

EGCSA PRESIDENTS AWARD

Volunteer Habit Earns Top Honor For Roy Bates

Back in Milford, Mich. in the mid-50s, Mary Bates knew something was different about her young son. When Little Roy spoke his very first word, it was not the normal "momma" or "dada"; instead he simply said, "volunteer." She started thinking, "What does this mean?" Well, ever since that big day she surely found out.



Super volunteer Roy Bates, right, shown with architect Ron Garl as they formed the Florida Golf Alliance in 1998. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Bates got his early exposure to golf courses by growing up next to Highland Hills CC in Milford. One Saturday when Roy was about 12 years old, the starter left his job. Roy, who was just hanging out perfecting his putting skills, volunteered to do the job for the day. Highland Hills liked his enthusiasm and offered him the job whenever he could work after school and on the weekends. This job was his until he graduated high school.

With his love for the outdoors Bates worked seven years with a landscape company, before moving to Florida. He thought he was oh-so-clever, studying up on Florida before he made the big move. He actually thought the mocking bird was our state bird instead of the mosquito. Well, after stocking up with repellent, he found employment on the crew at Imperial CC. Shortly after this he met his wife-to-be, Mary. She thought this strapping (and then slender) man would be just perfect and soon they were married. Soon after wedlock, Mary decided to have their first child. Once again Roy volunteered and Kristin was born.

After four years of working his way up the crew at Imperial, Jerry Redden asked Bates if he would be willing to move up to assistant

superintendent; once again Roy volunteered. Shortly after becoming the assistant, Redden asked Bates if he would get involved with some committees for the Florida Turfgrass Association and, of course, Roy volunteered.

After four years of honing his skills under Redden, Cypress Lake Country Club called and asked whether Bates would be willing to be their superintendent. About this time Mary tapped Roy on the shoulder and thought it would be a great time for another child. Roy volunteered again and Kathryn was born.

After a couple of years at Cypress Lake, Bates was asked to run 36 holes at Quail Creek. This lasted one year when Imperial called, this time wanting Bates to run the 36 holes as superintendent. He stayed there 11 years, meanwhile getting involved in FTGA and the Everglades GCSA.

He volunteered to the board of FTGA from 1990 until becoming president in 1996. After slowing down a little bit in 1997 he became president of the Everglades in 1998 and vice president of the newly formed Golf Alliance in the same year.

As you can tell Bates is a firm believer in giving back to the industry he serves, and like many who have given back, he wishes more people would get involved. "The

more you know about things ready to happen in this industry, the better prepared we all will be," says Roy.

Bates now works for WCI Communities, which has developed 30 communities with 522 golf holes and more than a thousand marina slips in southwest Florida. WCI has pledged the necessary funds to the FTGA for UF/IFAS agricultural economists, Dr. Alan Hodges and Dr. John Haydu, to conduct a Florida golf economic impact study. This study builds on the 1992 Turfgrass Economic Impact study also funded by the FTGA, but focuses only on golf, including the game and its ramifications not just the turf aspect.

When David Fry, senior vice president of amenities, needed someone to head the project and to solicit money from other developers to help pay for it, guess who volunteered for the job? You guessed it.

Some people get awards because of years spent in associations, but few have made as many friends along the way as Roy has. He has truly been an inspiration with his constant positive attitude. It has been a great pleasure to know Roy for the past 15 years, he has gotten me involved and made me a better person, and I am sure he has done the same for many others.

Bates blames most of this obsessive volunteering on his mentor Jerry Redden, but personally I think it

goes back to that very first word he spoke some 48 years ago," volunteer."

The Everglades chapter spoke the words "Thank You" loud and clear to Roy Bates in September when it presented him with the 2001 FGCSA President's Award for Lifetime Service.

Glenn Zakany

LCCC ALUMNI

10th Annual Event Raises \$13,500 for Lake City CC

The Lake City Community College's Golf Course Operations Alumni group based primarily in the Everglades Chapter area pulled off its 10th Annual Endowment Fund-Raiser without a hitch Jan. 4 at WCI Communities' Colony Club. Outgoing committee cochairman Glenn Zakany reported that the event has raised more than \$100,000 since its inception and the 2002 event netted a check for \$13,500. Department Chairman John Piersol was on hand from the school to thank everyone for their support and urged the alumni and others to help support the LCCC program that produces future superintendents and equipment technicians for the industry.

This year while the committee scored the event, Chuck "The



Chuck "The Hitman" Hitter doing just one of his amazing trick shots to entertain the crowd during the barbeque dinner following golf. Photo by Joel Jackson.



