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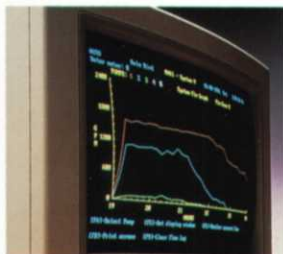


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Over the next couple of months, an important issue concerning chapter affiliations with the GCSAA, will need to be addressed by all local chapters of the Florida Golf Course

Superintendents Association. If the proposed amendments to the GCSAA by laws are accepted at the Conference and Show in Orlando this coming February, each local chapter will be asked to sign an affiliation agreement no later than January 1, 1997 in order to be affiliated with the GCSAA.

My personal opinion is that all of the local chapters should affiliate with the GCSAA. There are a couple of good reasons why. At this time, it does not look as if the GCSAA would recognize local chapters if the only affiliated chapter in the state is the FGCSA. Therefore, all local chapters would *only have a voice in Florida* and all interaction with the GCSAA would have to funnel through the state association. As some chapters are very active in local and national affairs, the sensible choice is to affiliate.

Another important point is that the GCSAA will allow only one delegate per affiliated chapter to attend the Annual September Chapter Relations Meeting in Lawrence. With the FGCSA having over 800 members, it is important to have more than one representative at this informative meeting. If all chapters were to affiliate, we would be able to send 10 delegates. If our only affiliated chapter is the FGCSA, we would be able to send only one delegate.

As President of the FGCSA, I have taken a stand on the GCSAA affiliation process. It is best, that the local chapters in the state sign the agreement, upon its approval in Orlando. However, I do not

want to see the destruction of the FGCSA because of this. I want to remind everyone that the very reason the FGCSA was formed was to unify the golf course superintendents in Florida and give them a strong voice when it came to national affairs. The FGCSA has the largest voting block within the GCSAA and is recognized nationally as a strong and well organized association. From our award winning magazine "The Florida Green" to our own research green, we have come a long way in a few short years.

Something else everyone should keep in mind is that the FGCSA has always taken a pro-active role in finding ways to support and improve our great industry. Our contributions to research funding and scholastic programs continue to increase each and every year. Many industrial leaders are teamed with the FGCSA to ensure that these funds and programs have the necessary money and equipment it takes to keep them in existence.

Most of all, the FGCSA has some truly excellent superintendents throughout the state. They give endless hours in helping make others truly understand and appreciate the profession of the golf course superintendent and our all so very important influences on the game of golf.

Let's keep our *family*, the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association, intact. Let's continue to be the proven leaders that we are among our peers. We should accept the affiliation agreement with the GCSAA, but not at the expense of our association, the *FGCSA!* The current affiliation between the state and the local chapters should not change.

In closing, may the love and happiness of the Holiday Season be with you and your families now and throughout the New Year.

Keep the family intact



Greg Plotner, CGCS
President
FGCSA

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Billy Wright: A Man of Many Talents

BY DAVID COURT, CGCSA

It was back in 1978 when the South Florida Chapter of the FGCSA consisted of six counties: Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, St. Lucie, Martin and Indian River. At that time it was decided by several key people that the association was too large and needed to be divided into smaller groups. Out of this came a new association called Tri-County GCSA, and one year later divided again into what is now the Palm Beach GCSA.

Leading this change of action were superintendents Bob Strait, George Cavanaugh, Otto Schmeisser, Carl Smith, Carl McKinney, Bill Kriegal and Billy Wright. Billy, a member of the founding board of directors, started out as the treasurer and in the second year of its existence became president of the newly-formed association.

Billy has been in the golf business for some time now. In fact, he was mowing greens for summer work at the Peachtree Golf Club before many of our current superintendents were born. His career was interrupted by Uncle Sam in 1967. For two years he served as staff sergeant in the First Infantry Division Rifle Company. While in Vietnam he earned the Bronze Star, the Combat Infantry Badge, and the Air Medal. Perhaps this is where he developed his expertise in bunker construction.

Back in the states, the native Georgian came to work as the superintendent of Arvida's Boca West Country Club, where he constructed and maintained the first two courses. In 1973 Billy headed a few miles north to Delray Beach, where he supervised the construction and maintenance of Villa Del Ray Golf Club. In 1980, it was back to the now Arvida/Disney Corporation at the Boca West Club, this time as the Director of Golf Courses and Landscape Operations. From 1981 to 1985, Boca West was the site of the nationally-televised Chrysler Team Championship, a PGA event.

