

**1993 FGCSA
President's Awards**

Hugh Bebout
Dick Blake
Don Delaney
Karl Jacobs
Ed Ramey

***'I was the first
GCSAA Director to
be nominated and
elected from the
floor of the
annual meeting. I
was president of
the GCSAA in
1971-72.'***

***The FGCSA President's Award
for Lifetime Service was
established in 1990 to honor
those superintendent pioneers
who were instrumental in
state and local affairs but who
may no longer be actively
involved in the FGCSA.
Qualifications include 20
years or more of service to the
turfgrass industry, 10 of which
were as a superintendent .***

Thank you, Mr. President!

***Dick Blake has led three statewide
superintendents' associations, and the
national organization, the GCSAA***

BY JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

When the President of the United States steps down, he historically retains that title and, as a measure of respect, is addressed as "Mr. President" for the rest of his life. I think Dick Blake has earned that courtesy after serving his peers as president of three different state or regional associations and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

That record of service is but a reflection of the sense of duty, loyalty, and hard work that a young lad from Wilmington, Mass. learned from the Marine Corps after graduating from high school. Those values have led Dick through a long, rewarding career in golf turf management and into his current semi-retirement work as a sales representative with Growing Technologies, Inc.

"After I mustered out of the Marines, I was interested in pursuing a career in wildlife management at the Stockbridge School of Agriculture," said Dick in a recent interview. "There were no openings in the class I needed, so I took a course in turf management. The program was under the tutelage of pioneering turf professor Lawrence S. Dickinson, and he got me so interested in this field that I switched majors.

"It was a good time to be getting into the business. We had instructors like Geoffrey Cornish teaching classes. We

were the first generation of the new breed of superintendents that got a strong educational background in turf management principles as well as practical experience in the field.

"Upon graduation from Stockbridge, I started my career working for the Mitchell Brothers Corporation, which was a family of superintendents and architects. I spent one year with them building and renovating golf courses in New England.

"I then worked in succession at Whittinsville C.C., Concord C.C., and Salem C.C. All three were designed by Donald Ross. I was at Whittinsville for eight years. We then moved to Boylston, Mass. for 13 years at Mt. Pleasant C.C. After that, I did an eight-year tour of duty at Woodstock (Vermont) Golf and Tennis Club which was part of the Rockefeller Rock Resort chain.

"In 1965, I joined the Rhode Island Superintendents Association, eventually serving as president. After that, I joined the New England Superintendents Association and worked my way from newsletter editor to president in 1970.

"I began my service on the GCSAA Board of Directors in 1967. I was the first GCSAA Director to be nominated and elected from the floor of the annual meeting. I was president of the GCSAA in 1971-72.

"Those New England winters began

to get a little hard to take, so we moved to Florida in 1982. I started the Florida portion of my career at Card Sound G. C. and worked my way up the coast to Quail Ridge and eventually to my last duty station, Bocaire Country Club.

“Sometime around 1984 or 1985 I attended an FGCSA Board meeting and started asking questions. The first thing I knew, Tom Burrows said the best way to get the answers to those questions was for me to be secretary/treasurer of the association.

“A few short years later I assumed my fourth association presidency in 1987.”

“I have made a lot of friends in Florida and I really appreciate the honor the association has bestowed on me with the President’s Award. My service to the Florida Association has been an enjoyable experience buoyed by the support of fellow board members and our executive secretary, Marie Roberts.

“In the early days of my association work in New England — and even with GCSAA — we didn’t have any staff support. We did all the paperwork ourselves. Elaine, my lovely wife of 40 years, helped me tremendously with those efforts. She also managed to raise our six children and they, in turn, have blessed us with eight grandchildren.”

Asked to reflect over the past, present and future of golf, Dick had these observations:

“I always enjoyed being involved in the construction or rebuilding on golf courses. It gave me a lot of personal job satisfaction to add something to a course. I especially liked to plant trees.

“Now when we visit New England and I visit some of the courses where I worked, it is very satisfying to see the mature trees and the effect they have on the courses. I also have enjoyed watching the growth and development of over 30 superintendents that worked with me over the years. It’s nice to see them progress and take their place in the service of our industry.”

