



# Suncoast GCSA Honors 'Mack' Baugh With Presidents' Award

This past spring, the Suncoast Golf Course Superintendent's Chapter nominated E. E. "Mack" Baugh, CGCS, for the FGCSA President's Award for Lifetime Service. There could not have been a better, more deserving choice. Mack has given 25 years of service to the turfgrass industry in Florida and 19 years as a certified golf course superintendent.

Baugh was born in Heth, Ark. on June 6, 1946. His interest in golf began when he watched the local postmaster hit practice balls into a rice field. His first job on a golf course was at Meadowbrook CC in nearby West Memphis where he learned to play the game during his summer job as a lad.

From 1964 to 1966 Baugh attended Arkansas State University where he was a member of the golf team. With the Vietnam conflict heating up and Baugh's interest in school waning, he joined the Navy, serving two years in Corpus Christi, Texas and two years on an aircraft carrier off the coast of Vietnam.

When Baugh's hitch in the Navy was over, his love of golf led him to pursue a career in turf management. In 1971 he enrolled



One of the founding members of the Suncoast Chapter of the FGCSA, Baugh has 25 years in the business.

in the Golf Course Operations program at Lake City Community College. He fulfilled his summer OJT requirements working on the Hidden Hills CC in Jacksonville and the Doral CC in Miami. Baugh graduated in December 1972. The following month, he was hired as the superintendent at the 27-hole Magnolia Valley GC in New Port Richey.

After short stays at Magnolia Valley and the Point Alexis Golf & Racquet Club — which closed in less than a year — Baugh was beginning to wonder about the profession he had chosen. He moved his family to the Sarasota area in 1974 and took the superintendent position at the Longboat Key Club's Islandside course. Eight years later he was involved with the addition and construction of the 18-hole Harborside Course. Another nine holes was

added to the Harborside complex in 1987.

Baugh moved in 1989 to take over the Gary Player Signature Laurel Oak Golf Links where he remains today. In 1994, an additional 18 holes was added to the facility. Currently, Baugh is the director of golf maintenance and landscape operations for the entire project.

Mack's professionalism is genuinely reflected at Laurel Oak Country Club in Sarasota. Local garden clubs have bestowed numerous beautification awards on Laurel Oak due to Mack's special touch. Laurel Oak's two plush and fast championship golf courses and the impressive golf course and landscape maintenance facility, reflect Mack's pursuit of perfection. Mack is proof that the product is only as good as the people performing the task.

Personnel management is one of Mack's greatest

strengths. His ability to listen and make decisions is a skill we know is necessary to succeed. Some of his employees have worked with Mack for over 15 years, following Mack as he has changed jobs. He takes great pride in enhancing the turfgrass profession and mentoring young individuals as they climb their career ladders.

Mack is married to Susan and he has one son, Rhett, who graduated from Lake City Community College and is now following his dad's footsteps. He likes to fish and has won many bass tournaments and participated in the Bass Master's Tour. He also likes golf, traveling and greyhound racing. Mack and a partner recently purchased a greyhound christened "CharlyMack Fast." So watch for him around the state!

Jim Svabek, GCS Bradenton Country Club

### USGA CONFERENCE

### Green Committee Must Learn the Job

The 1998 USGA Regional Conference had a full house of attendees at the Palm Beach Gardens Marriott on April 23. One hundred eighty golf course superintendents, club managers, green chairmen and PGA professionals attended this year's program.

Pat Cross, director of the Southwest Region USGA Green Section, started off the morning with his presentation, "Congratulations! You're on the Green Committee - Now What Do



You Do?" Cross's presented his ideas on the role of the green chairman and his committee. He outlined the following green chairman responsibilities:

1. Oversee the most important asset of your club.
2. Be willing to learn and know your limitations.
3. Avoid quick fixes. Think long term.
4. Be objective. Maintenance equals Budget.
5. Get out and bang the drum.
6. Be familiar with the superintendent's functions.
7. Filter member complaints.
8. (Last but not least) Must own a bulletproof vest!

