

Mike Barger: *Mr. Dade County*

BY KELLY CRAGIN

The South Florida Chapter nominated Mike Barger for the 1995 FGCSA President's Award for his outstanding service to the industry over the past 30 years. Mike's passion for the superintendent's profession brought him together with now longtime friend Tom Mascaro. Mike and Tom worked together to help establish the magazine we now know as the *Florida Green*. Tom says that most of the things he and Mike did are

President's Award Winners: 1995

Mike Barger
Paul Frank
Bill Wright

“unprintable,” but they had some great times promoting the profession. Mike became one of the first editors of the *Florida Green*, which helped advance his knowledge of the golf course industry.

Mike Barger began working for the Dade county Parks and Recreation Department in the 1960s. He worked on Greynolds Golf Course, which had just been completed. From there he moved to Crandon Park on Key Biscayne for two years, then was promoted to manager of Greynolds Park and Haulover Park. Mike acquired considerable exper-

tise in his beginnings with Dade County, which opened up the door for his future.

The Village of Miami Shores asked Mike to be their golf course superintendent, with an offer he couldn't refuse. After two years, he moved on to the City of Miami Beach, where he was offered the position to oversee its three courses, Bayshore GC, Normandy GC and the Beaches Par 3 GC.

Mike moved on in 1974 to become superintendent at the City of Coral Gables GC. He brought his experience to this municipality, where he developed short- and long-range plans for the Biltmore GC, the Granada GC and the parks in the city.

“When asked about his retirement hobbies, Mike said, “Golf, of course.”

With the retirement of the director of public service, Mike applied for the job which would see him to his own retirement in 1994. As the director of public service, his responsibilities included the



Mike Barger helped found The South Florida Green which grew into The Florida Green.

Waste Division, the Landscape Management Division, the Golf Course Division and the Administration Division of Public Service. He was responsible for over 100 employees with job that ranged from landscaping city streets, parks and playgrounds to maintaining the Biltmore and Granada courses.

After 20 years of service to the City of Coral Gables, Mike decided to retire. The first thing he did to ease the retirement blues was take a month's vacation in China. He presently does some consulting on the side, but Mike's main objective is just to enjoy himself. When asked about his retirement hobbies, Mike said, “Golf, of course.”

Author's note: Many thanks to Tom Mascaro for his contributions to this article.



Internal
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Environmental Steward Award Winners

FLORIDA GCSAA HOST CHAPTER
SOUTHERN NEVADA HOST CHAPTER



National Winners



Skin Cancer Screening

Private Course Division
Darren Davis
Olde Florida Golf Club
Naples, Fla.

chipco choice

Registration
Pending



ORLANDO

GCSAA's 67th International Golf Course Conference and Show





Florida wins GCSAA golf title

BY JOE ONDO, CGCS

A full moon and 24-degree temperatures welcomed 720 players on Monday, Feb. 5, 1996 to sunny Orlando for the 67th Annual GCSAA Golf Championship. A two-hour delay at most courses allowed temperatures to reach 34 degrees before the first foursome was allowed to tee off.

After the first round was over, the Florida #1 team led by Buck Buckner's 73, Jim Osburne's 74 and Mark Hopkins' 81 at Disney's Eagle Pines course combined with Kevin Downing's 75 at Hunter's Creek to lead the field by seven shots.

On day two, windy, cloudy conditions and a temperature of 38 degrees for most of the morning wreaked havoc for most of the players and kept scores higher than normal. By the end of the grueling day, The Florida #1 team held on for a two-shot victory and ended a 13-year victory drought and brought the Scottish Team trophy back home for 1996. Congratulations to Buck, Mark, Jim and Kevin for a job well done. Congratulations also to Jim Dusch from Atlanta National Golf Club for winning the Championship Flight and the USGA Trophy with a 149 total.

Besides the Scottish Team trophy, Florida superintendents also did very well individually: Buck Buckner was third overall and the other team members also won prizes in their flights. Hal Richburg, Kevin Rotti and Tom Trammell also took home prizes in their flights. Kevin Downing and Fred Klauk won the Best Ball tournament on Sunday before the Championship.

Host Superintendents for the six courses used in the tournament were Larry Kamphaus, Manager of Golf Course Maintenance, Walt Disney World; Pat Hennessey, Disney's Eagle Pines course; Alan Steichen, Falcon's Fire; Joel Jackson, CGCS, Disney's Magnolia course; Craig Shelton, Hunter's Creek; Doug Rouse, Disney's Lake Buena Vista course and Tom Trammel, CGCS, Metro West. All received plaques from the GCSAA for jobs well done.

After the tournament, temperatures returned to normal and players put away their long underwear, ski caps, mittens, sweaters and other layers of clothing to head for the conference and show. We will have to wait and see what Mother Nature has in store for us next year in Las Vegas. 🏌️

GCSAA has developed a new piece of "clip art" that superintendents can use to encourage golfers to repair ball marks, replace divots and rake bunkers. "It's every player's responsibility" is a black-and-white, camera ready ad slick that any GCSAA member can reproduce in club/course newsletters, local golf publications or even on scorecards. To obtain a copy, contact the GCSAA Public Affairs Department at 913/832-4490.

It's every player's responsibility...

- Repair ball marks
- Replace or fill divots
- Rake bunkers



A message from your golf course superintendent and GCSAA



The LCCC Fund Raiser Tournament Committee weathers another successful event.

LCCC benefit event raises \$9,000

The Fourth Annual Endowment Fund Raising Golf Tournament was held Jan. 12, 1996, at the Riverwood Country Club. Though the day started off with a torrential rainfall, the tournament did manage to begin after about a 45-minute delay. Even the rain couldn't dampen the spirits of the attendees as only a few didn't show. With clearing skies and increasing wind, the beautiful Riverwood Golf Club fulfilled everybody's expectations and beyond.

Though the pro shop did notice a drastic increase in golf ball sales that day, some people did manage to turn in some impressive scores. Out of these scores some even passed the lie detector test administered by the tournament committee. All joking aside, this event raised in excess of \$9,000, thanks to the support of the sponsors and players. Though the winners received some great raffle prizes, valued at \$10,000, the real winners were Lake City Community

College Golf Operations and the entire turf industry.

A Flight tournament winners were Tom Hilferty and Andy Burmester, and for the B Flight, Greg Pheneger and Ralph Daire. The big raffle winners were Rick Tatum, with a cruise to Cozumel, Mexico, and Jack Stahl, who won \$500 in cash.

The tournament committee consisted of Co-Chairmen David Fry and Glenn Zakany, Host Superintendent and Diamond Sponsor Coordinator Scott Hamm, Gold Sponsor and Raffle Prizes Coordinator John Johnson, Dick Bessire, Jason Brod, Mike Griffith, Odell Spainhour and Brad Walters.

The tournament committee would like to thank all who make this event possible and hope to continue the tradition of this event. Weather permitting, next year's tournament will also be held the second week in January. 🏌️