“I’ve always been an environmentalist at heart, stemming from my early interest in wildlife. I have always tried to influence people in the safe and proper use of pesticides. One of the things I’m proud of was the legislation we developed while I served on the Conservation Committee

‘It is necessary to remember that humans are part of the environment too. Their needs and survival are just as important as the snail darter and the spotted owl.’

and Planning Board in New England.

“It is necessary to remember that humans are part of the environment too. Their needs and survival are just as important as the snail darter and the spotted owl. Facts and common sense need to be at the heart of the regulations that are formulated for the protection of the environment.”

“One of the most pressing issues I see facing superintendents today is job security. There is far too much turnover in superintendent positions. Clubs need more continuity so they can develop some good programs and make positive progress.

“This merry-go-round approach to changing club presidents, greens chairman, and greens committees annually just creates turmoil and usually results in turning over the superintendent’s position rather than establishing good working relationships.”

“For people entering this profession, I

must say they cannot be thin-skinned. They should expect to work long, hard hours and pay their dues before becoming a head superintendent. While they are paying their dues, they should develop business management and people-handling skills.

“I strongly urge they also take public speaking and business writing courses. Communications is a key part of the profession today. I also recommend they read a book called *Developing Your Executive Abilities*. It really helped me see the big picture a little better.”

Dick enjoys his work with Growing Technologies, Inc. It keeps him active and involved with an industry he has helped lead and shape. When he isn’t working he enjoys photography, historical reading, and traveling. A trip out west and to Alaska is in the planning stages right now. Enjoy the trip, Dick, and from all of us, thank you, Mr. President!



Dick Blake, right, with GCSAA President Gerald Faubel, CGCS, left, and FGCSA President Joel Jackson, CGCS, at the 1990 Poa Annuia Classic in Naples. Blake is a past president of both organizations.



- New Tree Planting
- Transplanting
- Root Pruning
- Consulting Arborist
- Pruning, Tree & Stump Removal
- Tree Rehabilitation

ARBOR

TREE & LANDSCAPE
INC.

— Complete Professional Arbor Care —

WPB 407-965-2198 • Boca 407-499-4461 • Crystal River 904-795-9007

TERRA

Positioned to Meet Industry Needs

*Professional Turf ♦ Horticulture
Vegetation Management ♦ Pest Control*

No matter what business you're in, we get the products to you when and where you need them. And that leaves you with more time to do what you do best—run your business.

Think of Terra as your business partner. Our goal is to supply you with a complete line of chemical, fertilizer and seed products that is supported by the best technical advice available in the industry today.

The Terra product line includes pesticides and adjuvants from all of the major manufacturers, plus our own quality Riverside brand. Fertilizers and seeds are supplied by the best producers in the industry.

Complete soil and plant tissue analyses and fertility recommendations are also available.



Call your nearest Terra location today!



When it comes to service ... We're your best shot!

Design, sales, installation and service of all types of golf course irrigation pump systems. Fully stocked warehouse with the most pump equipment in South Florida.

Fully equipped, radio dispatch trucks provide 24 hour emergency service.

Complete crane service.

Inhouse pump & motor repair.

Licensed Electrical Contractors.



- Otterbine Aerators
- EPS Landscape Pump Station
- Wesco Fountains
- Lightning Protection Equipment
- Clayton Valve Parts
- Wessels Hydropneumatic Tanks
- Self Cleaning Intake Screen



Fla. EC-1117

(407) 588-5886

WANTED!

ARTICLES & PHOTOGRAPHS

- Course Management
- Construction
- Equipment Maintenance & Use & Care
- Irrigation
- Spray Techniques
- Mowing Techniques
- Personnel Management
- Environmental Management
- Wildlife Management
- Employer Relations
- Golfer Relations
- Regulatory Compliance
- Staff Relations
- Member Relations
- Administration & Organization
- Budgeting
- Records & Documentation
- Computer Use

The Florida Green



**Your Knowledge & Experience
Is Our Profession's Most Valuable Asset.**

**DON'T KEEP US IN
THE DARK!**



**WE PAY TOP DOLLAR!
FGCSA: 1-800-732-6053**

1993 FGCSA
President's Awards

Hugh Bebout

Dick Blake

Don Delaney

Karl Jacobs

Ed Ramey

Native son shines in Sunshine State

BY JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

Golf course superintendents come to their profession by many paths. Don Delaney's path was short and direct. It ran from the back door of his home in Avon Park, where he was born, right into the second tee of the Rivergreens Golf Club.