Mike Dasher, president of Dasher Golf Design, followed next with a discussion on the importance of a master plan for remodeling your golf course.

Frank Thomas, technical director of the USGA, (the guy who tests clubs and balls) answered the question, "Can I buy a game?" Probably not, according to Thomas. He reviewed data over the past 25 years showing how club- and ball-technology hasn't really changed the game all that much.

Unlike what manufacturers tell us, the new technology may have added only a few extra yards to your golf shot.

Jim Moore, director of construction and education, explained the differences between the USGA and California methods of constructing greens. The choice is up to you and

your budget constraints.

Chris Hartwiger, USGA agronomist in the South-eastern/Florida Regions, showed us how to get our bunkers to make the grade. Hartwiger includes some great photos of his recent Turf Advisory Service (TAS) visit to the Dominican Republic.

After lunch Kathy Gordon, manager of women's regional affairs, took the audience through a few rules of golf, noting the importance of marking of the course. She also touched on rules covering lost balls and obstructions

Bill Wagner, CCM, general manager from Riviera Country Club gave a very good overview of the team-building concept. He touched on his involvement with his golf professional and superintendent and how they have worked together to make the operation a successful one.

Dr. Monica Elliott gave the audience an update on biological control agents that she and her associates have been working on at the Research Center in Ft. Lauderdale.

Finally John Foy, director of the Florida Region, USGA Green Section, discussed management of the ultra dwarfs and what we have learned to date. There is new hope on the horizon with the new bermudagrasses: Floradwarf, Champion, TifEagle and MS Express.

As John said, "Be patient. We still have a long way to go!"

*David Court, CGCS  
Boca Lago CC*



*During Poa weekend, Jim Goins, left, external vice president of the South Florida Chapter presents Joe Ondo, CGCS, president of the FGCSA, a check for \$18,000 which represents the proceeds from the South Florida GCSA Turf Expo '98. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

#### POA ANNUA CLASSIC

### **Nothing Like a Sea Breeze**

Florida superintendents needed a break from a cruel winter and the getaway provided by the 1998 Poa Annuia Classic weekend came none too soon. The Naples

Beach Club Hotel began bustling with the arrival of superintendents and their families on Friday, May 15. While they were checking in, the Florida GCSA held its spring board meeting. The officers and directors began shaping the 1998-99 operating budget;



*Glenn Zakany, left, and Jim Osborne eliminated all comers in the Shoot Out format of the annual G. C. Horn Memorial Tournament at the Naples Beach Club. Photo by Joel Jackson.*









Geoff Coggan, CGCS, left, FGCSA Education Committee chairman and Joe Ondo, CGCS with Robert Davis, CFP, who presented a financial management seminar from the new Etonic Superintendent Leadership Series. The tested seminar was worth .35 CEUs. Photo by Joel Jackson.

IFAS turf coordinator, Dr. John Cisar, reported on the progress of his new position; committee chairman gave their reports and Joel Jackson, director of communications, updated the group on his government-relations activity regarding the Food Quality Protection Act.

Following the board meeting and lunch, a group of 40 attended the first Etonic Superintendent Leadership Series seminar to be held in Florida. This Etonic program provides financial assistance in paying for professional speakers on a variety of topics of interest to superintendents. Robert Davis, a Certified Financial Planner, gave a presentation on



Mark Hopkins from the Sun 'N Lake Golf Club walked off with the most points in the Modified Stableford format of the 1998 Poa Annua Golf Classic played this year at the Audubon C. C. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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Doug Adams and Bill Gloff captured the Putting Contest portion of the G. C. Horn event. Golfer wannabe, Tom Benefield sneaks a peek over the champs' shoulders. Photo by Joel Jackson.

financial planning and management. Taking these tested Etonic seminars can earn CEUs for certified superintendents.

Later that evening after schmoozing with colleagues

by the pool, everyone enjoyed an outdoor luau of fish and suckling pig with lots of side vegetables and sinful desserts. Live entertainment provide music for dining and dancing into the

wee hours for those so inclined.