2002 LCCC Tournament Committee from left, front row: John Piersol, Scott Hamm, John Johnson, Gary Higgins. Back row: Roy Bates, Mike Smith, Glenn Zakany, Chuck Hitter and David Fry. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Florida Democratic gubernatorial candidate Sen. Darryl Jones (D-40, second from left) was the guest speaker at the CFGCSA/FTGA turf research fundraiser at the Interlachen CC. Other guests, from left, included FTGA President Alan Puckett, CFGCSA Past President John Kopack and FGCSA President Geoff Coggan. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Hitman" Hitter put on a phenomenal display of golf trick-shot artistry that amazed the crowd. The Hitman took the art of hitting a golf ball from impossible situations to a new level never seen before.

The Tournament Committee deserves a lot of credit for growing this event into one of the best-attended and -supported events in the state. Most have served on the committee since its inception. Thanks to David Fry and Glenn Zakany, co-chairmen; Scott Hamm and John Johnson, sponsors-golf resort packages; Odell Spainhour and Roy Bates, raffle prizes, golf and pictures; Michael Smith, registration; and Gary Higgins, host superintendent.

CENTRAL FLORIDA GCSA Gubernatorial Candidate Teaches Basics of Politics

The Central Florida Chapter held its annual FTGA Research fundraiser at the Interlachen CC Jan. 14. FTGA President Alan Puckett was on hand to thank all in attendance for their support of turf research. The guest speaker was State

Senator Darryl Jones of Miami, who is running for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination.

Sen. Jones outlined his platform on the issues and commented on several questions on golf course issues that were sent to him in advance. Some of his comments:

- In general golf course issues are not on the radar screen in Tallahassee.
- If you have a message you want to send to legislators, present it in concise bullet-point facts.
- The main environmental topic that is heard most often is runoff.
- If you want to get a legislator's attention on an issue, a good rule of thumb is that it takes 15 voters in a state representative's district and 25 voters in a state senator's district to get them to respond. If they are not already emotionally attached to the issue, you stand a good chance to present your case and get some action.
- Face-to-face contact with a lawmaker or staff member is best followed by letter, fax, phone call and finally email.

Central Florida External Vice President John Lammrigh presented host superintendent Stuart Leventhal with a framed Summer

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2000 Florida Green cover which featured the Interlachen C.C. After the meeting and lunch, the rains set in and golf was canceled. No one asked for his registration fees back and the event raised \$4,600 for research. The Interlachen CC management deserves our continued thanks for its assistance in making this event possible each year.

**EVERGLADES GCSA
IFAS Turf Faculty
Offers Full Program
at Winter Seminar**

Matt Taylor, EGCSA President reports over 80 superintendents converged on the Naples Beach club Jan. 17 for the annual EGCSA Seminar which features a full program of presentations by University of Florida's IFAS turf research faculty. Dr. Terril Nell also gave an update on the IFAS budget crisis and future options for the UF turf program. The EGCSA follows up this winter educational offering with its Spring Symposium April 11 and the annual Poa Annuia Classic May 9-12.



Aerial view of the Suncoast Supplier Appreciation Day attendees from 60 feet up courtesy of Save-On Enterprises' bucket truck. Equipment and product displays ringed the driving range. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Featured speakers at the Spring Symposium

- Tom Messimer, Ph.D., CDM (Environmental Mgt), Future Sources for Golf Course Water Supplies.
- Milt Engelke, Ph.D., Texas A&M,

Ultradwarfs: Seek First to Understand, Then Management is the Key to Success

- Darren Davis, Olde Florida GC, Complete Golf Course Re-Grassing Project
- Kevin Fletcher, Director of

Programs, Audubon International, Golf Course Maintenance & the Environment.

Mark Edelman, West Coast Employers Assn., Staying in Bounds: Managing Your Work Force While Avoiding Lawsuits.

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SUNCOAST GCSA

Chapter Aims To Bring All Industry Segments Together

The Suncoast Chapter held a Supplier Appreciation and Turf Equipment Technician Day at the Bradenton CC Jan. 28. While the superintendents held a brief business meeting, the members of Suncoast Turf Equipment Technicians Association held their annual meeting and election of officers. Joel Jackson, FGCSA director of

communications, briefly discussed state and national issues. The rest of the morning was devoted to a mini-field day on the driving range for equipment and product displays and demonstrations.

More than 100 attended the event and golf was available for those wishing to try their luck on Jim Svabek's historic Donald Ross links. Following golf, attendees were treated to a down-home barbecue dinner including roasted pig and turkey. The Suncoast Chapter's goal for this event and the Suncoast Scramble in March is to bring all members of the golf industry together.

