

Steve Pearson, CGCS, conducts the Aventis Product Auction at the Palm Beach chapter's annual Future of Golf tournament.

PALM BEACH CHAPTER

22 Years of Service Bring Pres. Award to Steve Pearson

The last of the five 1999 FGCSA President's Award winners to be profiled this year, Steve Pearson is certainly not the least of this prestigious group.

"This recognition is personally satisfying," Pearson said. "And while I thank my peers for this award, I have many years yet to give to the industry."

1999 FGCSA President's Award Winners

- Paul Hickman
Dave Holler
Steve Pearson
Al Ross
Dale Walters

Pearson, a Palm Beach Chapter member for 22 years, has been giving his time and effort to the FGCSA and FTGA for over two decades. His participation includes membership and committee service in both organiza-

tions and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. He's been a certified golf course superintendent since 1990.

Besides being past president of the Palm Beach chapter, his FGCSA service includes terms on the Fund Raising and Research committees, of which he is now chairman. This is one of the FGCSA's most active committees working with IFAS and our turf technician at the Ft. Lauderdale Research Center and with the FTGA on awarding research grants to the IFAS program.

Pearson, a 27-year member of the Florida Turfgrass Association, comes by his affiliation with IFAS and the University of Florida quite easily. He is a Gator graduate with a B.S. in agriculture specializing in turf management. He studied under the legendary Dr. G.C. Horn during the prominence of the UF turfgrass program. A perennial member of the FTGA Awards Committee, Pearson worked to help establish the Arnold Palmer Endowment Fund. He is currently the publications chairman and editor of the FTGA's magazine, The Florida Turf Digest.

Pearson started out in junior college to be an architect.

"I couldn't get past the required advanced calculus and physics courses in architecture. At the time I was a very competitive golfer, playing number one on the junior college

team at the same time current PGA Senior Tour sensation Bruce Fleischer became the USGA Amateur champion while he was playing for Miami Dade North JC. I switched my major to botany. Got my A.S. degree and went to Gainesville to complete my education.

"Before I arrived in Gainesville I spent the summer working for superintendent Felix Paguaga at The Fountains Golf and Racquet Club. I thought I would pursue the same career since I liked golf and could be outside. I never wanted an inside job.

"When I got to UF I attended the first golf team meeting with the likes of Andy Bean, Gary Koch, and senior Steve Melnyk. I wasn't ready to put in five to six hours a day practicing golf so I concentrated on my studies. I knew I wanted to be a golf course superintendent at that point."

After graduating in 1971, Pearson returned to the Fountains as the assistant superintendent and began his journey in the business

Twenty nine years later Pearson shares his views on the roles and responsibilities of the profession.

"The positive aspects of this profession far outweigh the negatives. I like working outdoors and the challenges of making a golf course into something that your membership will be proud to play and show off to their guests. With my golfing background, I thrive on providing

Steve Pearson

Born in Detroit, Michigan. Moved to Palm Beach County 43 years ago.

Family: Wendy, wife of 28 years. Recently married daughter Adrienne (27) is a crime scene investigator living in Tallahassee with her new detective husband David. Son Garrett (22) is a senior at the University of Central Florida in Orlando.

Education: Lake Worth High School (67); Palm Beach Junior College (69); University of Florida (71)

Employment: Assistant superintendent positions at The Fountains C.C. and John's Island Club; Construction superintendent at the Sheoah G.C. (now Winter Springs G.C.); Superintendent positions at Mayacoo Lakes C.C.; Boca Lago C.C.; Boca Grove G. & T.C.; Woodfield C.C.; and The Falls C.C. for the past nine years.

Friends & Mentors: Felix Pagauga, my early career mentor, who influenced my decision to get into the business but also taught about dealing with people. Dr. G. C. Horn, my turf professor. Fellow superintendents and industry friends without their help I wouldn't be here. And last but not least my wife Wendy, who has had the patience of a saint to put up with the hours needed for me to follow this career.

playing surfaces that are challenging to the scratch player as well as the bogey golfer. To that end I keep in touch with the membership to see how they like the conditions and to see if they are seeing something I overlooked.