Saturday morning found 120 golfers making their way a few miles north to the Audubon Country Club to battle with par for the honor of their respective chapters in the Poa Annuia Golf Classic. Superintendent Walt Owisany and the Audubon CC stepped in to volunteer their course for the tournament when the traditional site, the Naples Beach Club course, was unavailable due to construction of a new clubhouse facility which took several holes out of play. Nice job by Walt and his staff. Saturday night, everyone was on their own to attend and enjoy the annual Naples Jazz Festival.

Sunday morning, David Barnes, president of the Florida Turfgrass Association



Tim Orton of Pursell Industries won the "Impossible Chip Shot" contest which was also part of this year's G. C. Horn golf outing. Photo by Joel Jackson.

and Nick Naccarato, superintendent at the Naples Beach Club GC had a surprise for the players in the G. C. Horn Memorial Tournament, which is part of the Poa Annuia weekend. Since parts of the golf course

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were under construction, they devised a single-elimination "shoot-out" between two-man teams playing over two three-hole courses. All ties after three holes were decided by a sudden death chip-off. Following the shoot-out (won by Glenn Zakany and Jim Osborne), there was a putting contest and a chipping contest to keep everyone participating.

In between all the meetings and events, superintendents and suppliers got to swap war stories about the winter that was! And in the soothing atmosphere of the beach, furrowed brows began to relax and smiles began to break out. Nothing quite like a sea breeze.



*Envirotron Classic Cochairman Glenn Oberlander won the putting contest and a chance at a "Super Putt" for \$10,000. Sadly for Glenn his attempt was wide right, but his efforts for the Envirotron were right on target. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

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The guys that made it happen, the 1998 Envirotron Classic Committee. From left seated: Paul Illgen, Bob Roessing, Jeff Hayden and Dave Hoggard. Standing: Brad Granlen, Bob Marrino, Lee Crosby, Quinn Kuite, Mike Swinson, Stuart Bozeman, Earl King and Glenn Oberlander. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Mike Swinson, CGCS, president of the Seven Rivers Chapter, recognizes, from right, Ron Kitchen, Jr., Ron Kitchen, Sr. and Terry Lagree of Barbaron, Inc. for their generous \$12,500 sponsorship of the 6th Annual Envirotron Classic. Photo by Joel Jackson.

once again putting together another stellar event with the 1998 Envirotron Classic. Having raised the bar to such a high level in the past with more than \$177,500 raised since the event began in 1993, the committee reports that they should clear in the neighborhood of \$45,000 again for the third year in a row.

A full field of golfers filled the Pine Barrens and Rolling Oaks golf courses at the World Woods Golf Club in Brooksville for the

sixth consecutive year for scramble and stroke-play events. Low gross winners on the Rolling Oaks course was the team of Scott Wycoff, Stan Cook, Jim Sanders and Darren Carpenter. Meanwhile, a Seven Rivers team of Stuart Bozeman, Vic Conigliaro, Glenn Oberlander and Pat Walker managed to win the Pine Barrens scramble. Oberlander went on to win the special putting contest and a try at a "Super Putt" worth \$10,000. While he

exuded all the confidence in the world, Oberlander's attempt slid by the cup and the insurance company underwriting the event gave a sigh of relief.

After the golfing was over everyone enjoyed a great steak-and-shrimp buffet while the scores were being tallied. During the

awarding of prizes, Seven Rivers President Michael Swinson, CGCS, paid special recognition to the Barbaron corporation. Barbaron, Inc., a specialized golf course construction company, led all sponsors for the second year in a row with a donation of \$12,500. Barbaron's belief and support in what the Envirotron means to turf research and development is an example that others in the golf business should follow.