With the membership purchase of the club, Billy has remained at Boca West. He has taken the courses to their best condition ever. As we know, great leaders have great people working under them,

President's Award Winners: 1995

Mike Barger
Paul Frank
Billy Wright

and Billy is no exception. Karen Mital has been his secretary for ten years. Augie Montes, the head mechanic, has been in his position for fifteen years, while Don Kirk has served Billy since 1970 initially as the landscape superintendent and now as shop foreman. Each of the four courses at Boca West has its own superintendent.

In the event he should ever want to leave the turf business, Billy has other interests. Billy can also sell real estate, pilot a single-engine aircraft and captain 100-ton vessels — and he has the licenses to prove it

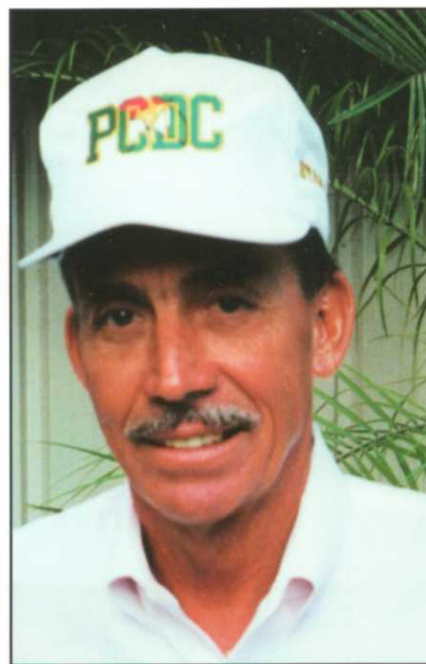
Scott Spara, Paul Housewright, Bill Henderson and Andy Lemmel make up the four who give the courses their individual attention.

Over the years, Billy has had several members of his staff go on to improve their careers and become quite successful. Mark Sigfried took a position with Lesco, Steve LaFrance is the superintendent at Jacksonville's Marsh Landing Golf Club and Randy Waldron is the superintendent at the Golf Club of Georgia, outside of Atlanta.

Construction has been the challenge at Boca West over the past eight years. They have regrassed greens on all four courses, dug lakes, lengthened holes, and completed other similar projects which

the large membership demands. Next year's project will be the reconstruction of the entire #1 course. The club is currently under a \$24 million facelift — at that price you get the whole body, too.