GCSAA GOES TO DISNEY WORLD

75 Years Young


Joel Jackson, CGCS

When the terrorist attack paralyzed the nation on Sept. 11, it also wiped out the GCSAA's much-anticipated 75th Anniversary

Celebration to be held two days later in Lawrence and Kansas City. As the ripple effect of the attack spread and the economy went into a recessionary trend, the registration and attendance at the conference and show in



Florida GCSA President Geoff Coggan, CGCS, MG helps to open the GCSAA Conference with his welcoming remarks on Feb. 6. Photo by Joel Jackson.



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Orlando became a point of concern. Budgets were tightened for all businesses, and travel was cut back or canceled. Tourist destinations like Orlando suffered noticeably as the nation paused and took stock of the situation.

GCSAA watched tentatively as the pre-registration and cancellation numbers bounced around until the first of the year. As the nation righted itself and the war on terrorism picked up steam, dread turned to cautious optimism and GCSAA hoped for a mildly successful conference. Sensitive to the necessity of last-minute decision-making because of the economic climate, GCSAA kept on-site registration fees the same as the usually-lower advanced-registration fees and hoped for the best.

I'm not sure if they set any records, but numbers reported during the conference indicated that more than 7,000 attended the seminars and, by Friday of conference week, more than 20,000 had registered. Enough people refused to be intimidated by the gloom and doom and made their way to Orlando to



Association Manager Marie Roberts welcomes FGCSA members to the Florida Reception during the GCSAA Conference. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Bill Davidson, Jr., left, superintendent of the Colliers Reserve GC, receives the GCSAA/Golf Digest Environmental Leadership in Golf Award from Dave Heegard, vice president of sales and marketing for Pursell Technologies, Inc. at the 73rd International GCSAA Conference and Show in Orlando Pursell is one of the sponsors of the ELGA program.. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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help celebrate the association's finale to its 75th anniversary.

GCSAA had a great 75th Anniversary Pavilion set up on the trade show floor which displayed course-logoed flags and golf balls from around the world. A replica of the bronze Old Tom statue by Nebraska superintendent Brad Pearson held court in a vignette symbolizing his place of honor at GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, Kan. One replica of the statue will be placed at the World Golf Village in St. Augustine and another is being donated to the golf museum at the Old Course in St. Andrews, Scotland. There was a sampling of antique golf course equipment from the Historical Preservation Collection on display to remind all of us how far our profession has advanced over the years. Photos, articles and videos gave visitors a time-line of progress from the association's humble beginnings on Sept. 13, 1926 in Toledo, Ohio.

Besides playing host chapter to the finale of the 75th anniversary, FGCSA members participated in the conference in a significant way. President Geoff Coggan, CGCS, MG, welcomed attendees with at the opening session with a brief overview of the Florida GCSA and its goals and mission. Three Florida superintendents won honors in the GCSAA/Golf Digest Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards: William Davidson, Jr., Colliers Reserve; John Kopack, The Legacy Club at Alaqu Lakes; Jeff Klontz, Country Club of Florida and Kyle Sweet, The Sanctuary.

Kevin Cavanaugh from The Plantation at Ponte Vedra gave a presentation on personal public relations and communications in the Innovative Superintendents I session, and Tim Hiers, CGCS of Old Colliers did double duty with a presentation in a *Golf Course Management* session on choosing paspalum turf and a presentation in the USGA Green Section session on building a golf course in an environmentally sensitive area.

Three FGCSA members finished in the Top 10 in the low gross division in the GCSAA Golf Championship held at the World Golf Village and Palm Coast, Mark Henderson, second; Tyler Warner, eighth; and Chris Cartin, tied for tenth. The Florida Team No. 1 of Chris Cartin, Mark Henderson, Mark Hopkins and Joe Ondo finished in third place in the team competition and Florida Team No. 2, which included Dobie McManus, Joe



Joe Ondo, CGCS, tours the GCSAA 75th Anniversary pavilion on the trade show floor. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Pantaleo and Tyler Warner, finished in fifth place.

The FGCSA held its traditional reception Feb. 7 to provide a time and place where all members, wives and supporting sponsors could meet and confer. The ballroom was

decorated in a red-white-and-blue theme to demonstrate our American spirit and show our support for our troops overseas. Nearly 1,000 people made it to the reception to enjoy the camaraderie, food, drink and entertainment by the seven-piece band,

Margo Fontaine and The Rodeo Drive.

See the thank-you ad (page 13) for those sponsors and FGCSA chapters that made the reception possible. See you next in year in Atlanta.