"In a wider view I feel the opportunities that are presented to us in the golf industry should keep us wanting to better ourselves either through continuing education or through interaction with our peers. Sometimes I get the feeling that some superintendents are afraid to talk to each other. We've all had problems with various aspects of our careers and most superintendents I know are more than

willing to help whenever possible. I've swallowed my pride at times for my own betterment."

Pearson also reflected on what it takes to be successful in this business.

"It is absolutely essential to continue your education. Turf management techniques are evolving into higher levels of maintenance. It is important to attend seminars, conferences and chapter outings to interact with others to keep abreast of changes that may make your job a little easier. I've had a chance over the years to talk with a lot of people in our business. I find it not only stimulating but fascinating to see what can be done from

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“You develop a camaraderie with others in this profession like no other business... It is beyond my comprehension why some choose to live in isolation and not seek help from their peers when there are so many out there willing to help.”

another person’s perspective.

“You develop a camaraderie with others in this profession like no other business. My fellow superintendents and other friends in the industry have helped me become the superintendent I am

today. It is beyond my comprehension why some choose to live in isolation and not seek help from their peers when there are so many out there willing to help.”

The President’s Award is the FGCSA’s way of thanking Pearson for his

help and friendship over the years.

JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

PALM BEACH CHAPTER

Future of Golf Raises \$20,000

The Palm Beach Chapter held its Future of Golf 2000 event at The Falls Country Club in West Palm Beach June 5.

It was the 19th edition of this annual event and Palm Beach Chapter President Randy Bushway reports that over \$20,000 was raised for junior golf and turf research.

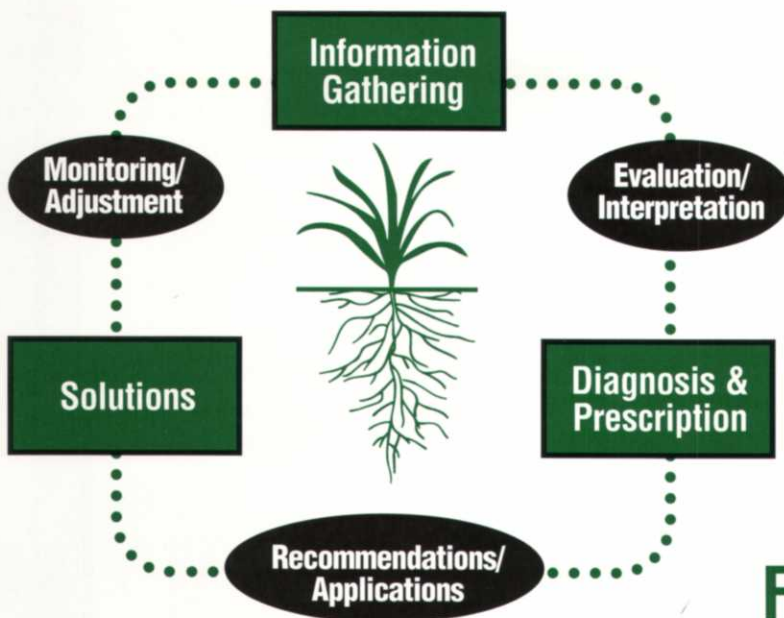
Host superintendent Steve Pearson, CGCS had the greens rolling so fast that you didn’t want to



Terry Frazier of Lesco, Inc. is all smiles after acing the Hole-in-One contest hole at the Palm Beach Chapter’s 19th Annual Future of Golf Tournament at The Falls C. C. Frazier won a Club Car Golf Car. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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have a downhill putt.

Terry Frazier of Lesco, Inc. didn't have to putt as he aced the 200-yard 5th hole with a 5-wood. Frazier was in the second group of the day, so everyone else was shut out of the grand prize, which was a Club Car golf cart.

The venerable Joe Konwinski, who manned the tee, generously awarded extra golf balls to all who hit the green after Frazier's hole in one.

The team from Zeneca consisting of Terry "Ace" Frazier, Jim Moore, Matt Yount and David Tandy shot a net 60 in the unusual four-man drop-out scramble format to take first Place. A delicious

dinner followed the tournament and preceded the Aventis product auction and a door prize raffle.

