

1993 FGCSA
President's Awards

Hugh Bebout

Dick Blake

Don Delaney

Karl Jacob

Ed Ramey

Never stop learning!

Says Ed Ramey, who got his advanced degree from the school of hard knocks

BY JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

Frank Sinatra's song "My Way" seems like a fitting theme for Ed Ramey's career. Born in Logan, W.Va. in an era that preceded well-publicized turf programs.

After graduating from Chapmansville High School, Ed served in the Marine Corps from 1955-1959. He earned his advanced degree in the school of hard knocks. He learned his trade by hands-on methodology, as did so many of our pioneering peers.

He fell in love with golf and he pursued it from PGA apprentice to golf course construction and management.

Finally, when the expansion of turf education caught up with the pioneers who had been out there blazing trails for the rest of us, Ed fine-tuned his practical knowledge of turf management with courses at Palm Beach Community College in 1973.

Ed Ramey is not your prototype superintendent. Once, at Keys Gate G.C. he designed the course, and then served as superintendent, golf professional, and golf director! Ed was used to serving in several capacities at most of his courses. That makes him unique in his time, but more and more superintendents are finding themselves in project management positions as their talents are recognized and utilized.

Ed was a PGA apprentice for eight years. His dream had been to become a touring pro. About the time a young

Arnold Daniel Palmer was winning his first PGA tournament, William Edward Ramey realized that he was not going to join Arnie on the tour. When he found out that Arnold's dad was a superintendent, a new direction in golf opened up for him.

"I started out in this business as a caddie and I decided that one day I would love to build a course from the ground up. That dream came true in 1972 when I helped construct the Carolina Club, originally called Holiday Springs C.C.

"One of my fondest memories of my career is taking that jungle and transforming it into a beautiful golf course, and seeing the enjoyment of the people who played the course."

"The best thing about this business is the people you meet and associate with. Not too many professions give you the opportunity to travel to different parts of the country and see the many sides of a golf course. I have enjoyed this profession more than any other type of work I have done. Nothing is as great as the sun on the dew at daybreak!"

For young people or anyone interested in the turf industry, Ed had this advice, "Get as much hands on experience as you can! If you decide to go on and become a superintendent, then get as much education as you can!. Never stop learning! Today, with all the regulations, you must keep up!"

And for someone like Ed, who *did* keep up, there is the President's Award.

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William Edward Ramey

Family: Wife, Jeanne. Daughters, Robin and Tara.

Professional Affiliations: South Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association(all offices); Florida Turfgrass Association; Past member of the PGA; member of S.C.O.R.E.

Resume:

Monroe, Wisconsin-golf professional

Holiday Springs C.C.-Construction, superintendent, golf professional.

City of Lauderhill G.C.-Construction, golf director.

Century Village, Deerfield Beach-golf professional, golf director.

Century Village, Pembroke Pines-Construction, golf professional, golf director.

Deerfield Country Club-Superintendent.

Keys Gate G.C.-Design, construction, superintendent, golf professional, golf director.

Kendall Golf Club-Superintendent

"To receive this award from your peers is a great thrill. It is the greatest honor I have ever received. It is very humbling to be made aware that your peers and friends think so highly of you and your work and contributions. I want to thank all of you."

Sometimes, a man's work is just necessary toil to put bread on the table for the family. For Ed Ramey, the passion for his profession is best described in his own words:

Authors Note: Ed Ramey and his family survived Hurricane Andrew, but their house did not. See Ed's story on page 30 in the Winter 1992-93 issue of The Florida Green.

As Time Goes By

BY ED RAMEY

As time goes by, so does the greenskeeper. In the early years, he was known as the keeper of the greens. He had no computers, automated systems, or the like. He relied on his ability to accomplish his daily tasks.

He arose early every morning. He got his hands dirty. He took great pride in his work. This man was a jack-of-all-trades. He was an operator, mechanic, sprayman, and waterman. More than likely, he was overworked, understaffed, not often recognized by his members, and his peers were scattered. This man could build a golf course from the seat of his pants, and he did some very nice courses.

As time goes by, we acquire a vast amount of knowledge of our profession, and our memberships benefit from this knowledge. We have access to modern technology and science, but let's not overlook the human factors. Every once and awhile we should take a good look at ourselves. Do you go out of your way to say thank you to your staff for a job well done? Get out in the dew! Get your feet wet and let your staff see you! Let them know you appreciate the job they do!

The modern superintendent has to be a very well-educated businessman. We have come a long way in a short time. Let's all continue to learn and grow.

"I never had a day that I did not want to go to the job. It has been a great life"



Environmental Waterway Management...

"Preserving Your Liquid Assets"

Golf Courses have Lakes, Ponds, Canals and Water Everywhere! Many of these water bodies are used for irrigation, fishing swimming, drainage or simply as hazards to the navigating Golfer on your course. If you allow Algae, Grasses and other noxious weeds to grow unchecked, they will rapidly take over your precious waterways. Don't allow your waterway problems to get you in over your head. Just call the experts at Environmental Waterway Management.

