

Turf industry mourns passing of true legend

Thomas Mascaro of Pompano Beach died May 6 at the age of 81. He is survived by his wife Dorothy; sons John and Bobby; daughters Tammy Shackleford, Linda Owens and Stella Churchill; nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Tom had been active in the golf course industry for the past 65 years. He also was an inventor with eight patents and over 70 turf-related products to his name. His greatest claims to fame are the 1946 development of the aerifier for cultivating turfgrass and the verticut mower in 1952 for removing thatch. These inventions revolutionized golf course management.

He also won the prestigious USGA Green Section award, the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award and hundreds of other turf-related awards. He even has a museum, named the Mascaro-Steiniger Turfgrass Museum, on the campus of Penn State University.

He was former president of West Point

Products in West Point, Pa., and also former president of Turf-Tec International in Oakland Park, which is now being run by his son, John.

A private service was held on May 17. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be sent to the Golf Course Superintendents Association Foundation's Historical Preservation Fund, (913) 832-3607.

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Every member of the turf industry has been affected by Tom Mascaro. Our very thinking of modern cultural practices originated from his vision and inventions. He was the truest of turf professionals in our time, and we will miss his envelope-pushing creativity.



Tom Mascaro with UF pathologist Dr. Monica Elliott. Janlark photo.

We could fill pages with anecdotes, stories and tributes from those who have known and worked with Tom over the years, but instead we offer a poem submitted by David Bailey that was written by Tom and was read at his funeral. It comes from the hand, the heart and soul of one of turf's greatest stewards.

Joel D. Jackson, CGCS

26-year Disney vet Larry Kamphaus passes away

Larry Kamphaus, CGCS, of Disney's Magnolia G.C. in Orlando died Monday, June 9, 1997 at the age of 54.

Larry had been with the Walt Disney World company for 26 years.

He started with Disney by working in landscape helping to plant the now majestic oaks on Hotel Plaza Blvd when Disney World was just a one building Preview Center off Interstate 4.

He moved into golf course maintenance to grow in the Magnolia and Palm courses and had been involved in the development of all the remaining 99 holes



of golf at Disney World, including the Lake Buena Vista, Oak Trail, Eagle Pines and Osprey Ridge courses. He became a Certified Golf Course Superintendent in 1985.

From 1980 to 1996 he had served as the head superintendent of Disney's Golf

Course Maintenance, hosting two GCSAA Golf Championships and had been involved in all 26 of the Disney-Oldsmobile Golf Classic PGA Tour events and the three LPGA Healthsouth events.

Larry was a member of the GCSAA, FTGA and Florida GCSA. He served on GCSAA Conference and Show Committees; was a Director of the FTGA; and held all offices in the Central Florida Chapter.

He and his wife Vilma had co-chaired the Central Florida Crowfoot Open Committee for over a decade. He also served many years on the Turf Advisory Council for the Orange County Extension Service. In 1992 Larry was awarded the President's Award for Lifetime Service by the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association.

He is survived by his wife Vilma; daughter Nicole; sons Larry, Jr. and Lance; and grandson Austin.