#### SUNCOAST SCRAMBLE

### Fun in the Sun – For a Good Reason

Raising nearly \$14,000 at this year's Suncoast Scramble Tournament held at Tom Crawford's Misty Creek CC, the Suncoast Chapter ensured financial support for FGCSA Projects, Florida Turfgrass Association research and local charity



Suncoast Chapter President Troy Smith, left, presents FTGA Vice President Scott Wahlin, CGCS, with a check for \$3,500 at the 1998 Suncoast Scramble held at the Misty Creek CC in Sarasota. Photo by Joel Jackson.





and junior golf programs. During the chapter meeting portion of the day's events, Suncoast President Troy Smith presented FTGA Vice President Scott Wahlin, CGCS with a check for \$3,500.

RIDGE INVITATIONAL

**Red Cross Gets Help for Disaster Victims**

Following on the heels of the worst tornado disaster in Central Florida, the Ridge Chapter donated \$1,000 to the Red Cross from the proceeds of the 7th Annual Ridge Invitational held at the Grasslands CC in Lakeland. Host superintendent and chapter president, Roy Wilshire, CGCS thanked everyone for supporting



*Jim Torba, GCS of the U. of South Florida GC won low gross honors at the Ridge Invitational held at the Grasslands CC in Lakeland. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

the primary fund-raiser for the Ridge Chapter. Out on the golf course, the Ridge players had to make way for Jim Torba from the University of South Florida GC in the West Coast Chapter as he won low gross honors.

SOUTH FLORIDA EXPO

**Record Crowd Erases Jitters**

The jitters the South Florida Turf Expo organizers were feeling prior to this year's event evaporated as a record number of participants showed up, answering the call for support of this major fund-raising event. The streamlined and well-organized program included tours of the turf research plots, a one-hour turf equipment expo, a supplier showcase of products, a catered lunch and research presentations by Drs. Monica Elliott and Robin Giblin Davis.

The \$18,000 raised this year was donated directly to the FGCSA Research Green account and will be used for operation and research costs on the Otto Schmeisser Research Green at the

UF-IFAS Research Center in Fort Lauderdale.

MIKE RICHARDS MEMORIAL

**First Coast Goes First Class**

In 1993 the North Florida Chapter established the Mike Richards Memorial Scholarship Tournament in honor of Mike Richards who was a very active commercial member of the chapter. The tournament raises money to provide scholarships to deserving students pursuing degrees in turf management. With the recent passing of PGA Tour Agronomist Allan MacCurrach, also a resident of the North Florida area, a second memorial scholarship has been added to the event.

At this year's tournament held at the Jacksonville G & CC, a \$3,000 Mike Richards scholarship was awarded to





The team of Scott Hudson (left) and Doug Sani from the Pablo Creek GC won the two-man scramble event at the Mike Richards Memorial Tournament. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Mike Fricault, who is attending the University of Florida majoring in Horticulture and Turf Science, and two \$1,500 Allan MacCurrach scholarships

were awarded to Thomas McDonald and Seth Spires, both attending the Turf Equipment Management program at Lake City Community College.

Congratulations to this year's tournament committee: Kim Shine, Jim Shine, Tom Brennan, Steve LaFrance, Kelli Bohn, Steve Richards and Paul Hamrick for running such a first-class event.

Kudos also go to Jacksonville G & CC's host superintendent, Greg Sharp, director of golf Chip Dutton and head golf professional Chris DeLarme for helping to make the tournament such a success.

TELEVISED TOUR EVENTS

Central Florida on the 'Spot' Again

Central Florida Chapter members keep busy working as television spotters for the Bay Hill Invitational, the LPGA

Healthsouth Inaugural at Grand Cypress and most recently the LPGA Mercury Titleholders at the LPGA International GC in Daytona Beach. Gary Morgan of UHS organized a six-man crew that worked the LPGA Mercury Titleholders event.

Gary turned over a \$1,000 check to the chapter at the May meeting at Bay Tree National in Melbourne. The spotters including Morgan were Mike Stone, Spruce Creek CC; Andy McGuire, Matanzas Woods GC; Ron Stockwell, Century Rain Aid; Rod King, Deltona GC and Jim Lawrence, Southridge GC. Thanks, gentlemen, for your contribution to golf and turf research.

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