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*Dwight "Butch" Singo was the pleasantly surprised recipient of the 2005 Larry Kamphaus Award at the Crowfoot Reception. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

## **Central Florida GCSA hosts 29th Annual Larry Kamphaus Crowfoot Open**

The New Course at Grand Cypress was the 2005 host for the 29th Larry Kamphaus Crowfoot Open. The course is modeled after The Old Course in St. Andrews, Scotland. Complete with huge double green, fairway pot bunkers and diabolical mounding, the Jack Nicklaus-designed layout proved to be a challenge for all who played. Meeting that challenge most effectively was Steve Bernard, superintendent of the Adios CC in Coconut Creek. Bernard carded a sweet score of 3-under-par 69 to take low gross Individual honors and earn a berth on the FGCSA Golf Team to com-

scored well in the tournament.

Resorting to a loose interpretation of the Ridge Rules section on eligibility, the Chapter Team Division was captured by the Central Florida GCSA quartet of Craig Dale, John Kopak, Stuart Leventhal and Scott Zakany. Each member of the team scored at least plus-8 points in the Stableford competition. Zakany, who has a traveling membership in several chapters, was selected as the wild card member of the four-some.

During the annual Crowfoot Reception held at the Grand Cypress clubhouse, Butch Singo of Harrell's was named the 2005 recipient of the Larry Kamphaus Award. Kamphaus, who served as chairman of the Crowfoot Open for 13 years, was a manager of golf course maintenance at Disney World for nearly 30 years. The award was initiated to recognize golf industry notables who exemplify the principles that Larry

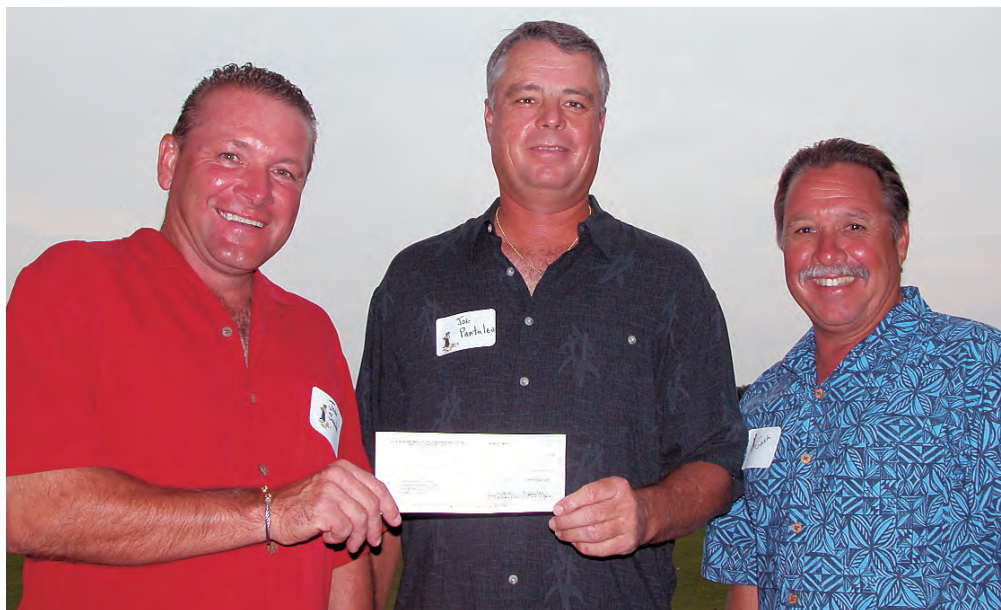


*Steve Bernard from the Adios C.C. in south Florida played his way onto the FGCSA Golf Team by winning the Crowfoot Open with a fine 69 on the Grand Cypress New Course. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

lived and worked by in service to his employer and his church and community.

