



SOUTH FLORIDA CHAPTER

Second Generation Superintendent Wins Award

On July 20, 2000 the members of the South Florida Golf Course Superintendent's Association presented Bill Entwistle Jr. with the FGCSA's President's Award for over 20 years of service in the turfgrass industry.

The presentation was made at the Coral Springs CC in conjunction with the SFGCSA annual meeting and the election of new officers and board members.

Attendees at the meeting included several past presidents of the SFGCSA, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Entwistle Sr., and many South Florida superintendents and vendors.

I had the pleasure of presenting one of my closest friends in the industry with an award that he felt he was not worthy to receive. As we discussed the award in days prior to the presentation, Billy continued to insist that the board was making a mistake. Bill Jr. is not someone who enjoys attention.

Billy's roasting was entertaining and sincere. Congratulatory comments from Steve Kuhn, High Ridge CC, were forwarded to Billy, as well as some entertaining remarks from Bill Entwistle Sr. Billy then had his opportunity to describe how this recognition from his peers had an overwhelming effect on him.

A true understanding of the real Bill Entwistle Jr. can

not be described without some background information about his family, and more specifically his father. Bill Sr. taught Billy the game of golf, and gave him his start in the business in high school. Also, it is evident from his award-winning service in South Florida, Bill Sr. showed young Billy how important it is to be actively involved in this industry, and how to give back to this business that has shaped so many of our lives.

Bill Sr.'s Florida work experience included service as general manager of Capital City CC in Tallahassee, GM at Orangebrook in Hollywood, a position with the City of Lauderhill, superintendent at Oxbow CC in LaBelle, and as a superintendent in Jamaica.

Bill Sr. is retired, consulting, and looking for the perfect golf course to purchase with some partners. He was at Buena Vista CC in Buena, New Jersey when Bill Jr. was in high school.

When Bill Jr. assumed the superintendent role at Flamingo Lakes, he was forced into volunteering and becoming active in the South Florida GCSA when his dad, David Lottes, and the rest of the South Florida board started the Adam Walsh Benefit Golf Tournament for Children. The title of this tournament has changed over the years, but the commitment has remained the same: to raise money to help a local agency locate missing children, educate our children about the dangers of our current society, and provide an information source for law enforcement agencies in South Florida. Bill



**2000 FGCSA
President's Award
Winners**

Paul Crawford

Ken Shakeshaft

Bill Entwistle, Jr.

Bill Entwistle Jr.

Born: May 8, 1960

Family: Married to Chantal for 13 years; son Matthew 9, daughter Kelly 6

Interests: Golf, NASCAR, College football (how 'bout them Gators!), Coaching Ice Hockey with Matthew's team, Golf Club repair (especially 4 irons.)

Work Experience

1978- Started working for Bill Sr. at Capital City CC in Tallahassee.

1979- Hilaman Park CC, municipal course, assistant superintendent.

1981- Ocean Reef Resort, Key Largo, assistant superintendent to Dick Blake CGCS.

1983- Sombrero CC, Marathon, golf course superintendent.

1984- Flamingo Lakes CC.

1985- Flamingo Lakes CC, golf course superintendent.

1999- Flamingo Lakes CC, manager/superintendent.

Education: Graduated high school in Buena Vista, NJ, 1978; attended Arizona State and FSU, 1979-81.

Career Highlights

Spending a year rebuilding Hilaman Park CC as an assistant superintendent after the course had been closed and abandoned for two years.

Qualifying for the Florida State Mid Amateur tournament in the 1980s

Served in all board capacities of SFGCSA from 1988 to present.

President of SFGCSA for two terms.

Director on SFGCSA tournament that benefits the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (formerly the Adam Walsh Child Resource Center) since 1986.

Jr. became involved in this tournament 16 years ago, and more than \$130,000 has been raised to date.

During this interview,

Billy mentioned several reasons why he enjoys this business:

- the camaraderie that is developed with peers in the



business, and the friendships that spring forth from the work relationships have become meaningful;

- the pride that we feel as superintendents when we can step back and look at a project or our property and know that we are the ones responsible for the final product that so many people are enjoying; and

- when seeing the pristine conditions and attention to detail at another topnotch facility and feeling a sense of pride that, although we don't work there, we are part of the same profession and share the same goals as the people who created it.

