

THE QUARTERLY QUESTION

Proudest Moment and Dumbest Question You've Been Asked

In this recurring feature, we ask FGCSA members to shed some light on the range of positive, negative and humorous and experiences we have all had along the way.

For this issue we are asking a two-part question (1) What's dumbest question or comment you'd ever heard from a club official, member or golfer? (2) What's your proudest moment/achievement on the course?

FROM CENTRAL FLORIDA

Bad – The dumbest thing I ever heard was when one of our directors of golf suggested the sand pro operator carry squares of sod on the back of the machine and fix pot holes along the cart paths during his morning bunker raking.

Good – I'd say the proudest I've been is when the crew pulled together to prepare the course for our annual PGA tour event and then have to recover and repair during occasional storms.

NORTH FLORIDA GCSA

Good – My proudest moment since being at Timuquana has been the set-up and preparation for the 2002 U.S. Senior Am. I had about a year from my arrival to get the golf course ready for this championship. I've set-up and prepared for The Players Championship before, and it was a great accomplishment, but the Senior Am was a huge task at a private country club that never hosted a USGA championship. This championship was a huge success not only for me and my staff but really raised the standard at Timuquana for the future. Since this event we have made many improvements to a great classic golf course and will be renovating in 2008 with the hope of holding another USGA Championship.

Bad – I've had a few dumb comments from members! Why are we in

a frost delay? I didn't have any frost in my yard? This member just happens to live in a condo near the course and has a courtyard for his yard that is 10 X 10. I also had a lady member (she didn't like the tree work) tell me that since I started the tree removal program I've made the golf course colder because the breeze is blowing more throughout the course. That day was 45 degrees and the wind was blowing 20 mph.

CALUSA

Good – Being able to experience the construction of a 36-hole golf course from start to finish is my proudest achievement. Seeing literally a cow pasture evolve into what our golf course community is today is a rewarding experience.

Bad – I have answered several off-the-wall questions in my career. The one that always comes to mind first is

Fight Of The Year

Bald Eagle Battles Great Horned Owl

It was a battle for the ages.

In the left corner with the white head, the one-and-only... Bald Eagle. In the right corner with the big old eyes... the Great Horned Owl.

On Jan. 6, two very aggressive birds of prey were found locked together in battle just off the tenth fairway. The two had death grips on each other's legs as they flailed away on the turf. A crowd gathered in astonishment and concern for the two great birds.

The Eagle appeared to have the upper hand as he (or she) went for the owl's eyes with its sharp beak. Someone in the audience suggested we break up the fight. We told him to go ahead. He then moved behind the cart.

We did not know what to do to prevent a fight to the finish. We decided to let Mother Nature take its course. The crowd went silent when a curious and perhaps prophetic Buzzard circled over head.

The battle lasted over an hour and both predators were exhausted. It had looked like the Owl was close to death when he (or she) raised up its head looked at the Eagle, looked at the audience, released its grip on the Eagle and flew away. The Eagle staggered a bit and flew in the opposite direction.

Judge John Hoey had it 10-9 Eagle, Judge Mike Koether had it 10-9 Eagle, and I had it 10-9 Eagle. Mother Nature however called it a draw and let them both live to fight another day.

It was an ending that we should all appreciate.

Wayne Kappauf, CGCS