Congratulations to Steve and the staff of The Falls CC for a great job and a super event.

JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER

Scribes Edge Supers in Golf Challenge

Central Florida GCSA took on members of the staff of the *Florida Golf Central Magazine* in a Cutter & Buck Corporate Golf Challenge in early June.

The event was set up as a good way to expose golf course superintendents to



Front row from left: CFGCSA members Pat Murphy; Barry Schuman, John Kopack and John Lammrish surrender a close one-point victory to the Florida Golf Central Magazine team: Jeff Westbrook, Lynn Pelham, Greg Corbo and Bill Kazakis in a Cutter & Buck Challenge golf match. Photo by Joel Jackson.

the golfing public as real people. FGCSA Director of Communications Joel Jackson writes a monthly

"Golf Is Good for the Planet" feature for the magazine as part of his public relations efforts.



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John Kopak, president of the Central Florida Chapter was kind enough to host the match at the Legacy Club at Alaqu Lakes.

He rounded up fellow superintendents John Lammrish (LPGA International GC), Pat Murphy (Highland Reserve GC) and Barry Schuman (Timacuan GC) to take on the team from *Florida Golf Central*.

Good-natured ribbing and smack talk gamesmanship was at an all-time high as the superintendent team won the front-nine two-ball match.

There was no letup on the back nine as the A, B, C, and D players went head-to-head.

It came down to the final putt on the 18th hole, but the magazine team of Greg Corbo, Bill Kazakis, Lynn Pelham and Jeff Westbrook edged the superintendents by one point.

A rematch is definitely in the works.

SOUTH FLORIDA CHAPTER

Who Wants to be a Greenskeeper?

The South Florida Chapter hosted its June 15th meeting at the Ft. Lauderdale Country Club with the education theme a spinoff from the popular TV game show, "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?"

In this case the program

was titled "Who Wants To Be A Greenskeeper?" With some very interesting and educational questions for the asking, more than 85 meeting attendees vied for the Hot Seat with emcee Bob "Regis" Klitz.

Over 30 contestants made it to the Hot Seat and were asked fun questions such as, "Where would you most likely find a pull gang?"

- A. On a green
- B. In the rough
- C. In a lake
- D. In a bunker

It was fun and exciting to see strong participation for a summer meeting.

In the past, summer projects and vacation schedules have made it difficult to attract large

attendance to summertime monthly meetings.

Thanks to the 27 commercial suppliers who donated more than \$1,200 in cash and prizes in addition to those superintendents who brought prize donations from their clubs.

This event proved to be so successful, perhaps the FTGA or GCSAA could promote this type of an event on the Trade Show floor during the conference to attract more interest.

It just goes to show you, we can have some fun and be educated at the same time. Is that your final answer?

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Jack Harrell, Sr., center, receives his Ridge Chapter Lifetime Honorary Membership plaque from Jeff Brown and Steve Ciardullo.

RIDGE CHAPTER

Service Earns Life Memberships

The Ridge Chapter paid special recognition to two of their own at their

chapter meeting in June at the Eaglebrook C.C..

Lifetime honorary memberships were bestowed to Jack Harrell, Sr. of Harrell's Fertilizer Company and Ray Cuzzone, formerly with the City of Bartow Golf Club, for their meritorious service to the Ridge Chapter.

Harrell has long been a friend and mentor to many a superintendent who got started in the Central Florida area, and those friendships and business relationships continued no matter where a superintendent might find himself located.

Cuzzone has been a vital spark plug in the chapter, holding all offices



Ridge Chapter President Jeff Brown, left, presents Ray Cuzzone with his Lifetime Honorary Membership plaque from the Ridge Chapter.

on the board and helping out with all the fund-raising events.

Cuzzone recently left the Bartow G. C. to take a position with Coastal Equipment.

"Sometimes we just don't say 'thank you' enough to those who give so much of their time and talent to our chapters and associations," said Ridge President Steve Ciardullo. "The Ridge board wanted to do something to let these gentlemen know how much we do appreciate what they did for us."

JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

COASTAL PLAINS CHAPTER

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the Killearn Country Club in Tallahassee in fantastic condition for the 5th Annual Coastal Plains Classic and Mother Nature didn't spoil the party with any thunderstorms.

