMD's among others, and perhaps the newest of the participants the Fish and Game Commission folks. It seems that in the eyes

of the state the water supplies of the "environment" will be first in line when they allocate available supplies.

It is this newest group of water allocation that is putting a pinch on all the other entities vying for water. By allocating first for the environmental needs of the state, the rest of the user groups will be competing for the remaining available water supply. All of these competing interests must be alert and proactive this year in the WMD's as well as in the state legislature.

Below you can see some of the early proposals coming out of the House Select Committee on Water.

*Committee Interim report concluded:*

- Significant concern over water supply policies by all users where there are water shortages
- Current basis of Florida water law is sound
- Water availability inventories need to be developed based on hydrologic basis  
Current implementation of water supply planning is lacking

- Minimum levels and flows must be developed early in the process for planning areas

*Recommendations were:*

- Legislature should establish areas where water supply plans should be completed
- All planning requirements should be eliminated and replaced with the allocation specific strategies for these areas
- Final water supply plans to be approved by legislature
- Strengthen the statutory language relating to fundamental water law, including that water is a public resource

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**Deadline next issue: April 15.**

and that minimum flows and levels must be established so water can be sustainable for future human use.

*Proposed legislation:*

- *Repeals statutory provisions of Florida water Plan and state water use plan*
- *DEP to have overall responsibility of statewide implementation of state law and policy*
- *WMD to have direct responsibility for implementation of state law and policy - but answerable of DEP for their performance in implementation of state law and policy*
- *Establishes areas to develop comprehensive water supply plan (Tampa area, Orlando area and LEC)*
- *Require WMD's to develop a comprehensive plan for each identified areas*
- *Requires completion one year from identification of area*
- *Allows WMD to unilaterally prepare plan to meet time frame*

As you can see there are plenty of creative ideas being floated around our capital and this is just one of the policy making entities with whom we will be getting recommendations and direction from. It is imperative we expend all necessary resources in this arena to effectively represent our concerns and interests.

With this in mind, the FTGA has asked the FGCSA to join forces to raise the level of representation on water issues statewide and retain the services of a group of Water Resource Consultants — McVicar, Frederico and Lamb — to be our eyes and ears this year.

Why was this group chosen?

MFL have between them over 30 years of working background in the South Florida WMD. They have worked with SFWMD staff on such things as planning,

regulation, permitting, policy making and research. They have also worked with staff from DEP and legislative committees and all the other WMD's staff. They are without doubt the most talented water consulting firm available. Even though the legislative session is still several weeks away they have been busy for the last three months working with staff and other coalition groups which have similar interests as ours.

Some board member (FTGA) asked as to why we needed another consulting group for Tallahassee since we already have our lobbyist, Mike Goldie, on board. The answer is simple. Mike, for all his positive involvement, cannot effectively deal with the complex nature of this type of work. This is not a knock against Mike. He is doing a fine job for us, but his expertise is not close to that of MFL in this area.

Finally, for all those who believe we could get by without having to spend money for this group, maybe you are right. Just maybe everything would fall into place for us without having the best firm available working for us. Then again, I have my doubts.

We as board members of the FTGA and FGCSA would be derelict in our duties to serve your best interests if we did not bring in this firm. We would all feel very badly if we did not attempt to influence policies on water. If we did nothing and 4-5 years from now we were operating under guidelines and rules by which our water supply was not only limited but also of the poorest quality, we would feel foolish for not spending the money this year to attempt to get a deal we can live and prosper with.

And, there is no guarantee that even with this group's help we will get everything we want. Maybe what we want is out of reach but at least we can console ourselves in the fact we tried to make a difference for the good of all the members. As a board member all one can do is try their best and give their all for their associations and we can be confident we are doing that in this situation.

## Ninth Annual SFGCSA Exposition

The Ninth Annual SFGCSA Turfgrass Exposition will be held on Wednesday, March 27th at the University of Florida Fort Lauderdale REC.

This year the program will begin with a field tour of the FGCSA research green and updates on other research projects being performed at the REC. From there the crowd will go to the green for a two hour equipment demonstration program by Florida Coast Equipment, Hector Turf, Kilpatrick Turf and Pifer. The booth show area will then open from 11:00 to 1:00 p.m. After lunch, there will be two seminars in the auditoriums. Dr. Bert McCarty, Clemson University, will speak on "Weed Control Update for Florida" and Dr. Thomas Perkins, American Cyanamid, will speak on "Factors Effecting the Performance of Turfgrass Herbicides." CEU's have been approved for these seminars.

