



## PRESIDENTS AWARD WINNER

## Growing Grass in Shakeshaft's Heritage

**F**or Ken Shakeshaft it has been a long journey from Port Charlotte to North Fort Myers... a journey that resulted in his selection by the Calusa Chapter as a recipient of the 2000 FGCSA Presidents Award for Lifetime Service.

Ken moved to Port Charlotte in 1958. It was a sleepy retirement community with no golf course — certainly not the logical location for a future golf course superintendent to grow up.

Despite his location growing up, Ken knew that growing grass was in his blood. His grandfather spent 35 years as the greenskeeper at Century Country Club in Westchester, N.Y. and his uncle, Dick Shakeshaft, was the golf course superintendent at Punta Gorda CC for 17 years.

### 2000 FGCSA President's Award Winners

Paul Crawford  
Ken Shakeshaft  
Bill Entwistle Jr

Ken's experience in golf course management started at Punta Gorda CC during the summer after high school and prior to attending Edison Community College. It only took one summer for him to know that he wanted to follow his grandfather's and uncle's footsteps in the golf maintenance business. In 1974 he started full time for his uncle and entered the Lake City Community College Golf & Landscape Operations program in the fall of 1975.

When Ken finished school, he started as the golf course superintendent at the Oakland Hills course in Rotunda West. This was the course that the Superstars competitors played golf on for the televised competition. In 1986 he moved to Sun Aire GC in Haines City. He started for his current employer, Six Lakes CC in North Ft. Myers in 1993.

Six Lakes C. C. is a private, resident-owned, 18-hole, 3,100-yard course with 300 members. In addition to the maintenance of the golf course, Ken is responsible for the lawn maintenance for 594 home sites. His staff of 10 employees also does the common area landscape, trash removal and often residential utility work.

Ken is a board member for the Calusa Chapter,

which he helped form. He believes the chapter was needed because of the growth in the Fort Myers area. The chapter has a strong fellowship because many of the members face similar challenges on a daily basis. Ken has previously been a member of the Central Florida, Ridge and Everglades Chapters. He also helped to found the Ridge Chapter while he was at Sun Aire GC.

When presented with the FGCSA Presidents Award at a recent Calusa chapter meeting, Ken said, "As a 17-year-old edging bunkers at the Punta Gorda C.C., who would ever have thought that I would someday be standing here receiving such a wonderful honor from my peers."

BY MIKE MONGOVEN, CGCS  
Shell Point G. C.

## 2001 POA ANNUE CLASSIC

## State's Oldest Fund-Raiser Nets \$28,000

**T**he Everglades Chapter of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association hosted the oldest continuous superintendent fund-raising event in Florida May 17-20 at the Naples Hotel and Beach Club.



FGCSA President Cary Lewis, CGCS accepts a \$1,000 Research Fund donation from West Coast GCSA President Eric Joy.



Thomas Maloney of Cornell University, left, goes over the seminar schedule with Greg Pheneger, FGCSA Education Chairman.

The Poa Annua Golf Classic began 31 years ago in 1970 when the Everglades Golf Course Superintendents Association invited the South Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association to a friendly get-together and golf match on Marco Island. The event rotated around to several Southwest Florida venues including Lehigh Acres, Mirror Lakes, and Oxbow before settling into its permanent home at the Naples Beach Hotel in 1980. The event has grown into the major turf research and education fund raiser for the Everglades Chapter.

However, the event is not just fun and games. The Florida GCSA holds one of its four statewide board meetings at the Poa, and there is always a well-attended professional education seminar. This year Thomas Maloney of Cornell University gave a seminar on "Finding and Hiring The Best Employees."

At the FGCSA Board meeting Thursday afternoon, Bryan Singleton, president of the South Florida GCSA.