

OAKWOODS HISTORY...1993-2004

In March of 1993, Oakwoods secured who would become one of the most respected Superintendents in North Carolina, Mike Mizelle. Mike cut his professional teeth at North Ridge Country Club in Raleigh, NC from 1982 – 1993. He began at North Ridge as a part-time employee, but with hard work and a passion for Turfgrass Management he had progressed to an Assistant Superintendent position when he left for Oakwoods Country Club in March, 1993. Originally from Topeka, Kansas Mike grew up in Raleigh attending Millbrook High School prior to graduating from NCSU with an Associate's Degree in Turfgrass Management with a concentration in Agri-Business. Mike attained Certified Golf Course Superintendent status in September, 2005; this is noteworthy as this is achieved by less than 15% of all Superintendents in the U.S. Some of the many significant accomplishments OCC has benefited from during Mike's tenure include vastly improved course contouring, the implementation of important budgetary and cost control processes, installation of a sophisticated course-wide irrigation system, and managing many elements of OCC's 2001 greens restoration project. Mike resides in Wilkesboro with wife Michelle, and kids Christopher and Sarah. The Mizelle family attends Wilkesboro Baptist Church. When not on the course, Mike enjoys hunting, fishing, golf and spending time with his family.

In 1995, a new state-of-the-art irrigation system was installed and guided by Mike, followed by a complete golf course renovation in 2001. The renovation was completed by the noted design firm, Kris Spence Golf. Kris Spence is nationally recognized as one of the leading architects in the design and restoration of classic golf architecture. Thanks to these major improvements and the skilled supervision of Mike Mizelle, the OCC course is considered to be one of the premier layouts in northwest North Carolina.

Bill Greene's retirement presaged the next segment of OCC history when PGA Professional Lee Duncan returned "home" to Oakwoods Country Club in June of 1994, having previously served as an assistant to Bill Greene for 13 months in 1987 and 1988. After a six year stint as Head Golf Professional at The Country Club of South Carolina in Florence, SC, Lee embraced the opportunity "fill the big shoes" left by his friend and mentor. Lee first became familiar with OCC, its course, and its members during his college years at Appalachian State University. Much like Bill, Lee was born in the high country of Boone, North Carolina and was a member of the ASU Golf Team. It was on one of the many "trips down the mountain" to escape the snow that Lee first enjoyed the OCC layout. Little did he know at the time that such a bright future was in store for him in Wilkesboro!

Lee was not only a major force in the progression and growth of OCC, he was active in the community serving for many years on the Wilkes Community College Endowment Board among other things. After ten years of exemplary and loyal service, Lee left Oakwoods in late 2003 to accept a position with the Mid Carolina Club in Prosperity, SC, where he currently serves as the PGA Professional and General Manager. Lee and his family, wife Laura, daughter Caroline, and son Lee Jr. still maintain strong ties with the Club and to Wilkes County.