In its history, this event has raised over \$100,000 for the maintenance and support of the University of Florida Fort Lauderdale campus. It is the major fundraiser for the SFGCSA and chapter members urge all superintendents in the southern half of Florida to attend and find out for yourself what research is being done on your behalf.

Registration is \$25.00 before March 15th and \$35.00 after March 15th. Registration forms can be obtained by calling the FGCSA office.

### USGA Green Section Conferences April 15 & 18

Speakers for this year's Green Section Conference will include Chris Hartwiger, USGA; Barry Frank, NGF; Pat Jones, GCSAA; Dr. John Cisar and Dr. Monica Elliott, IFAS; William Amick, Golf Course Architect; Steve Beeman, EcoShores; and the ever popular Whit Collins. Registration forms can be obtained by calling the USGA office at 407-546-2620

The Winter 1996 meeting of the FGCSA Board of Directors was called to order by President Greg Plotner, CGCS, at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 13th at the Bay Hill Club in Orlando.

All officers were in attendance. Every chapter was represented. Other FGCSA members attending the meeting were Joel Jackson - Florida Green editor; Paul Crawford - Florida Green Business Manager; Geoff Coggan - Central Florida chapter; Mark Richard, CGCS; Gary Grigg, CGCS, Jeff Klontz, Palm Beach chapter; and Mike Goldie.

Minutes of the Fall 1995 FGCSA Board Meeting were approved.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:** Secretary/Treasurer Joe Ondo went over the financial statements for the second quarter of the fiscal year. It was noted that the GCSAA has officially approved a \$10,000 DNA research grant to the FGCSA for the next two years.

**IRS Audit:** An attorney has been contacted to act in our behalf with the IRS on the Unrelated Business Income Tax question. He has suggested that we appeal the decision that our advertising income is taxable. His fee to make the initial Appeal would be ~\$1,000. Paul Crawford noted that no one has been able to successfully appeal the IRS on the UBIT situation. However, the board felt that since our tax would be ~\$8,000 each year, it would be worth the \$1,000 or so to try the appeal. Scott Bell made a motion to spend up to \$1,000 on an appeal. If the appeal is not settled with the \$1,000 fee, it must be brought back to the board for further action. The motion was approved.

Chapters were asked to fill out their proposed donation schedule for this fiscal year and return it to the FGCSA office before the Poa board meeting.

**By Laws:** After the vote at the GCSAA Convention, the FGCSA will propose to make the necessary ByLaw changes at the Poa board meeting. No action will be taken before the Convention.

**AWARDS:** All Distinguished Service Award and Presidents Awards nominations must be received in the FGCSA office before the Poa Board Meeting.

**EDUCATION:** Chip Fowkes discussed the GCSAA Regional Seminar schedule for next year. Florida superintendents will have the opportunity to attend seminars on June 14th in Naples and then again on August 28th in Palm Beach. The topic for the Naples seminar will be Drainage and the Palm Beach seminar will be on Turfgrass Stress. In addition the North Florida chapter is trying to schedule a date in January 1997 for a Regional Seminar in their area.

Chip is also planning the Poa seminar which will be held on Friday afternoon, May 17th, at the Naples Beach Club. It will be a five hour seminar in order to get CEU's. Darren Davis announced that the Everglades spring seminar will be held in April and they have lined up some big name speakers such as Pat Cobb from Auburn and Dr. Peacock from North Carolina State. Bob Klitz announced that the South Florida Expo will be held on Wednesday, March 27th at the IFAS Center in Fort Lauderdale.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Membership has almost reached our 850 goal. All members who join between January and June will be pro-rated to 50%. Mark Richard announced that he is still interested in recruiting new members from his area of the Panhandle. The Big Bend chapter in Tallahassee has re-organized and is eager to rejoin the FGCSA.

**POA and CROWFOOT:** Darren Davis announced that the Poa weekend will be May 17 through 19 at the Naples Beach Resort. Education will be on Friday afternoon, Poa tournament on Saturday morning and the G. C. Horn Tournament on Sunday morning. Joe Ondo announced that the Crowfoot would be held during the first weekend in August and would be played at Eagle Pines on Monday, August 5th. There will be no education at the Crowfoot due to poor attendance in past years.

