



county club and golf association events.

Carr did play at a GCSAA Conference the year that Mel Lucas was president and he met President Gerald Ford. Ford shook his hand and said, "We beat the hell out of you during the War of Independence, but you got even. You gave us golf!"

And Scotland also gave us Stanley Carr, a gentleman and a true professional in our business.

JOEL D. JACKSON, CGCS

PRESIDENTS AWARD EGCSA

Wilson Took Early FGCSA from Shoe Boxes to Computers

When Dwight Wilson was president of a loose threesome of local chapters in the 1970s he carried the association's business in a shoe box. By the end of his tenure he had doubled the association because he had to use two shoe boxes to hold everything.

This past September, Wilson was presented the Presidents Award for his pioneering service to the profession at the Everglades Chapter meeting in Naples. President Mike Mongoven, CGCS made the presentation.

Wilson spent a lot of time traveling among the three chapters: South Florida, Everglades and West Coast. Long before fax machines and computers, he pioneered the association in Florida.

Dwight grew up in Palm Beach County where he spent a lot of time in and around the Jupiter inlet. He attended the University of Florida, where he studied agriculture



Dwight Wilson, left, received his 1998 FGCSA President's award from Mike Mongoven, CGCS at an Everglades chapter meeting last fall. Photo by Bill Kilpatrick.

and entomology until the Korean War robbed him of his last year of college. While in the service, he met his wife Christa when he was stationed in Germany.

After the war he returned to Florida but was unable to complete his degree. He went to work with his father who had a garden supply and spray business. Eventually they expanded the business to grassing bermudagrass lawns. This started to go well and someone suggested that the Ormond bermudagrass that they were planting would work well on golf courses. They started planting golf courses with bermuda.

If you work on a course

built in the late 50s to mid-60s you may be on a course planted by Dwight. Jupiter Island and Rio Mar in Vero Beach are two beachside examples of his work. In 1966, Dwight did some work at the South Seas Plantation on Captiva Island. The developer liked his work so much that he convinced Dwight to stick around to manage the course. Dwight planted the golf course on a sandbar then stayed around to manage that sandbar for 17 years. He lived on the course and raised his two children on Captiva. What a spot for kids to grow up!

While at South Seas Plantation, he hooked up

with Bob Sanderson to start the Everglades Chapter. He held all of the offices and eventually presided over the state association.

In 1983 Dwight helped to build and grow in Hideaway G.C. in Fort Myers. Dwight eventually retired from the Hideaway after years of battling Tifway II on his greens. Dwight relaxed by sailing his boat in the Gulf and continues to do so in retirement. He has a couple of grandchildren who visit. He is really enjoying his retirement and when he is not sailing he is playing his guitar, gardening or traveling. The Wilsons like to return to Europe and Germany to see his wife's family.

Dwight saw our industry and association grow from infancy to this huge business that it has become. He has seen grass change from common to Ormond to Tifway. He has seen the FGCSA grow from a shoe box to what we have today.

SCOTT BELL

NIKE TOUR FLORIDA CLASSIC

Hosting Tour Event is a Winner for Gainesville C. C.

Hosting the Nike Tour's Florida Classic this past February turned out to be a win-win situation for all parties involved. The Nike Tour got a superbly conditioned golf course to play and Gainesville C. C. got some long overdue improvements.

Superintendent Buddy Keene learned last October that his course would be hosting the event this

February. Soon after, the Nike Tour officials made some recommendations that they felt would help the club host the event.

Upgrading the irrigation system was high on the list, and Keene and his crew spent a busy couple of months getting the new system installed.

"It was hectic," said Keene, "But we pulled it off. The only glitch was we had some defective gaskets in some of the tee fittings and they leaked. The manufacturer stood by the product and got them replaced labor and all, but it was nerve wracking with the clock winding down toward the tournament. We got it all finished by December and we've had a month to clean things up."

Another big gain for Keene's operation was the purchase of two lightweight fairway mowers.

"We had been surviving with a 7-gang, pull-behind unit, which worked great in dry weather. But we have some pretty heavy soils and when it gets wet we couldn't mow. We definitely need these new units to mow the fairways when conditions got softer."

The Gainesville C.C. board and members as well as the community were behind this event 110 percent. More than 700 volunteers turned out to help run the tournament. Keene applauds the open-minded and proactive attitude of the members.

"They went out and got this event and have supported everything necessary to make it happen," he said. "But beyond that, they have

also wholeheartedly supported my involvement and board work in the Florida GCSA and the FTGA. They are hosting the FTGA Golf Tournament during the Conference and Show in August."

Keene and his crew have maintained a hectic pace all fall and winter. In addition to installing the new irrigation system, a couple of new tees had to be built to lengthen some holes, and a couple of poorly draining bunkers were repaired with new drain lines. On top of all that, Keene had to overseed fairways and roughs for the first time in his seven years at the club.

Cooperation for this event also included some of Keene's suppliers and neighboring superintendents.

