



Lake City CC's Ed Combest Retires *Honored by Golf Ventures*

Ed Combest may be retiring from his position at Lake City Community College, but his legacy will live on through Golf Ventures.

Combest, a retired Navy chief, joined Lake City Community College in 1975 as the program coordinator and has turned a fledgling golf course equipment mechanics program into a turf equipment management program with national renown.

Golf Ventures supplies chemicals, granular and liquid fertilizers and various golf accessories to more than 1000 golf courses in Florida and Southeast Georgia and employs many graduates who have trained at Lake City Community College.

"The success of Golf Ventures is directly related to Ed and his teaching ability," says David Cheesman, vice president of sales for Golf Ventures, and a 1984 LCCC graduate. "As an instructor, Combest has taught many of our employees in turf equipment management as well as instilling many positive traits such as sound business values and the way to present ourselves in a professional manner."

"Ed Combest has been a pleasure to work with over the years, and I greatly appreciate the job he has done in training many of the present technicians in our industry," says Don Delaney, vice president of sales for Golf Ventures and a 1973 LCCC graduate.

To show LCCC and Ed Combest its appreciation for their work and studies in the turf equipment management program, Golf Ventures provides students at Lake City Community College with internships to earn school credit, and supplies the equipment technicians program with over \$45,000 worth of equipment to train students. A yearly graduation banquet is also sponsored by Ransomes and Golf Ventures, Ransomes distributor. Two scholarships are awarded each year for equipment technicians, and golf



David Cheesman (left), Vice President of Sales for Golf Ventures and a 1984 Lake City graduate, congratulates Ed Combest on his retirement as Program Coordinator for Lake City Community College's nationally recognized Golf Course Equipment Technicians Program.

course graduates.

To further appreciate Combest, the division faculty as well as the golf and mechanic alumni are honoring Combest with a benefit golf tournament with Golf Ventures as one of the sponsors at the Lake City Country Club. All proceeds go to endow a scholarship fund for the turf equipment management program. Plans are to raise \$25,000 which will be augmented by the state to produce a total of over \$40,000. The money will be invested and produce more than \$2,000 a year for the Ed Combest Scholarship Fund.

Lake City Instructor nominated to state panel

In other news congratulations are in order for John R. Piersol, chairman of the division of Golf/Landscape/Forestry at Lake City Community College. Piersol has been nominated to serve on the state Technical Committee for Agricultural Business and Natural Resources Education, a committee composed of Florida agriculture industry professionals and educators.

The task of this group is to advise the Department of Education on the status of the agriculture industries in Florida and to recommend additions, deletions

or other changes in agribusiness education programs statewide.

Piersol has a B.S. in horticulture from the University of Delaware (1970), M. S. in horticulture from Colorado State University (1974), and credits towards an Ed.D. from the University of Florida. Piersol has been at Lake City Community College since 1974 and chairman of the nationally recognized division of Golf/Landscape/Forestry since 1987.

He resides in Lake City with his wife and four children. Lake City Community College has nationally recognized programs in golf course operations, forest management, landscape technology, turf equipment management and a new program in irrigation management.

From the Turf Coordinator's Desk

Dr. John Cisar writes:

- The University of Florida Turf Team will once again display posters detailing new and ongoing research at the Florida Turfgrass Conference and Show in Tampa. The faculty will be on hand to discuss their research and answer questions.

- Thanks to everyone on the faculty and in the turf industry for their participation at this year's retreat in West Palm Beach. A package of material generated from the retreat was sent by the FTGA office to the retreat attendees and the UF administration. Progress continues to be made as we position the turf coordinator to facilitate a more accessible and unified turf faculty.

- At the Florida GCSA board meeting in Orlando, we discussed the local chapters inviting UF faculty to be speakers at their monthly meetings. It is my understanding that the FGCSA chapters will pick up lunch and golf expenses for any speaker. Long distance travel and lodging should be discussed with the chapter to make sure it is clear what the chapter can cover, but the opportunities are out there for chapters to get quality presenters for their educational sessions.

- The turf coordinator will meet regularly with the Turf Advisory Working