**FTGA:** Alan Puckett reported that the FTGA has been informed, however belatedly, that Bert McCarty has resigned from the UF to accept a position at Clemson. Dr. Grady Miller will replace him as Envirotron coordinator. Upon learning that it may be some time before Dr. McCarty's position is filled, the FTGA let the UF administration know how important this position is to the future of turfgrass research donations and requested that action be taken as soon as possible.

Alan reported that the FTGA has responded to requests from superintendents and is changing the Show dates to the weekend to better accommodate the superintendent schedule. The 1996 FTGA Convention will open on Saturday, August 24th with concurrent sessions in the morning; the showroom floor open in the afternoon; and the Presidents Reception will be held in the Convention Center at 6:30 p.m. Sunday will be the free day at the show which will be open from 9:00 a.m. - 3 p.m. The Toro corn boil will be held Sunday night. The fishing tournament and golf tournaments will be held on Monday. It is hoped that this schedule will allow more superintendents to attend the show. The FGCSA will do everything possible to encourage members to attend in appreciation for the schedule change.

Alan noted that the FTGA is in better shape financially and day to day operations are within budgetary guidelines.

The next topic of discussion was a proposal from the firm of MacVicar, Federico and Lamb to provide services as a "water rights watchdog" for the FTGA. Alan noted that since this year will be an important one for water related government activities, the FTGA has already approved funding this proposal. They are now asking the FGCSA to join them in funding the proposal. He noted that Jan Belgian and Tim Hiers had written in support of the need for help in water related issues. The FGCSA board agreed that the concept of a water rights watchdog is a good idea but had some reservations about the fee schedule as

proposed by this firm. Since the FTGA has not solicited bids from any other company, the board decided that some action needs to be taken before approving their request. It was also noted that the FTGA and FGCSA are looking for information only, and that any follow up with legal action or interaction to change things would have to be undertaken by the FTGA or the FGCSA. Since there is no money available in the FGCSA Operating Budget, the funding for our share of the proposal would have to come from chapter donations. Kevin Downing volunteered to check into this firm to see who their clients are and to check their qualifications. A proposal was made that upon acceptance of the firm by the FGCSA Executive Council, the FGCSA will commit \$6,000 to the project for the first year. The motion was approved. It was again pointed out that the purpose is to obtain information rather than to lobby for any action.

**FUND RAISING:** Greg Plotner announced that Valent is in the final stages of a program that will generate funds from the sale of Orthene and Pinpoint to be used for turfgrass research. The program will be very simple to operate with no reporting or record keeping needed by the superintendent.

**GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS:** Darren Davis discussed mix/load facility plans that are being offered by IFAS and the DEP. The question of whether these "plans" will become "regulations" in the future was discussed. Gary Grigg reported that the GCSAA is aware of these proposals and is reviewing them. DACS will reimburse a golf course up to \$7,644 for participating in their program and allowing them to use the facility for future inspections. Qualifications for entry into the program were discussed.

Mike Goldie stated that since this is an election year for many representatives and senators, each chapter should make a special effort to invite candidates to attend chapter meetings that will have a good turnout. These are prospective lawmakers and getting commitments from them during election years is al-

ways a good idea. Mike will help any chapter plan these meetings and will also be available to attend.

**RESEARCH:** Gary Grigg announced that the GCSAA is taking a more active role in avoiding duplication of research efforts throughout the country. He also reported that the results of the Iowa study on exposure are being reviewed by a firm in Washington due to some question about the results and testing procedures used in the study. Kevin announced that the figures on the proposed ball roll study on the Ft. Lauderdale Research Green are higher than anticipated. At this time the study is on hold.

**GCSAA CHAPTER AFFILIATION AGREEMENT:** Gary Grigg, GCSAA President, gave a presentation on the history of the GCSAA chapter affiliation agreement which has been in existence for many years. The Affiliation Agreement is used to protect both the GCSAA and the local chapters with a goal of closer chapter relations. He discussed the history of the dual membership issue and explained how it had changed in the past several years. It was also mentioned that many chapters have discussed initiating a new membership classification that would be used to cover those superintendents who can not or will not join the GCSAA. In this way, they would still be able to join their local chapter as a non-voting member. He noted that there are 10,000 Class A and B superintendent members in the GCSAA but only 1800 Assistants. By dropping Class C dues for Assistant Superintendents to 50%, the GCSAA expects to eventually build up the base. Dues revenue would decrease the first year or two but is expected to increase in future years. He noted that only 17% of the total GCSAA income comes from dues. The current GCSAA Chapter Affiliation Agreement will be good through the year 2000.