"I have to give a big thank-you to a lot of people who helped us out. One of our biggest needs was crew transportation vehicles during the course setup and preparation. Joe Holden over at Haile Plantation, Rick Watts at Oak Run/Royal Oaks, the University of Florida and Tresca loaned us vehicles and equipment.

"Special thanks to Jeff Hayden and Don Delaney of Golf Ventures. They really came through with some extra equipment and parts support in a pinch. We also had volunteer workers on the crew like Brian Schaffer of West End G.C. and two students from the University of Florida and one from Lake City."

The event is also being televised and Keene and his crew had to make room for

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Gainesville C.C. Superintendent Buddy Keene (left) goes over Thursday course conditions for the Florida Classic with head Nike Tour official John Slater. Photo by Joel Jackson.

the TV production trailers and support vehicles in his small maintenance area.

"The folks from the Golf Channel have been just great. They have taken great care not to tear up the golf course as they lay out the cables and set up the TV towers behind the greens. They carry everything by hand from the cart path to the location. They also feed us pretty well and we sure appreciate that with our split work day schedule.

"This whole experience has been good for the club. It has taken our maintenance up a notch, but of course now we have to hold this level. The whole process has been quite a learning experience to see what we could accomplish

when challenged."

Everyone including Nike Tournament Official John Slater had high praise for Keene and his crew and all they have accomplished.

"The course is in great shape," said Slater. You can't even tell that they have been through a major construction effort getting ready for this event. Last night we had over an inch of rain, and Buddy and his staff worked really hard to get the course ready for today's round. Because of their hard work in overcoming those extra difficulties we're going to start and finish on time today."

A lot of work by a lot of people went in to hosting the Florida Classic this year in Gainesville and by all

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accounts everybody came away a winner. Congratulations to Buddy Keene, the members of the Gainesville C. C. and the city of Gainesville for displaying such great support for golf.

JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

LAKE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

\$1 Million-plus Endowment Keeps GLO Glowing

On Jan. 8, the 7th Annual Lake City Community College Endowment Golf Tournament was held at the Pelican Sound Golf and River Club in Estero.

What is the LCCC Endowment and why should an overflow crowd of golf course superintendents and industry partners get together to support a small, rural community college in North Florida? The following is a brief history of the strong bond that has developed over 32 years between the golf industry and Lake City.

In 1967, Lake City Community College started two new programs: Golf Course Operations and Landscape Operations (now called Landscape Technology by state mandate). These programs were developed with strong industry input, and an industry advisory committee has met every six months on campus for the past 32 years to review and critique the LCCC programs which now include Turf Equipment Management; Irrigation Management; and Forest Management beside GCO and LT. The Forest Management does have a separate



Pelican Sound Superintendent Randy Korf, left, and his assistant, J. W. Stidham got lots of well-deserved praise for the excellent course playing conditions for the LCCC event. Photo by Joel Jackson

advisory committee as production forestry is quite different from the other agronomy/horticulture based programs.

Faculty and staff on the LCCC campus began to call the division in which these programs existed "GLO" for Golf/Landscape Operations. The GLO name stuck even as the Division grew to include other programs.

In the late 80s, the GLO Industry Advisory Committee began talking about raising supplemental funds for these specialty programs to assure that scholarship and program enhancement funds were always available for students and the teaching faculty. This industry concern was typical of the tremendous golf and landscape industry support the programs have always enjoyed

It was the GLO-IAC members who initiated the GLO Endowment Fund with the Lake City Community College Foundation. Their concept was to raise significant dollars and use the earnings to supplement support for the GLO programs. Although it was an ambitious concept for a small community college with only education to sell, it was the right thing to do to assure the continued long-term success of the GLO programs which, over time, have developed a national and international reputation for quality education.

Thus, the GLO endowment was born. The alumni were quick to respond. Pledges big and small added to give the endowment concept real credibility, and industry partners also

generously responded. Key golf alumni took a leadership role in organizing various golf tournaments as fund raisers, and the S.W. Florida superintendents developed this concept into a continuing annual event.

Another big boost to the GLO endowment is state matching money for community college endowments. For every three dollars raised, the state will match with two dollars. Thus a \$10,000 contribution becomes \$16,000 with a state match. Mike Lee, foundation director for the past two and a half years, works hard to take maximum advantage of the state matching funds.

In 1997, the GLO endowment received a large estate gift which, when fully state-matched, will produce a scholarship fund of around \$450,000. Five percent of the endowed funds are used every year to produce a steady stream of income for the endowment's two main purposes: scholarships and program enhancements.

With alumni and industry gifts, proceeds from special events like the Annual Lake City Community College Endowment Golf Tournament, and the estate gift coupled with state matching money, the GLO endowment recently passed the \$1 million mark. Thanks a million to all who helped the college reach this economic milestone for the GLO programs.

Many students have applied for and received scholarships from the endowed funds, and more money will become avail-