Billy feels the most challenging part of this business includes accepting all the curve balls that

Mother Nature throws us as we struggle to grow turfgrass in conditions or extremes where we should not be growing grass. In Billy's new role as GM/supt., he has been exposed to more golfers who lack the knowledge necessary to understand what is happening on the golf course. Dealing with golfers who have no patience and no concept about the challenges we face as superintendents has been difficult. Aside from those two problems, the only other challenge Billy faces is trying to continue to shoot in the 70s!

Billy feels that the biggest change he has noticed in the industry has been in pest control. He said there have been several innovations that have had a real impact on

work performance. Chipco Choice for mole cricket control; the Weed Pro for spot treating weeds on greens; and 15-gallon spot sprayers have all improved his ability to control weeds and pests. Our previous control programs were based on a reactive or curative program. The new programming is based on mapping, spot treatments, and target applications applied during periods that will produce the greatest control. This change is not only good for the environment, but good for the bottom line of the operation.

Billy has been actively involved with the South Florida GCSA board since his early days as a superintendent, including his consistent

presence at the monthly meetings. He has not been to many GCSAA national shows, and prefers to focus his energy and commitment at the local level. He feels that if you attend a meeting with your peers, you will learn at least one thing, sometimes several things. The meetings provide a tremendous opportunity to exchange ideas and share secrets at the local level.

Billy's current role on the SFGCSA board includes lifetime director of the Annual Benefit Tournament for Missing & Exploited Children (If I put the "lifetime" part in there enough times, I may not have to assume that role again) and assisting with registration at our chapter meetings.

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He has also offered to start tracking handicaps of all participants in our monthly golf outings. Billy feels that our current President Bryan Singleton will provide strong leadership and that the new board is a good mix of veteran board members, and veteran superintendent's who are just starting to get involved on the board.

In his position at Flamingo Lakes, Billy has not had the opportunity to train many young, eager individuals who are interested in moving forward and developing a career as a superintendent. But that doesn't stop him from dispensing a few of his pearls of wisdom to young people who are interested in this business.

His advice is to not be easily discouraged, and to be patient. There are different paths to follow to become a superintendent. You may be working for a control freak (like Billy), who may not want you to experiment with a landscape installation, but a year from now you may be working with someone who will provide you with that opportunity and the responsibility.

As a superintendent/manager, his biggest challenge has been time management. Trying to balance his time, and schedule his day so that priorities are addressed sometimes leaves his true love of the details of golf course maintenance waiting until later in the day.

I asked Billy if he still felt

like a superintendent, even though he is currently handling more administrative and golf operation duties. He did not hesitate when he replied that he is still a superintendent at heart. When asked if he would like to see his children get involved in the business, he replied that he was going to leave it to them to decide. He would encourage them if they chose this business because of the good people that he has met in the industry. It's time to look in the mirror Billy, because you are one of the people that make this industry so special. Congratulations on your award!

ROBERT G. KLITZ CGCS
General Manager
Orangebrook CC

FGCSA NOTES

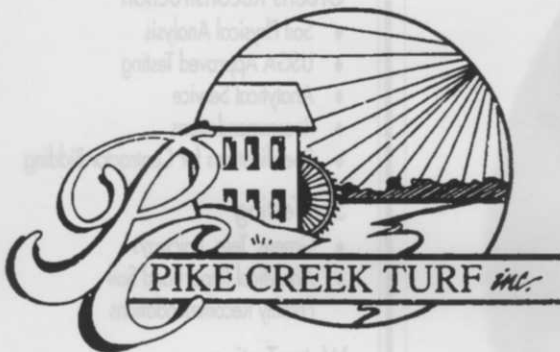
Golf Chairman Wins Own Tournament

Central Florida superintendent Joe Ondo, CGCS has served as the golf chairman for the FGCSA for as long as anyone can remember.

This past September he got a well-deserved reward for his hard work by winning the low medalist honors at the FGCSA Golf Championship held for the fourth straight year at the Southern Dunes G&CC in Haines City. Ondo edged out Treasure Coast's Tim Cann by one shot with a low gross score of 74.

By virtue of his victory

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