Gary noted that there are only four states who use a combined state chapter as an affiliated chapter of the GCSAA and

that these states have different options. He stated that if the FGCSA is a true umbrella chapter with all local chapters coming under the same incorporation and tax identification number, the GCSAA will have no problem allowing all the local chapters to affiliate as well as the FGCSA. It was noted that this was meant to be the way it was set up with the IRS when the FGCSA first became a tax-exempt organization in 1987. This is why all chapters have been required to file their year end financial statements as attachments to the FGCSA yearly tax return. We will check with our current CPA firm to confirm this. If this proves to be the case, the financial cost of affiliating with the GCSAA will drop significantly for all our local chapters. It is hoped that all local chapters and the FGCSA will continue to be GCSAA affiliated chapters.

Greg Plotner asked all External Vice Presidents to take no action until after the national so that we can check on our corporate structure. It was noted that the FGCSA should be developing their own "Affiliation Agreement" for all local chapters to sign that would be modeled after the GCSAA. Greg established a committee to develop guidelines for all chapters to follow that would be ready in time for review at the Poa Board Meeting. Joel Jackson volunteered to serve on the committee and Greg asked for other volunteers to call him directly.

**GCSAA BY-LAW CHANGES:** Dale Kuehner went over the new GCSAA By Law changes that will be voted on at the Convention. After a brief discussion, a motion was made to approve all the By Law changes as presented by the GCSAA. The motion was approved and therefore Dale will vote yes for all the changes.

GCSAA candidates for election and reelection to the Board of Directors were also discussed.

The next FGCSA board meeting will be held on Friday morning, May 17th at the Naples Beach Hotel. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

## Another Successful LCCC Golf Tournament at Riverwood GC

The Fourth Annual Lake City Community College Endowment Fund Raising Golf Tournament was held January 12, 1996 at Riverwood Golf Club. Though the day started off with a torrential rainfall, the tournament did manage to start after about a 45 minute delay. The event raised in excess of \$9,000 thanks to the support of the sponsors and players. Though the winners received some great prizes and the raffle prizes were valued at \$10,000, the real winner was Lake City Community College Golf Operations as well as the whole turf industry.

A Flight winners were Tom Hilferty and Andy Burmester while Greg Pheneger and Ralph Daire took first place in the B Flight. Rick Tatum was the big raffle winner with a cruise to Cozumel and Jack Stahl won the \$500 cash prize.

See more details, pictures and list of all sponsors in the next Florida Green.



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## Everglades GCSA Spring Seminar

The Everglades GCSA hosts their spring seminar on Friday, April 26th at La Playa on Vanderbilt Beach in Naples.

The 9:00 a.m. program begins with Dr. Charles Peacock, North Carolina State, who will speak on Best Management Practices. Darren Davis, winner of the GCSAA Environmental Steward Award, will speak on Environmental Concerns for the Maintenance Facility. He will be followed by the always popular Dr. Pat Cobb of Auburn University who will speak on Controlling Mole Crickets.

The afternoon program includes USGA Agronomist, John Foy, who will speak on Trends and Turf Tips for Florida Golf Courses. Next will be a discussion by Paul Latschaw, golf course superintendent at Congressional CC, on Preparing a Golf Course for a Major Tournament. The ladies finish off the day's activities with Shelly Foy, State Coordinator for the New York Audubon Society, speaking on updates to the Cooperative Sanctuary Program and then Jan Beljan, Fazio Golf Design, will speak on Environmental Impacts of Golf Courses.

For registration information, call Darren Davis, at 941-353-4441.

## North Florida hosts 4th Annual Tournament

The North Florida GCSA will host the Fourth Annual Mike Richards Memorial Scholarship Tournament on April 16th, 1996 at the Windsor Parke Golf Club in Jacksonville. The event is a two man scramble with an 8:00 a.m. shotgun start followed by an awards luncheon. All proceeds are distributed in the form of a scholarship in October. The NFGCSA would like to encourage participation in this event by fellow superintendents throughout the state. Please contact Beth Smith, chapter secretary at 904-755-5451, or Kim Shine, CGCS at 904-223-0886 for further information and tournament entry forms.