Singo, who now lives in Deland and covers the

pete in the 2006 GCSAA Golf Championship to be held in Houston next February. See the sidebar for the names of others who



*Joe Pantaleo, FGCSA president, center, accepts a \$3,000 turf research donation check from John Swaner, left, and Dale Mitchell of Golf Agronomic Supply & Handling. GASH has donated more than \$50,000 to the FGCSA research fund over the years. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

The 29th Larry Kamphaus  
**Crowfoot  
Open**

Special thanks and appreciation  
to the companies that made this  
event a success



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*Quick witted Crowfoot Chairman and host Tom Alex doesn't mind laughing at himself as he emcees the annual Crowfoot Reception Raffle. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

northeast Florida and south-east Georgia territory for Harrell's, is a former golf course superintendent and past president of the Central Florida chapter. The unpretentious, loyal Singo continues his volunteer services as the education chairman for the North Florida GCSA. His years of unselfish service to others

earned him this well-deserved recognition.

Crowfoot Chairman Tom Alex, 20-year veteran director of grounds maintenance for Grand Cypress, was his usual comical self as he emceed the door prize raffle. Meanwhile, New Course Superintendent David Hill and his staff were all about the

serious business of preparing the course for the tournament for a jury of his peers. The verdict is in – great job David! We do have one word about some of the pin placements however – ouch!

This first-class event comes off successfully every year thanks to the support of our sponsors. Special thanks to Title Sponsor Coastal Equipment Systems and Presenting Sponsors: Harrell's Inc. (Crowfoot Reception); Howard Fertilizer & Chemical (Golf Tournament) and Wesco Turf Supply, Inc. (Awards Luncheon). And none of this would work smoothly without the efforts of Lisa McDowell and her parents Jan and Bob Lloyd who take care of all the details for the Crowfoot Committee: Tom Alex, Dwight Kummer, Joel Jackson, Stuart Leventhal and Joe Ondo.

And speaking of sponsors, we'd like to thank Golf Agronomics Supply & Handling — or GASH, as the company is more commonly called — for its generous ongoing turf research donations. The guys from GASH presented a check for \$3,000 to the FGCSA which brings their total contributions to more \$50,000.

I am sure Larry

***The guys from GASH presented a check for \$3,000 to the FGCSA which brings their total contributions to more \$50,000.***

Kamphaus is looking down on us and smiling, knowing that everyone is supporting the Crowfoot and enjoying the competition and friendships that each year brings.

*Joe Ondo, CGCS*

**Crowfoot Golf Results**

**SUPERINTENDENT DIVISION**

**A Flight**

Low Gross: Steve Bernard (69)

Low Net: Andy Neiswander

**B Flight**

Low Gross: Scott Zakany

Low Net: Stuart Leventhal

**C Flight**

Low Gross: John Kopak

Low Net: Craig Dale

**SUPPLIER DIVISION**

**A Flight**

Low Gross: Dean Refram (66)

Low Net: John Swaner

**B Flight**

Low Gross: Fred Marshall

Low Net: Don Delaney

**C Flight**

Low Gross: Butch Gill

Low Net: Mike Pool

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*Rick Wahl – Golf Course Superintendent  
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**Number 2**  
**Par 5, 563 yards**  
**Lake Nona G&CC**  
**Photo by Daniel Zelazek**



**THE LAKE NONA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB**

# Exceeding Expectations

*By Joel Jackson, CGCS*

Metropolitan Orlando is home to three very high-profile, golf-centric communities: Bay Hill, Isleworth and Lake Nona. Since Orlando is a world vacation destination, the Orlando International Airport is one of the nation's busiest, but also one of the most accessible. Combine that fact with year-round golfing weather and Lake Nona's location near the airport and it's easy to see why so many international golf professionals have made Lake

Nona their U.S. home. Lake Nona is situated in southeast Orange County and the lake itself is part of an extensive watershed of lakes, creeks and wetlands which are all part of the upper Kissimmee River basin.

I'd love to regale you with insider stories about golf shoot-outs among the residents of this exclusive Golf League of Nations, but we respect the privacy of these golf stars when they are at home.

Besides that, I don't know any.