The tournament was a great success with the Coastal Plains Chapter raising \$2,000 for the Refuge House in Tallahassee which lends support to battered women and children.

Another \$3,500 has been earmarked for turfgrass research under the direction of Dr. Bryan Unruh at the UF/IFAS West Florida Research and Education Center in Milton.

The Coastal Plains GCSA would like to

recognize the members of the tournament committee whose hard work enabled the tournament to be another successful event: Geri Buchheit, CGCS, Killearn CC; Mike Bishop, Southern States, Inc.; Mike Echols, GCS, Summerbrooke GC; Mike Machamana, Lesco, Inc.; and Bill Kohler, FSU.

Tournament winners in the two-person team event: First Gross - Sarah Phillips and Charlie Richardson. Second Gross - Yuichi Morie and Jeff Cook.

First Net - Ed Hoover and Dave Bauer. Second Net - Tom Cowan and Bill Alford.

*DOUG ABBUHL, GCS
FSU Golf Course*

NORTH FLORIDA CHAPTER

All Get Together at The Transition

On Friday, July, 21st the North Florida Chapter began its annual golf outing and family get together called

The Transition Tournament. The name was selected well over 25 years ago to celebrate the transition of leadership within the organization as a new slate of officers takes over for last year's board.

Of course no matter what you call it, it was a wonderful excuse to break the summer slump, play a whole lot of golf, bring the families together and generally have a good time. Mission accom-

plished!

All of the weekend activities were held at Jekyll Island, Ga., home of the well-conditioned Pine Lakes and Indian Mound golf courses. From shoot-outs to cookouts, this annual event allows folks to lighten up a little bit and let everyone's families get acquainted or reacquainted with each other through a common interest.

The new board that will lead the North Florida Chapter for the next 12 months: president, Clayton Estes; vice president, Andy Maguire; and secretary/treasurer, Glen Klauk. It should be noted that Clayton Estes has accepted the challenge of

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repeating as chapter president for the upcoming year.

Thanks Clayton.
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KAMPHAUS/CROWFOOT OPEN

Central Florida Celebrates Crowfoot

August 5-7, 2000 were the dates and the Bay Hill Club & Lodge in Orlando was the site for this year's edition of the Larry Kamphaus Crowfoot Open.

The weekend began with the FGCSA Board meeting on Saturday. After the business meeting, which included discussion on GCSAA's Professional Development Initiative, a



Meet the 2000-2001 FGCSA Board of Directors. Left to right. Front row: Mark Henderson, Eric Joy, Jim Goins, CGCS, Doug Abbuhl, and Greg Pheneger. Back row: Tom Barnett, Greg Tharp, Brett Harris, and Steve Ciardullo. Not pictured are: Buddy Keene, Rick Tatum and John Van Vranken. Photo by Joel Jackson.

legislative review by lobbyist Mike Goldie and the adoption of the new operating budget, the

annual meeting and election of officers was held.
 Cary Lewis, CGCS of

the Renaissance Vinoy Resort is the new president. Cary is from the West Coast chapter.



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Crowfoot Open Winners

Superintendent Division

Low Gross: 1st-Jimmy Lawrence (72), 2nd-Steve Bernard (73), 3rd-Mark Hopkins (75).

Low Net Points: 1st-Greg Maze(+5) in a match of cards with Ricky Hoopes also (+5); 3rd-John Lammrish (+4).

Commercial Division

Low Gross: 1st-Mike Martin; 2nd-Mike Doyle; 3rd-Steve Wright

Low Net: 1st-Frank Hardy; 2nd-Greg Lawrence; 3rd-Bob Giehls

Central Florida's own Geoff Coggan, CGCS from the Great Outdoors Resort is the new vice president. Coggan will spread his wings as VP rather gingerly for a while as he nurses a broken arm suffered while roller blading. David Court,

CGCS of the Palm Beach Chapter and the Boca Lago C.C. was welcomed to the officer ranks as the new secretary/treasurer. Darren Davis of the Everglades Chapter becomes the immediate past president, rounding out the executive council for the 2000-01



