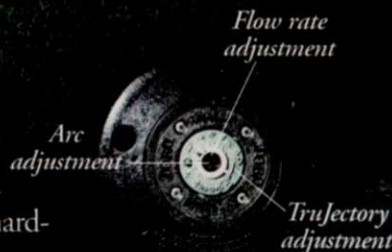


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The Great Outdoors Resort
135 Plantation Drive
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Secretary/Treasurer David Court, CGCS
Boca Lago Country Club
8665 Juego Way
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Past President Darren Davis
Olde Florida Golf Club
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(941) 353-4441

Directors

Calusa Mike Mongoven, CGCS
Shell Point
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Treasure Coast Greg Pheneger
John's Island Club
(561) 231-1700

West Coast Eric Joy
Heritage Harbour
(813) 960-9335

Staff

Association Manager Marie Roberts
1760 NW Pine Lake Dr.
Stuart, FL 34994
Phone: Days (561) 692-9349
(800) 732-6053 (Florida WATS)
(561) 692-9654 (Fax)
fgcsa@tcol.net (Email)



Entrance to the
Vinoy Golf Club.
Photo by Daniel
Zelazek.

**FALL
2000**

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AFTERWORDS POLITICS, PHOTOS, JARRELL AND JACKSON 64
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About the use of trade names: The use of trade names in this magazine is solely for the purpose of providing specific information and does not imply endorsement of the products named nor discrimination against similar unnamed products. It is the responsibility of the user to determine that product use is consistent with the directions on the label.

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Editor Joel Jackson, CGCS

FGCSA Director of Communications
Address Florida Green business to:
6780 Tamarind Circle
Orlando, FL 32819
(407) 248-1971 Florida Green voice/fax
E-mail address: FLGrn@aol.com

Assistant Editor Scott Bell

Red Stick GC
P.O. Box 700107
Wabasso, FL 32970
(561) 564-7206
(561) 564-7207 Fax

Publications Chairman Geoff Coggan, CGCS

The Great Outdoors Resort
135 Plantation Drive
Titusville, FL 32780
(321) 269-5004
(727) 268-2406 Fax
Email: geoffc@digital.net

Business Manager Michael Perham, CGCS

Fountains Golf Club
4615 E. Fountains Drive
Lake Worth, FL 33467
(561) 642-2724
(561) 642-5785 Fax

Editor Emeritus Dan Jones, CGCS

West Palm Beach

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EDITORIAL: All inquiries should be directed to the editor, Joel Jackson, CGCS. Unsolicited manuscripts and photographs cannot be returned.

Contributors to this issue:

Cover Story Principal Photographer: Daniel Zelazek

Cover Story Writer and Supplemental Photographer: Joel Jackson, CGCS

Spotlight: Doug Abbuhl, Mike Bailey, Steve Ciardullo, Joe Ondo, CGCS Joel Jackson, CGCS, coordinator

Hands On: Mike Anderson, Stuart Bozeman, Billy Davidson, Doug Higgins, Darren Davis, Jim Shine, Joel Jackson, CGCS, coordinator

Official Business: Erica Santella

Stewardship: Shelly Foy

Afterwords: David Cassidy, Mike Hamilton, Lyne Page, John Stach, Mark Jarrell, CGCS; Joel Jackson, CGCS;

Proofreader: Scott Bell

Production

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Publication Manager Larry Kieffer

311 Havendale Blvd. #300 • P.O. Box 336 • Auburndale, FL 33823
863-967-1385 • Fax 208-730-9175 • janlark@macrevolution.com

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Advertising Information

The Florida Green welcomes advertising inquiries to:

Marie Roberts, Association Manager

1760 NW Pine Lake Drive

Stuart, FL 34994

561-692-9349

800-732-6053 Florida WATS

It is indeed a great honor to serve the FGCSA as your president. I have been a golf course superintendent in the sunshine state for over 20 years and I feel our state sets the standard for the nation with our association's activities.

This has been in no small part due to the hard work and participation by our past presidents and boards of directors and you, our

members. I'd like to thank Darren Davis for his leadership this past year, and I look forward to working with him and our new officers and directors for the coming year. Another part of our great success has been our super staff, Marie Roberts and Joel Jackson. They deserve a lot of credit for managing the daily affairs of the FGCSA.

In the past 20 years we have experienced some

unbelievable changes in our industry. It makes me wonder sometimes what the next decade will bring. The business of golf course management has enjoyed a rich history from innovations in cultural practices, state-of-the-art equipment, improved science, new turfgrasses and the list goes on and on. Who knows what new innovations lie around the next corner that will allow us to do an even better job for our employers, our customers and the environment?

What an exciting time to be a golf course superintendent. The opportunities are certainly plentiful. I believe its critical to keep your mind open and learn to embrace all the changes and challenges that are ahead of us. I would encourage you to strive for daily improvement, allowing this environment of change to push you into becoming a better person at work, at home and in the community.

I'm sure that like many others, I have sometimes allowed success to stop me or at

least slow me down. Don't misunderstand me. Success is good. We all want and need some level of success in our lives. What I'm saying is, that with all that's happening around us, it is easy to get comfortable with past successes, and rest on our laurels.