If you want to see the Lake Nona stars in action with a local flavor, you can tune in to the Golf Channel every spring to watch the Tavistock Cup, which pits golf professionals from Lake Nona and Isleworth G&CC in a friendly head-to-head competition for bragging rights. Both communities are owned by the Tavistock Group, hence the name.

Our story is about the people and practices that are employed to maintain and improve the "home



*The par-5, 578-yard 15th hole curves along the north shore of Buck Lake. Photo by Daniel Zelazek*

course” for these touring professionals and the local members of this prestigious country club.

One of the key people at any golf course is the superintendent. Brett Harris has been at Lake Nona for 14 years, first as an assistant to Ken Glover in 1991 and the last 11 years as the golf course superintendent. Harris took over in 1994 when Glover went overseas to manage a course in Saudi Arabia. Harris came to Lake Nona with Glover from Grand Cypress where Harris was an irrigation technician for superintendent Tom Alex.

Harris had an extensive background in golf course and landscape work in the Hilton Head, S.C. area, including Palmetto Dunes, Harbour Town and Haig Point. He also spent more than six years in the landscape business, working for landscape architect David Spencer of Spencer Green Goods on Hilton Head and he even had his own landscape company for two years before moving to Florida.

As a veteran who has watched Lake Nona grow, Harris said, “This is a player’s club. We have a large contingent of low-handicap golfers. Our mission is to provide the most consistent, high-quality golf experience each and every day for all our members.”

To accomplish that mission, Harris has 30 employees.

“We touch every playing surface every day,” he explained. “That means mowing greens, tees, collars, greens surrounds, fairways and roughs every day. We may miss fairways one day, but it is rare. That also means the bunkers are checked and raked daily along with the usual course setup and detailing.

“If we have a challenge, it is to

keep all 18 holes playing consistently given some of the soil differences. We have a range of soil types from sandy to sandy loam to heavier muck. A few holes on the back nine have to be managed differently when we get into rainy periods. That’s why we have a drainage program in place to help solve excess moisture situations.”

That’s not the only program going on at Lake Nona.

According to Harris recent master planning called for renovating greens, upgrading irrigation, lengthening the course, and improving drainage. In 2001 the greens were regrassed to TifEagle ultradwarf bermudagrass and the irrigation system gained a new pump station and operating control system (Rainbird Stratus 2).

“The new pump station has a phone paging system so that if the pump goes down during the night, it calls me and reports the failure,” Harris said. “However, the kicker is that it also has an automatic restart feature. It will try to automatically restart three times. After the third time it says, ‘I must have a real bad problem. I’d better wait till Brett gets here!’ Whoever invented that automatic restart gizmo deserves a medal. It’s great.”

During the irrigation upgrade, a double-head system was installed around the greens so the putting surfaces and



*Early morning on the par-3, 157-yard 13th hole. Photo by Daniel Zelazek*



slope and surrounds could be managed separately, saving water and fertigation costs. Additionally, some new lateral lines were installed to cover areas up and down the fairways and roughs that were not adequately covered by the normal double-row system. Also, Harris said that they installed a mist head system for the bunkers to help irrigate the steep turf areas more effectively. We all know the overthrow by the big turf heads don't always provide good penetrating moisture for these high-and-dry knobs and mounds along the bunkers.

"We stretched the course out another couple of hundred yards by adding new Black Tees" Harris said. "The course now measures 7,215 yards from the tips, and we moved a couple of cart paths to enhance the landing areas on a few holes. On the new tees we are experimenting with Sealsle1 seashore paspalum to take advantage of its quick-recovery growth habit. We are learning that there will be competition between the paspalum and the surrounding bermudagrass so we will have to monitor that interface and perhaps do some 'chemical edging' with products that will control the paspalum. As I said, we are experimenting with it."

Amid all these improvement projects, Mother Nature threw in a monkey wrench – Hurricane Charley. Lake Nona was no different from hundreds of other courses during the 2004 hurricane season. They lost their share of trees and native areas around the course, but like everyone else they got organized and cleaned up the storm damage and replanted and remodeled



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## Course Facts



Lake Nona Golf & Country Club maintenance staff.