The golf course was his playground when he was a kid, and it became his weekend and summer workplace as a high school student.

Don was very involved in junior golf and dreamed of someday becoming a professional on the PGA Tour. Dreams are sometimes tempered by reality. When the necessary level of golf skills didn't develop, Don found himself in the school's guidance counselor's office making other plans for college.

Don told the counselor he liked working outdoors and he loved golf. The counselor looked through his stacks of literature and came up with a course catalog from Lake City Community College, home of an outstanding Golf Course Operations program.

Don's first OJT summer assignment was working for Arlin Grant at the Innisbrook Golf Club and Resort near Clearwater.

"It was my first exposure to a large, first-class golf operation," Don recollected, "It really opened my eyes to the possibilities in this business, and that helped motivate me through the rest of my schooling."

In 1973, Don graduated with an Associate of Science degree in golf and landscape operations, and began his career with a two-year stay at Sea Pines Plantation on Hilton Head Island, S.C.

He returned to Florida and was the superintendent at Seven Springs Golf Club in New Port Richey for four years.

He moved south to St. Petersburg where he served for nine years as the manager of golf and landscape operations for the Isla del Sol Golf Club and the Ventura Golf Club in Orlando.

Don's service to the FGCSA began as he served on the board of directors of the West Coast Chapter.

That involvement led to six years on the FGCSA board serving several terms as a director and rotating through the chairs of the executive committee. He was president of the association in 1983-84.

Don also served for four years on committees of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. His work on the longrange certification plan helped lay the groundwork for the successful Certified Golf Course Superintendent program.

One of Don's greatest accomplishments for the FGCSA was organizing the voting delegate concept. It took many long hours to secure the participation and proxy votes of the many GCSAA members scattered over the nine or ten chapters throughout the state. With this bloc vote, Florida became a stronger voice in the future of the GCSAA.

In 1988, Don made a career change within the industry. He left Isla del Sol to become the Turf Division sales manager for Zaun Equipment Company in Longwood.

From this vantage point Don offers some valuable but unfortunately troubling observations about the superintendent profession.

"When I was active in the FGCSA and GCSAA, I was surrounded by people who were motivated professionals in this business. It is easy to get comfortable and think this is the way everybody is con-

'I was honored that my contributions were remembered and appreciated. The award also told me that my former peers were telling me that I still had credibility with them and that is very special and important to me.'



Don Delaney



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL AT LARGE SUPERINTENDENT CATEGORY

FLORIDA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

Applicant Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Club Name: _____

Address: _____

Work Phone: _____ Class A ____ Class B ____ Other ____

Present Title/Position: _____ How Long: _____

WORK EXPERIENCE:

Club	Address	Position	Years
1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____

Are you a member of the ____ GCSAA ____ FTGA ____ Other (List) _____

Each superintendent applicant for an At Large Membership must demonstrate a hardship which prevents him/her from being a member of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association via a local association. Please list below the reasons for applying for this special membership category.

Personal References in this profession: 1) _____

2) _____

If approved, I promise to uphold and abide by the By Laws and Code of Ethics of the FGCSA.

Date: _____ 199____ Signed: _____

(Signature of Applicant)

MAIL APPLICATION and \$70.00 DUES TO: 1-800-732-6053.
FGCSA Office, 1760 NW Pine Lake Dr., Stuart, FL 34994.

Received: _____ \$70.00 Dues Received: _____

Reviewed/Approved: _____

ducting business: professional... dedicated... complying with regulations... attending seminars... continually getting educated.

"I have to tell you that I'm getting a different picture when I visit some golf courses. I see careless and unprofessional operations that are downright scary from equipment maintenance to chemical handling. The image of the professional superintendent that has made such great strides recently may be getting set up for a fall if some of these people don't clean up their acts."

"I also see the growing trend of club owners and members trying to shift all the responsibility of running their clubs onto a management company. This is of course weakening the superintendent's position. They become less powerful and less responsible in the decision making process.

"Purchasing decisions are placed in the hands of a regional manager and bottom-line profit for the management company is placed above quality of product and service. This results ultimately in a decline of the condition of the course.

