Darren Davis Receives FGCSA President’s Award

During the Everglades GCSA annual meeting at the Imperial Golf Club in July, Darren J. Davis received the FGCSA President’s Award for Lifetime Service from the chapter.

The stated purpose of the President’s award is: “...to honor those superintendent pioneers who were instrumental in state and local affair, with 20 or more years of service to the turfgrass industry.”

In his letter of nomination of Davis to the Florida GCSA, chapter president David Dore-Smith said, “Darren has been on the forefront of both local and state issues concerning turfgrass management and helping to promote the professionalism of the industry as a whole.

“Darren is widely respected within local, state and national circles for his dedication to turfgrass management and was recently recognized as one of the 10 most influential people of the industry.

“Using both the local and state director and officer positions as experience, Darren has now engaged successfully with a position on the National Board of Directors with the GCSAA. Once again, confirming his dedication and commitment to turfgrass management.”

Davis was elected to a two-year term on the GCSAA Board of Directors February 7, 2013, at the association's annual meeting in San Diego. He was first appointed to the board of directors at the 2012 annual meeting in Las Vegas.

Davis has been the golf course superintendent at Olde Florida Golf Club in Naples, since 1992. Previously he was an assistant superintendent at the Loxahatchee Club in Jupiter, Fla. Additional professional experience includes two stints at the Augusta National Golf Club, the first serving as an apprentice superintendent in 1990 and returning as the IPM technician in 1991.

A 23-year GCSAA member, Davis is the past president of the Everglades GCSA, and a past president of the Florida GCSA and Florida Turfgrass Association. He is currently a director with the Musser International Turfgrass Foundation. In 2004, the FGCSA honored him with its Distinguished Service Award, and in 2011 the FTGA presented Davis with the Wreath of Grass – the association's highest award.

A native of Tallahassee, he earned a turfgrass management certificate from Penn State University in 1991, graduating with highest distinction. He also obtained an associate of arts degree from Tallahassee Community College in 1987, and in 2007, Florida Gulf Coast University conferred upon him a bachelor of arts degree in communication (summa cum laude).

(Editor's Note: Davis also served as the editor of the FTGA magazine, The Florida Turf Digest, for several years and he has been a regular contributor to the FGCA's magazine, The Florida Green, submitting "Super Tips" and photographs, sharing innovative ideas on equipment and turf management programs with his peers.)