

Steve Pearson, CGCS, conducts the Aventis Product Auction at the Palm Beach chapter's annual Future of Golf tournament.

PALM BEACH CHAPTER

22 Years of Service Bring Pres. Award to Steve Pearson

The last of the five 1999 FGCSA President's Award winners to be profiled this year, Steve Pearson is certainly not the least of this prestigious group.

"This recognition is personally satisfying," Pearson said. "And while I thank my peers for this award, I have many years yet to give to the industry."

1999 FGCSA President's Award Winners

- Paul Hickman
Dave Holler
Steve Pearson
Al Ross
Dale Walters

Pearson, a Palm Beach Chapter member for 22 years, has been giving his time and effort to the FGCSA and FTGA for over two decades. His participation includes membership and committee service in both organiza-

tions and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. He's been a certified golf course superintendent since 1990.

Besides being past president of the Palm Beach chapter, his FGCSA service includes terms on the Fund Raising and Research committees, of which he is now chairman. This is one of the FGCSA's most active committees working with IFAS and our turf technician at the Ft. Lauderdale Research Center and with the FTGA on awarding research grants to the IFAS program.

Pearson, a 27-year member of the Florida Turfgrass Association, comes by his affiliation with IFAS and the University of Florida quite easily. He is a Gator graduate with a B.S. in agriculture specializing in turf management. He studied under the legendary Dr. G.C. Horn during the prominence of the UF turfgrass program. A perennial member of the FTGA Awards Committee, Pearson worked to help establish the Arnold Palmer Endowment Fund. He is currently the publications chairman and editor of the FTGA's magazine, The Florida Turf Digest.

Pearson started out in junior college to be an architect.

"I couldn't get past the required advanced calculus and physics courses in architecture. At the time I was a very competitive golfer, playing number one on the junior college

team at the same time current PGA Senior Tour sensation Bruce Fleischer became the USGA Amateur champion while he was playing for Miami Dade North JC. I switched my major to botany. Got my A.S. degree and went to Gainesville to complete my education.

"Before I arrived in Gainesville I spent the summer working for superintendent Felix Paguaga at The Fountains Golf and Racquet Club. I thought I would pursue the same career since I liked golf and could be outside. I never wanted an inside job.

"When I got to UF I attended the first golf team meeting with the likes of Andy Bean, Gary Koch, and senior Steve Melnyk. I wasn't ready to put in five to six hours a day practicing golf so I concentrated on my studies. I knew I wanted to be a golf course superintendent at that point."

After graduating in 1971, Pearson returned to the Fountains as the assistant superintendent and began his journey in the business

Twenty nine years later Pearson shares his views on the roles and responsibilities of the profession.

"The positive aspects of this profession far outweigh the negatives. I like working outdoors and the challenges of making a golf course into something that your membership will be proud to play and show off to their guests. With my golfing background, I thrive on providing

Steve Pearson

Born in Detroit, Michigan. Moved to Palm Beach County 43 years ago.

Family: Wendy, wife of 28 years. Recently married daughter Adrienne (27) is a crime scene investigator living in Tallahassee with her new detective husband David. Son Garrett (22) is a senior at the University of Central Florida in Orlando.

Education: Lake Worth High School (67); Palm Beach Junior College (69); University of Florida (71)

Employment: Assistant superintendent positions at The Fountains C.C. and John's Island Club; Construction superintendent at the Sheoah G.C. (now Winter Springs G.C.); Superintendent positions at Mayacoo Lakes C.C.; Boca Lago C.C.; Boca Grove G. & T.C.; Woodfield C.C.; and The Falls C.C. for the past nine years.

Friends & Mentors: Felix Pagauga, my early career mentor, who influenced my decision to get into the business but also taught about dealing with people. Dr. G. C. Horn, my turf professor. Fellow superintendents and industry friends without their help I wouldn't be here. And last but not least my wife Wendy, who has had the patience of a saint to put up with the hours needed for me to follow this career.

playing surfaces that are challenging to the scratch player as well as the bogey golfer. To that end I keep in touch with the membership to see how they like the conditions and to see if they are seeing something I overlooked.

"In a wider view I feel the opportunities that are presented to us in the golf industry should keep us wanting to better ourselves either through continuing education or through interaction with our peers. Sometimes I get the feeling that some superintendents are afraid to talk to each other. We've all had problems with various aspects of our careers and most superintendents I know are more than

willing to help whenever possible. I've swallowed my pride at times for my own betterment."

Pearson also reflected on what it takes to be successful in this business.

"It is absolutely essential to continue your education. Turf management techniques are evolving into higher levels of maintenance. It is important to attend seminars, conferences and chapter outings to interact with others to keep abreast of changes that may make your job a little easier. I've had a chance over the years to talk with a lot of people in our business. I find it not only stimulating but fascinating to see what can be done from

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"You develop a camaraderie with others in this profession like no other business... It is beyond my comprehension why some choose to live in isolation and not seek help from their peers when there are so many out there willing to help."

another person's perspective.

"You develop a camaraderie with others in this profession like no other business. My fellow superintendents and other friends in the industry have helped me become the superintendent I am

today. It is beyond my comprehension why some choose to live in isolation and not seek help from their peers when there are so many out there willing to help."

The President's Award is the FGCSA's way of thanking Pearson for his

help and friendship over the years.

JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

PALM BEACH CHAPTER

Future of Golf Raises \$20,000

The Palm Beach Chapter held its Future of Golf 2000 event at The Falls Country Club in West Palm Beach June 5.

It was the 19th edition of this annual event and Palm Beach Chapter President Randy Bushway reports that over \$20,000 was raised for junior golf and turf research.

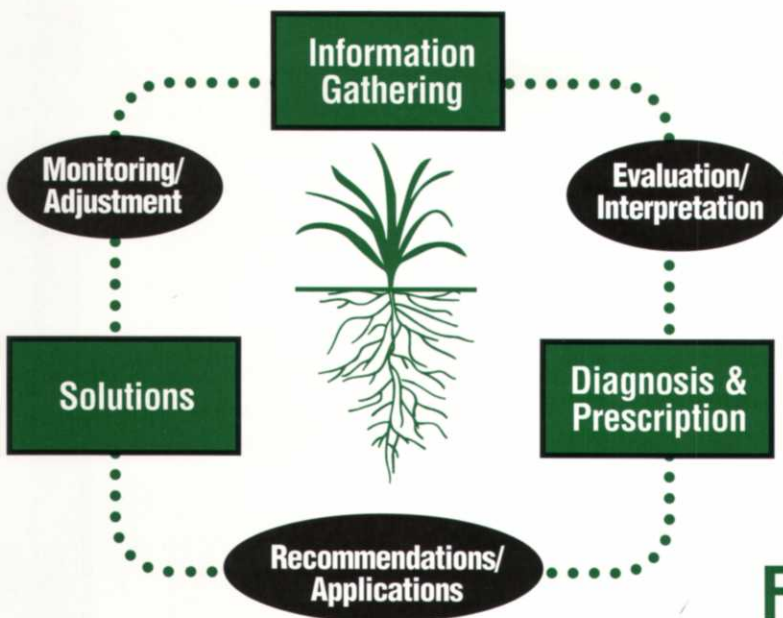
Host superintendent Steve Pearson, CGCS had the greens rolling so fast that you didn't want to



Terry Frazier of Lesco, Inc. is all smiles after acing the Hole-in-One contest hole at the Palm Beach Chapter's 19th Annual Future of Golf Tournament at The Falls C. C. Frazier won a Club Car Golf Car. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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