The Central Florida Team won the 24th Annual Crowfoot Open held at Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club on August 7th. Team members are from the left: John Lammrish, CGCS, LPGA International; Jimmy Lawrence, Southridge G.C. (also the Low Gross Winner with a par 72); Jim Kernohan, MetroWest G.C.; and Ricky Hoopes, Grand Cypress G.C. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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Joe Ondo, CGCS, Winter Pines G.C., was presented the 2000 FGCSA Distinguished Service Award by FGCSA Director of Communications Joel Jackson, CGCS. The unsuspecting Jackson in turn was honored by the Crowfoot Committee as the recipient of the 2000 Larry Kamphaus Award during the Crowfoot Open banquet. Photo by Stuart Leventhal.

fiscal year.

On Sunday night the festivities got rolling with a reception and banquet. Tom Alex, Crowfoot chairman and emcee, was in rare form with many one-liner zingers for all who won door prizes. But before the the fun-laden raffle got under way, a couple of Central Florida members were put in the spotlight. I was presented the FGCSA Distinguished Service Award for 2000 by FGCSA Director of Communications Joel Jackson.

I am deeply honored and appreciate this recognition by my peers.

When it came time to name the annual Larry Kamphaus Award winner

for 2000 no one was more surprised as the recipient, Joel Jackson, CGCS. Jackson, who did the presentation of the DSA Award to me, thought I was going to be a double winner that night.

Of course that misdirection was engineered by emcee Alex who had sandbagged Jackson with lies and subterfuge.

With Vilma Kamphaus, Larry's widow, in the audience Jackson was obviously moved by his selection. Citing his 20-year relationship with his late friend and mentor at Disney, he humbly accepted the honor.

When Monday morning rolled around the full field of superintendents,

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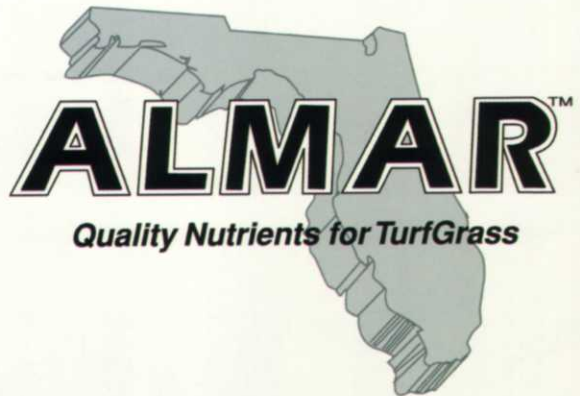
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The Florida GCSA Officers for 2000-01, from the left: Vice President Geoff Coggan, CGCS; Secretary/Treasurer David Court, CGCS; President Cary Lewis, CGCS; and Past President Darren Davis. Photo by Joel Jackson.

suppliers and guests was ready to tee off on the Bay Hill course. Host superintendent Dwight Kummer

and his staff had the course in great shape and set up for scoring by this band of hackers. When



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Dale Mitchell of Golf Agronomics Supply and Handling, left, presents FGCSA President Darren Davis with a check for \$3,000 for turf research. Chris Leahy also with GASH looks on as this check brings GASH's total donations to the FGCSA Research Account to more than \$39,000. Photo by Joel Jackson.

the divots had settled, four Central Florida members hacked it around the best and won the team championship: Ricky Hoopes of The Grand Cypress Club; Jim Kernohan from MetroWest G.C.; John Lammrish from LPGA International and Jimmy Lawrence from Southridge G.C. in Deland.

Lawrence shot a par 72 to win the low gross individual score and qualify to play on the FGCSA golf team competing in Austin, Tex. at the GCSAA Golf Championship.

The FGCSA reimburses the registration fee for the four members who qualify

for the No.1 Florida team through competitions throughout the year.

Thanks to the Bay Hill staff for the great banquet and hospitality, and of course no event like this would be possible without the support of our sponsors.

Please see our Crowfoot Thank-You ad for the names of the folks who helped make this another great Crowfoot Open.

Special thanks to the Crowfoot Committee, especially Lisa McDowell and her parents Jan and Bob Lloyd who take care of all the details and legwork that makes this event such a success.

JOE ONDO, CGCS



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