### Lake Nona Golf & Country Club

**Location:** Orlando

**Ownership:** The Tavistock Group

**Playing policy:** Private

**Number of holes:** 18; par 72; 7,215 yards;  
Course Rating/Slope: 74.8/139.

**Designed by** Tom Fazio; built by Wadsworth Construction.

**Opened:** 1987

**Management:** Charles Boesch, club manager; Eric Lane, vice president/director of club operations; Gregor Jameison, director of golf; Scott Blanchard, head golf professional; Brett Harris, golf course superintendent.

**Renovation projects:** Resurface greens with TifEagle; lengthen course with new Black tees; upgrade irrigation system. Install drainage.

**Total acreage:** 123 acres, 96 under maintenance/irrigation

**Greens:** TifEagle. Total 3 acres, avg. size 6,000 sq. ft. HOC: .090 - .105 inches, no overseeding; green speed goals: 9.25 for daily play, 10.0-11.0 for special events and tournaments

**Surrounds:** greenside chipping/collection areas are planted in TifSport for finer leaf blade characteristic. HOC: .375.

**Tees:** Tifway 419 bermudagrass; total 3.0 acres, HOC: .375. Overseeded with ryegrass blend @ 15 lbs./1000 sq. ft. New tees: Sealsle1 seashore paspalum.

Fairways: Tifway 419 bermudagrass; total 45

acres, HOC: .375. Overseeded with ryegrass for Tavistock Cup @ 400 lbs./acre.

**Roughs:** Tifway 419 bermudagrass; total 68 acres. Overseeded with ryegrass blends selected for quick transition for Tavistock Cup @ 300 lbs./acre.

**Bunkers:** 52 type 37M sand; machine-raked with Toro Sand Pro.

**Native areas:** Approximately 5 acres. This expanded during hurricane clean-up. Contain sand, pine straw and native plants.

**Waterways/Lakes:** 8 lakes; edges and banks maintained by outside contractor.

**Irrigation:** Source: Orange County Conserve 1 reclaimed water and deep well. Watertronex pump station with auto restart and phone-page features; Rain Bird Stratus 2 controls; Rain Bird heads with double-row coverage; fertigation system (four tanks).

**Staff:** Total 30 full time including superintendent, scheduled 40 hrs straight time, split week-end and staggered schedules: Monday - Friday, Tuesday - Saturday and Sunday - Thursday.

**Leadership:** Murray Russell and Jay Shipley, assistant superintendents; Brian Sargent, equipment manager; Bob Cody, spray tech and weekend foreman. Robert Scott, administrative assistant.

**Communications:** Biweekly crew/safety meetings.

**Cultural Programs:** Low nitrogen, high potash fertility; deep drill greens in May; actively brush and groom with True Surface Thatch-away equipment during summer season; power brush tees, fairways and roughs twice in the

summer. top dress greens every two weeks in season with bagged green sand.

**Pest Control:** Apply Chipco Choice to 36 acres once per year for mole cricket control; alternate fairways and roughs, targeting chronic areas that have been scouted and mapped. Grubs controlled with Merit applied every other year. All other insect, weed and disease control is done only as needed except for the pre-emergent herbicide applications in the early spring (Ronstar or Barricade on fertilizer) and prior to fall overseeding with Ronstar XL banding and Barricade on non-seeded areas.

**Management Challenges:** We touch every playing surface from tee to green every day. Everything is mowed and/or groomed daily. Trying to make all 18 holes consistent given sandy, sandy loam and mucky soil profiles on various holes requires prescription management to add or withhold cultural practices and nutrition depending on the weather and growth conditions.

**Environmental Management:** Member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System. We use mowing and pest-control setbacks around water features and we cultivate the use of native plants and extensive natural areas along many of the holes. Our use of nitrogen is minimal and we use lots of organic-based fertilizers and foliar feeding in our nutrition program.

**Special events:** Annual Member-Guest, Tavistock Cup and Club Championship Tournaments. We have hosted the Solheim Cup, the World Cup and numerous USGA events.