"Unless the management company is dedicated to quality, and there are precious few who are, they will not attract a strong, versatile, well-trained superintendent. That kind of situation will tarnish the image of the superintendent profession.

"This trend does not bode well for a profession becoming saturated with more turf graduates. Twenty years ago, I left school and took a job as an assistant superintendent. The superintendent left for another job and I was promoted to head superintendent at the tender age of 19!

"I had no business being a superintendent at that age, but I managed to make it because there weren't that many trained people out there beating the streets.

"These turf schools have been turning out students for 20 years. Everybody's educated now. It's going to take a longer time to reach that goal of becoming a head superintendent.

"A new graduate who really loves this profession will take a job as a spray tech, an irrigation tech, a crew foreman, or whatever. Then they need to get involved

into their local superintendent associations and start learning the ropes from the top superintendents in their area.

"The superstars will rise and be recognized, and the others will be weeded out."

"I want to thank the Central Florida Chapter and the FGCSA for my President's Award. I got pretty choked up when Chuck handed me that plaque.

"I had to give Chuck some information for the presentation so it wasn't a surprise. But when the time came to give

my prepared acceptance speech, I couldn't get much out of my mouth except, "Thank you."

"What made it special to me was that I had left the superintendent side of the business, and I was honored that my contributions were remembered and appreciated. The award also told me that my former peers were telling me that I still had credibility with them and that is very special and important to me."



To protect the ever increasing value of your maturing trees, you'll want to select the very best arborists available. ASK. Is there really a difference between one contractor and another?

COMPARE the technical expertise, serviceability and response, cost effectiveness, hazard prevention, and financial strength to bond performance. You'll find there are no more technically specialized, personally responsive professionals than at . . .



ARBOR CARE

a division of
ENVIRONMENTAL CARE, INC.

a subsidiary of environmental industries, inc.

7825 Lantana Road • Lake Worth, Florida 33467 • (407) 434-1493

Throughout the State of Florida, as well as Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Nevada, and Texas.

Reprinted from the
Oct. 16 issue of
Golfweek

It's overseeding time, and for the first time in my 20-year career as a superintendent, I'm not overseeding!

For most Sun Belt courses, which have a winter golfing season instead of snowmobile races, overseeding of greens is not an option, but a necessity to ensure that golfers putt on grass instead of dirt. The bermudagrass greens found on the majority of southern courses

turn brown and go dormant during the winter, except in the southernmost regions, such as South Florida.

Overseeding with a cool-season grass, such as perennial rye or bentgrass, provides green color and a growing putting surface while providing protection to the dormant bermudagrass until temperatures warm up.

These grasses are more familiar to winter visitors from the North, so many of them expect and/or demand overseeded greens while they are down South.

Predicting weather is extremely risky, so even in South Florida many superintendents choose to overseed as insurance against the cold. Even if temperatures never get low enough to cause dormancy, the slower growth rate of bermudagrass in cool weather may be insufficient to allow recovery from heavy winter traffic. Greens could get beat to dirt even in a mild winter on small, poorly drained greens subjected to 250 rounds a day. The decision to overseed is given careful consideration,

based on an evaluation of factors at each club.

For instance, in my case (at the private Palm Beach National Golf & Country Club in Lake Worth), the compelling criterion to overseed for the past 14 years has been based on cold weather concerns. Actually, my greens were so contaminated with various bermudagrasses that the uniformity and consistency of overseeding was a vast improvement, and judicious use of fertilizers and activated charcoal have been able to negate the effects of cold snaps during a typical winter. In this area, the non-overseeded clubs have educated their members to accept the occasional cold-induced purplish color of Tifdwarf bermudagrass.

Many resort or daily-fee courses feel their clientele want bright green tees and greens no matter what, so overseeding is standard operating procedure.

The reason I decided not to overseed this year is because we rebuilt four more greens this summer. I now have 14 of 20 greens rebuilt to larger size, better drainage and excellent, consistent Tifdwarf. I no longer need to overseed to hide my Heinz 57 mongrels. Other important factors in my decision were the cost savings of not overseeding, and the elimination of the disruptive three-week overseeding establishment period.

