

**FGCSA's 1996
Distinguished
Service Award
Winner...**

Paul 'Crayfish' Crawford, CGCS

BY JOEL D. JACKSON, CGCS

The man does love his lobster diving! Fishing and lobster diving are hobbies that makes finding Paul a hard task on his days off during Florida's lobster season.

We all kid Paul about his lobstering exploits, but we got serious last August when the FGCSA said "Thank You" for over a decade of service to the association by naming him recipient of the 1996 Distinguished Service Award.

Paul served as president of the FGCSA in 1993-94. He served in the various officer chairs and on many committees prior to that, and has remained very active since.

He served on the GCSAA Chapter

Relations Committee during the crucial and uncertain times when new management was coming on board. The now-annual Chapter Relations meetings in Lawrence are a cornerstone of the operation of the GCSAA, serving to give staff and board members immediate feedback and input on member concerns.

Paul is now serving as business manager of The Florida Green. His common sense and vision coupled with Marie Roberts' handling of the advertising duties helps keep the magazine successful. They almost make being the editor fun!

Paul hangs his hat at the Palm Beach Country Club where he has for the past 14-plus years. He came to the Palm Beach C.C. via Jupiter Hills C.C., Harbour Town Golf Links at Hilton Head, SC and Michigan State University.

Paul shocked his family when he informed them he was going to attend the MSU turf program to become a "greenskeeper." Thank goodness for you, me and the FGCSA that he did.

"I would like to see some new people get involved in state and local affairs," Paul once told me. "Maybe they just need to be nudged or encouraged a little to step forward. I think many are afraid to come forward because they perceive it as a big demand on their time.

"Certainly it does take some time and effort on their part, but with our association manager, Marie Roberts, as their right hand, it isn't as difficult as one might think.

"When I was asked to come on the board, I went to my green chairman and asked him how the club felt about the idea. I told him I wanted to run it by them



After roasting his friend Paul Crawford (right), Butch Gill congratulates him on winning the 1996 President's Award.

before I accepted.

"He was a successful businessman involved with his associations. He knew that being involved meant I would be exposed to the latest information in the business and that would be an asset to the club.

"He also knew that it would be a personal asset to my growth and development. The more you are involved the more you know. The more you know the further you go. It's like fuel. So, ask your members, your committee, your boss! You might be surprised at their answer."

Receiving a plaque isn't such a big deal, but it is symbolic. Best of all it gives us an excuse to stand up, put our hands together in long and loud applause and say, "Thank you for giving us your time and energy!"

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