Too often we come to depend solely on what has worked well for us in the past. This is not all bad, but sometimes it leads to tunnel vision and stagnation. Before you realize it, you get too complacent and do things the same old way even though the world is changing all around you.

Dr. Gene Nutter, founder of the Lake City School for Golf course Operations, once told me, "Each time you go out onto the golf course, try to pretend it's your first time. Use all your senses to evaluate the operation with an open mind. Don't always expect to use yesterday's information to solve all of today's problems."

While I agree that experience is a great teacher, don't let old routines cloud your creativity. Remember when predicting the future the only thing we can say will be for certain is change.

As for the FGCSA's future I was asked recently what my presidential agenda would be. I said I didn't have an agenda but I do have some goals. I'd like to:

1. Continue to build alliances with the FTGA and other related associations, including the golf course owners and club managers, to better position the whole industry as united on critical issues.

2. Develop as much support for our local chapters as possible, allowing them the opportunity to continue their great work at the local level with help from the state when needed.

3. Support a more proactive approach by individual members to get involved in local issues that affect the industry. With involvement our members become part of the solution.

Feel free to call me directly at 727-894-5500 if I can assist you.

Yesterday's Solutions May Not Work Today

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Cary Lewis, CGCSA
President
FGCSA

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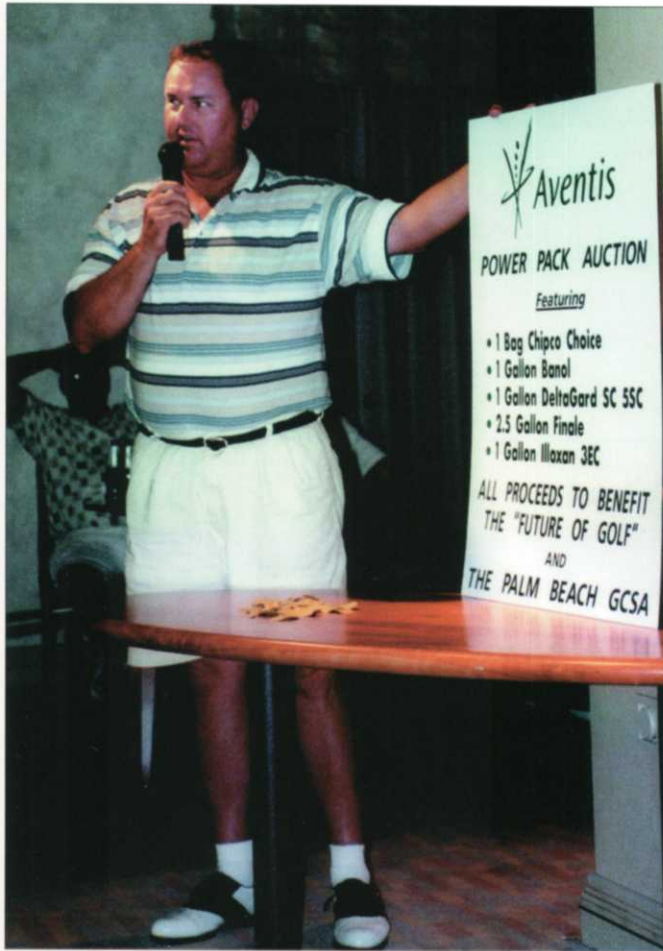
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Steve Pearson, CGCS, conducts the Aventis Product Auction at the Palm Beach chapter's annual Future of Golf tournament.

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.

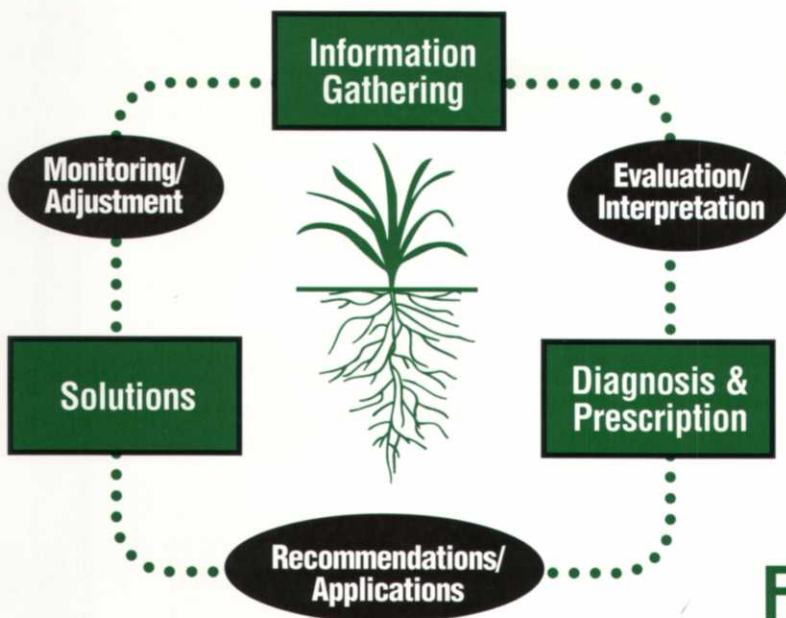
Host superintendent Steve Pearson, CGCS had the greens rolling so fast that you didn't want to



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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