I am confident that I am making the right decision given my circumstances, but I'm still nervous about the uncontrollable weather factor. (The armchair superintendents at my club will let me know in mid-season if they think I made the wrong decision.)

Wish me luck.

**Wish
me
luck!**

**Mark
my words**



Mark Jirrell
Mark Jirrell, CGCS



**Golf
Ventures**

In 1986,
there were
two of us
starting with
flagpoles
and rakes . . .

We've Come A Long Way...



NOW, we have a
22,000 sq. ft. warehouse
and have become
a full line
turf house and
distributor of
golf course
maintenance
products.

We can supply the fertilizer to feed the greens, the mowers to cut and trim,
even the cups and rakes to complete the job. Our warehouse contains the
greatest names to meet your toughest challenge.

*Lykes Agri Sales
Ringer Turf Products
Helena Chemical Co.
Club Car Carryall*

*Cushman
Ransomes Turf Equipment
Ryan*

*Standard Golf Co.
Par Aide Products
Lewisline American Eagle
Daihatsu Hijet*

2101 EAST EDGEWOOD DRIVE
LAKELAND, FLORIDA 33803
1-800-330-8874 • (813) 665-5800 • FAX (813) 667-0888

Golf Ventures
a complete line of golf course products



Lake City Alumni raise \$5,000

The Lake City Community College Alumni Association held its annual fund-raising golf tournament in Tampa this year with great success. Played on the challenging TPC at Cheval golf course, over 100 alumni and friends turned out for the event. Jim Curry from the Class of '81 won the low gross honors with a solid 75. In keeping with past years, the Class of '81 also took the team title for a record 12th straight year.

The highlight of the events centered on the cocktail reception that night. At the reception co-chairman David Cheesman presented John Piersol, coordinator of LCCC Golf Course Operations Program, with a check for \$5,000 from proceeds generated at the event. This money will go into the college endowment fund.

If you missed this year, next year's tournament will be held on Sept. 17 prior to the FTGA Conference in Fort Lauderdale. If you didn't receive any information on this year's event, please call us at 813-886-0001 and we will make sure you get added to the mailing list. Or you can contact one of the committee members listed below. Once again, thanks go out to all who helped to make this year's event the best ever, especially Cindy Clayton and all the student volunteers.

Also, a very big thank you goes to our sponsors who were generous with their support. We encourage all our alumni to support these companies which help us and the college.

Diamond Sponsors - \$1,000

The Toro company
RSI Holdings

Golf Ventures Inc.
The Bunton Company

The Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association

Gold Sponsors - \$300

Sullivan Electric and Pump
Precision Small Engine
Terra Southern Corporation
DowElanco Products
Golf Agronomics
ISS Golf Services
Central Florida Turf
South Florida GCSA
Turf Merchants
M&A Services, Inc.
Rhone Poulenc Ag, Inc.
Ridge Chapter GCSA
Palm Beach GCSA
Treasure Coast GCSA
Lewis Equipment Co.
Environmental Waterway
Southern Corp Promotions
The Selvig Corporation

Mariner Properties
Hughey & Assoc Construction
R.S. Walsh Landscaping, Inc.
Guettler & Sons, Inc.
Gene Bates Golf Design
Everglades GCSA
Almar Chemical
United Horticulture Supply
Purzell industries Inc.
E.R. Jahna Industries
Florida Design Comm.
Lesco Inc.
Harrell's Inc.
Bulk Aggregate Supply
Bridges Equipment
Ciba-Geigy
Vigoro Industries, Inc.

Sunniland Corporation
Agronomic Resources
Pete Dye & Associates
Sandoz Agro, Inc.
Nucrane Corporation
Brennen Golf Sales Co.
The Ed Nix Company
Tifton Turf Farms, Inc.
Go For Supply
Powell Golf Design
Florida Carter Corp.
Timber Trails, Inc.
Fairway Yardage Design
Dr. Jerry Cheesman
Convault Florida, Inc.
Hoechst-Roussel
Hidden Acres Nursery
Miles, Inc., Specialty Products

LCCC Alumni Committee Members

Scott Zakany, Co-Chairman
Tom Benefield
Randy Waldron
Alan Puckett

Dave Fry
Brad Reano
David Cheesman
John Gallagher

Glenn Zakany
Walt McMayon
Tim Cann

