

First Grounds Tech Grad Looking To The Future

BY SUSAN USHER

A part-time job at Brierwood Golf Course when he was 16 cinched career choices for Adam Evans, then a student at West Brunswick High School.

"I knew I wanted to work outside," the Ash resident recalled. "I was mowing and tending the course. They taught me a lot. I enjoyed it and decided that was probably what I wanted to do."

Six years later, he hasn't changed his mind, only expanded it. He still likes tending turf. But even more he enjoys the magic of taking a bare plot of ground and transforming it into something beautiful, then keeping it that way.

Today he has the right mix of practical experience and education to pursue his goals.

Friday night, on the stage of the Odell Williamson Auditorium,

Evans will receive the first associate degree in recreational grounds management technology awarded by Brunswick Community College. He's one of 281 students eligible to receive a certificate or diploma at graduation, including 165 curriculum program graduates and 116 GED recipients.

Among those in the audience will be his bride. On Aug. 5, Evans was married to BCC graduate Cindy Skipper, a junior education major at UNC Wilmington.

After graduating from West Brunswick, Evans didn't start school immediately. Instead he worked two years in golf course maintenance and residential landscaping in Florida with an associate he'd met at Brierwood.

"Then it was past time to come home," he reflected. "I knew education and going to school was the an-

swer. There were questions coming up at work I couldn't answer. There's always something new to learn in this business."

"But I'm glad I had the opportunity to go to Florida," he said. "It didn't set me back."

He returned just in time to enroll in BCC's new two-year program in recreational grounds management, and was "fortunate enough" to be the only person in that first class to attend school full-time. His three classmates should finish their coursework this coming year, Evans said.

The program's mix of classroom and practical training complemented his past experience, answering a lot of the "whys" he never knew how to answer before.

Through a chance meeting with turf consultant Wilton Harrelson at N.C. State he learned of a possible summer job with Larry Harrelson's landscaping business. Evans and Harrelson connected for the grounds curriculum's summer cooperative work program, and Evans has worked for Harrelson ever since, first part-time, now full-time. "I like the kind of installations he does," said Evans. "It's quality."

In turn Harrelson has become a supporter of and part-time instructor in the curriculum. "It's a great program," he said, impressed with the classroom and practical knowledge students gain over seven quarters of



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER
ADAM EVANS, shown adding finishing touches to the landscape of the Odell Williamson Auditorium landscape, is the first graduate of Brunswick Community College's recreational grounds management technology program.

study.

Evans enjoys both turf management and landscaping, but prefers the creativity and variety associated with landscaping installations.

"On a golf course, if you do it just right, it's always green," he says.

"But something like this," gesturing across the new landscaping of the Odell Williamson Auditorium, "you come in and change it. We can go to a place and in a couple of days we can turn it around."

"This week we're here, next week we may be at Ocean Isle or Sunset Beach."

He would like to eventually have a business of his own both installing

and maintaining landscapes.

"Larry told me, 'You're not going to make a fortune at this, you're going to make a living.'"

"If I can do that and enjoy what I'm doing, that's enough."

Holden Board Cancels Meeting

Holden Beach Commissioners have canceled their regular mid-month meeting scheduled Aug. 24 due to a lack of agenda items.

Town Clerk Joyce Shore said the board's next regular meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 6, at 7 p.m.



STAFF PHOTO BY LYNN CARLSON

100 Years Young

Autumn Care resident Maggie Pickard is shown on her 100th birthday last week. Born Aug. 11, 1894 in Lee County, she said her secret to longevity is that she always worked hard, never smoked or drank, and spent plenty of time with young people. She married Richard Pickard in 1921, and they lived all their married life in Durham. Her children are Yvonne Hewett and husband LaVern of Sea Aire Canal, Holden Beach; Doris Bennett and husband Tom of Rocky Mount; and William E. Pickard of Raleigh. She has four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She has been at Autumn Care since suffering a stroke in 1991 but was active in gardening and sewing well into her 90s.

Happy Birthday Big 5 Christopher Stout



Love, Papa & Grandma Hewett

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Age 46-50	108-121	120-132		232-250
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Age 56-60	147-175	150-166		284-321
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