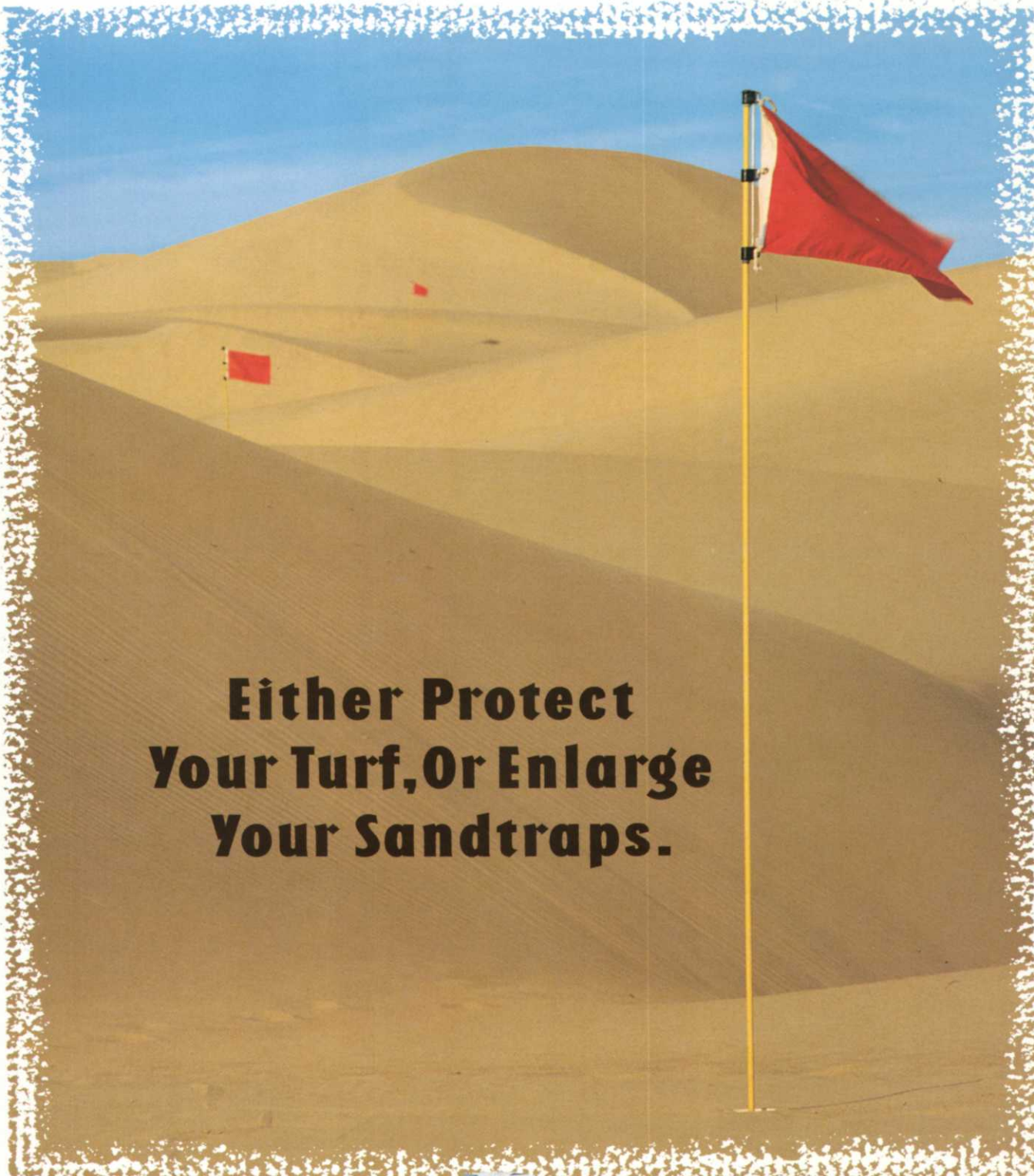
In the event he should ever want to leave the turf business, Billy has other interests. Billy can also sell real estate, pilot a single-engine aircraft and captain 100-ton vessels — and he has the licenses to prove it! I don't know where he found the time to do all this, but I do know that it makes all kinds of careers possible for Billy. Perhaps he could sell intercoastal real estate while being a captain on the water taxi!



Billy Wright

Billy doesn't usually take lunch breaks; instead, he runs to keep in good physical shape. His other pastime is fishing on his boat, aptly named "Shin Splints." Maybe running has taken its toll after all.

Billy is a special person to all of us here in Palm Beach County, as well as to his many friends throughout Florida, Georgia and Alabama. All the people I contacted for this article have only great admiration and respect for him. Congratulations, Billy, on being a recipient of the President's Award. You deservedly join a fine group of individuals who have received this recognition.



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Mark Jarrell receives Wreath Of Grass Award

BY DAVID BAILEY

The Florida Turfgrass Association awarded the 1995 "Wreath of Grass" to Mark Jarrell at the annual FTGA meeting last October in Tampa, Florida. The Wreath of Grass is the FTGA's highest honor.

Mark is affiliated with the Palm Beach National Golf Club in Lake Worth. A graduate of the University of Florida in 1973, Mark is one of the last students to study turfgrass management under the legendary Dr. G. C. Horn. Mark is one of the avid Gator alumni that has enjoyed success this fall on and off the football field.

Mark has been an FTGA member and office holder for over twenty years. He is a past president of both the Palm Beach GCSA and the Florida GCSA. He has served on numerous IFAS and local county agricultural councils. Mark has been our journalism representative for GOLF WEEK magazine for nearly ten years. He currently serves as assistant editor for The Florida Green magazine.

Mark has now received both of the highest honors in the state from his profession. He received the Florida GCSA "Distinguished Service Award" in 1988.

One of Mark's closest friends and fellow superintendents said it best, "Mark is the ultimate behind the scenes leader. When any group needs a worker, Mark is there. We have all benefited from his countless hours of work and dedication. Every golfer in the state owes him a thank you."

Mark Jarrell leaves big footsteps for others to follow.



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