## Fourth Annual Envirotron Golf Classic

The Seven Rivers GCSA presents their 4th Annual Envirotron Golf Classic at World Woods GC on Monday, April 22nd. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. for the 10:30 a.m. shotgun start.

Again this year there will be two separate 18 hole 4-man handicap scrambles on the Pine Barren course and the Rolling Oaks course at the prestigious World Woods GC in Brooksville. The \$100 entry fee includes golf, lunch and a steak and shrimp buffet after the tournament with raffles, door prizes, silent auction and live entertainment.

This is the largest fundraiser of any Florida chapter and has already raised \$87,500 in their first three years. Funds raised are used to support the Envirotron on the University of Florida Gainesville campus. There are several levels of sponsorship available for the tournament and prospective sponsors should contact Glen Oberlander at 904-795-7017.



## University Field Days

The 1996 Turfgrass Field Days at the Department of Environmental Horticulture on the University of Florida Gainesville campus begins at noon on March 11. Formal presentations and a tour of the IFAS greenhouse complex and the adjacent Envirotron Research Laboratory will keep everyone busy until the program ends at 5:30. A dinner social at the home of Dr. J. B. Sartain will follow.

Events continue at 9:00 a.m. on March 12 with an outside tour at the G. C. Horn Turfgrass Field Laboratory which will include an overview of current research projects. After lunch an optional golf tournament will begin at 1:00 p.m.

The 1996 Turfgrass Field Day program is free and open to the public. For information, call Dr. Al Dudek at 904-392-7939. For golf information, call Dr. Grady Miller at 904-392-7942.

## When the GCSAA Came to Town

Florida superintendents played host to a record setting crowd of more than 21,000 turf related professionals at the 67th International Golf Course Conference and Show in Orlando last month. And the Florida superintendent was everywhere! Not only did our Florida foursome take the chapter team competition low gross title, our Florida Green once again took first place honors in the Newsletter Contest! We also had two Florida superintendents pass the Certification Exam during the Convention, one of our superintendents on the Environmental General Session Panel, and several of our superintendents were honored in the Environmental Steward Awards ceremony. And, not to be overlooked, we definitely had the largest and most sought after reception in the history of the GCSAA Convention!

The Florida #1 team composed of Buck Buckner, Jim Osburn, Kevin Downing and Mark Hopkins finished with a two shot win to end a 13 year dry spell. In addition to Buck who finished third overall, other Florida superintendents winning prizes in their flights were Hal Richburg, Kevin Rotti and Tom Trammel. Also congratulations to Kevin Downing and Fred Klauk for winning the 4 ball tournament on Sunday.

Darren Davis, superintendent at Olde Florida Golf Club in Naples, was named National Winner in the private golf course category during the 4th Annual Environmental Steward Award ceremony. Congratulations, Darren. In addition to the three national winners there were 16 regional winners selected including two from Florida: James Lehman from Queens Harbour Y&CC in Jacksonville and Rob Kloska from The Champions Club at Summerfield in Stuart. Finally Bob Bittner from The Club at Pelican Bay in Naples was one of the 17 merit winners. Again, Florida leads the way in protecting and enhancing the environment.

During the Convention, FGCSA President Greg Plotner presented a \$1,000 check to the Musser Foundation to aid outstanding doctoral candidates nationwide. He also attended the Friends of the Foundation reception to receive recognition for Florida's continued commitment to the GCSAA's Platinum Tee Club through our \$5,000 annual donation.

Other individual achievements included Tim Hiers' performance on the Environmental Session Panel, and Geoff Coggan and David Oliver who passed the GCSAA Certification Test on their first try! We would also like to recognize those superintendents in the Orlando area who took the time to accompany many of the out of town superintendents as they played or just walked their courses. Also thanks to all the members of the Central Florida chapter who served on the GCSAA Committee to welcome new exhibitors and spent time in the FGCSA host booth during showroom hours.

And then there was the reception! Paul Crawford reported that more than 950 people passed through the doors on their way to the Florida Island Festival. We appreciate the support of all our Florida sponsors who were responsible for this great event.

And, last not certainly not least, congratulations to Gary Grigg for his year as GCSAA President. Gary did a fine job of leading the Association through this transitional year while balancing the demands of his position at Royal Poinciana GC in Naples. We are proud to have Gary as a member of the FGCSA.

## The Florida GCSA would like to thank the following sponsors for supporting the 1996 GCSAA Reception in Orlando

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