

# Four earn President's Awards

Four men were honored at the Crowfoot Weekend awards banquet, Aug. 2, with President's Awards for 1992. The awards were for outstanding service to the profession with more than 20 years service as a golf course superintendent.

Honorees were Jim Svabek, golf course superintendent at Bradenton Country Club; Leroy Phillips, now a tree nurseryman in Port St. Lucie; Larry Kamphaus, golf course maintenance manager for all courses at Walt Disney World and Joe Konwinski, a self-employed turfgrass horticultural consultant and an instructor at Palm Beach Community College.

The FGCSA and Florida Green salutes each individual on his award and lifetime achievement. Below are accounts of each award-winner's accomplishments.

— Mark Jarrell

## Larry Kamphaus

Larry Kamphaus, CGCS, is the golf course maintenance manager at Walt Disney World. His 22 years at Disney represents his entire career in the golf course superintendent profession.

Larry is responsible for 99 holes of golf and a \$5.5 million annual budget at Disney.

He was previously employed by Boeing Airplane Co. and Lear Seigler Service Corp.

Larry has been a member of the Florida Turfgrass Association where was a director for three years, a member of the GCSAA and a member and holder of all offices including president of the Central Florida GCSA.

Besides doing an excellent job for Disney, Larry is known for being the Crowfoot Weekend Host Committee chairman for many years. He has also been a host superintendent for a PGA Tour event for the past 21 years.

Among other major projects he has worked on for the good of golfing and turfgrass are the FTGA annual conference and Show and the 1990 GCSAA International Conference and Show in Orlando.

During his career, Larry has assisted construction and grow-in at Walt Disney World of the Palm and Magnolia golf courses, developed specifications for the

*For outstanding service to the profession*

construction of the Osprey Ridge and Eagle Pines courses and redesigned the Oak Trail course.

Larry says G.C. Horn and Steve Nugent have had to most influence on his career.

He and wife, Vilma, have been married for almost 25 years. They have a daughter, Nicole, and a son Larry, both seniors at the University of Central Florida, and another son, Lance, a senior Dr. Phillips High School in Orlando.

Larry, a native of Oklahoma City, spent four years in the USAF as an airplane mechanic. He likes fishing, water skiing, bowling and, of course, golf.

"I love Florida because it's always green — quite a contrast to my prairie unbringing."

## Joe Konwinski

Joe Konwinski, a charter member and the first president of the Florida Turfgrass Association in 1953, has been a member of the FTGA for nearly 40 years and a member of the GCSAA for more than 35 years. He has 46 years in the profession, and has lived all those 46 years in Florida.

He was a superintendent at Lake Worth Golf Course from 1946 to 1958. In the next 35 years he has been both self-employed as a turfgrass consultant and employed by various other turfgrass and golf course businesses. For the past 21 years he has also been an instructor at Palm Beach Community College.

In 1961 Joe was awarded the "Wreath of Grass" award from the FTGA, that organization's top award. Hardly a year has passed that Joe hasn't been cited for service to his profession or to mankind. One he's particularly proud of is the Extra Mile Award from the Palm Beach Habilitation Center in 1991 for helping handicapped people.

During his career, Joe has worked on projects at more than 100 golf courses as

a consultant or supervisor in design, irrigation, drainage, finish grade, construction, equipment purchasing, material purchasing, planting, growing in and landscape.

Is Joe retired? Don't believe it. He is still teaching, is presently serving as chairman of the Palm Beach County Ornamental Horticulture Advisory Committee, is on the Palm Beach Community College Beautification Committee and is a member of the Rotary Club of Lake Worth.

Joe was educated at Northern State Teachers College (now called Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Mich.) with an AB degree in education with a minor in agriculture. He served in the US Army Air Corps from 1942-46 and was located at 21 bases in the U.S., Africa, Sicily, and Italy.

Asked who influenced him most over the years, Joe lists Dr. Harold Manor, Dr. Paul Graham, and Otis Harvey, all of Palm Beach Community College, Jim Blackledge, a past president of the FTGA and "my sister, Katherine Bruce, who was my seventh grade teacher."

Advice he'd give to an entry-level professional: "Listen and listen good, read and attend any seminars, classes or educational meetings offered. Then apply this with practical work (on the job)."

## Leroy Phillips

Leroy Phillips, an Avon Park native, started his career in golf management as an assistant golf course superintendent at Pinecrest Golf & CC in Avon Park. In 1958 he was promoted to golf course superintendent and moved to his second assignment for the same owner at a Sebring course.

In 1960 he moved to Appolo Beach as a superintendent for Flora Son Development Co. but that company went bankrupt a year later. He then moved to Seminole Lake CC in St. Petersburg in 1961 and stayed there until 1965.

Leroy then became director of golf course operations for General Development Corp. and worked there for 13 years. During this time he helped design and build Oxbow in Port Labelle and design and build the Wilderness course in Port



# Presentations made at Crowfoot Weekend

St. Lucie.

During his time with GDC he worked with Kevin Downing at Oxbow and Lonnie Stubbs at Sandpiper Bay.

After leaving GDC, Leroy has designed two golf courses in Elks Rapid, Michigan. Leroy is presently redesigning Capital City CC in Tallahassee.

He also owns and operates a tree nursery in Port St. Lucie.

Leroy's work for the industry in his professional associations includes the Florida West Coast GCSA (1958-65) where he served in various officer positions, the South Florida GCSA (1965-79) where he held officer duties and was president in 1977, and the FTGA (1959-1979) where he was a director.

## Jim Svabek

Jim Svabek has been employed as golf course superintendent at Bradenton CC from 1967 to the present, some 32 years.

Prior to that he was the assistant superintendent for three years at Sunset CC

in St. Petersburg under Superintendent Rubin Hines.

Jim has been very active in the Suncoast GCSA, which he helped to organize. For the past seven years he has edited the chapter newsletter. Prior to the formation of the Suncoast chapter, he was an active member with the West Coast GCSA and served as president (1971-72) and vice president (1969-70).

He is a member of the FTGA with regular attendance at the yearly conference and show.

Jim has provided a constant line of communication through his membership in the GCSAA.

Among the major projects he has worked on is the planting of 7,000 trees on the golf course to change the course from being wide open to tree.

The following was said about Jim in the 1988 article in the Bradenton CC's newsletter: "Jim likes working at the Bradenton CC and says he has seen many changes over the years. He likes the

challenges the golf course has given him and says each day brings a new experience. He has seven people who work under him, three of whom have been with him since day one.

"In the past 17 years, approximately 7,000 seedling trees have been planted on the golf course at a cost for most of about a penny a piece. This in itself is a tribute to Jim. Jim's fondness for the earth, hard work and dedication have produced a golf course that has brought much pleasure to all.

"Jim and his wife, Carol, have been married twenty-five years and have three children, Steven, Michael and Karen."

*Please turn page for photos. ➡*

## Turf Quiz Answer

*Sod-busting thieves! A senior citizens center reported that their St. Augustine grass lawn was stolen. A landscape company had installed a completely new lawn. During the night, thieves removed the freshly-laid sod and hauled*

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# 1992 President's Award Winners



Joel Jackson presents Larry Kamphaus, left.



Jim Miller presents Jim Svabek, right, and his wife, Carol.

Larry Kamphaus  
Jim Svabek  
Leroy Phillips  
Joe Konwinski



Kevin Downing presents Leroy Phillips, left.



Paul Crawford presents Joe Konwinski, left.