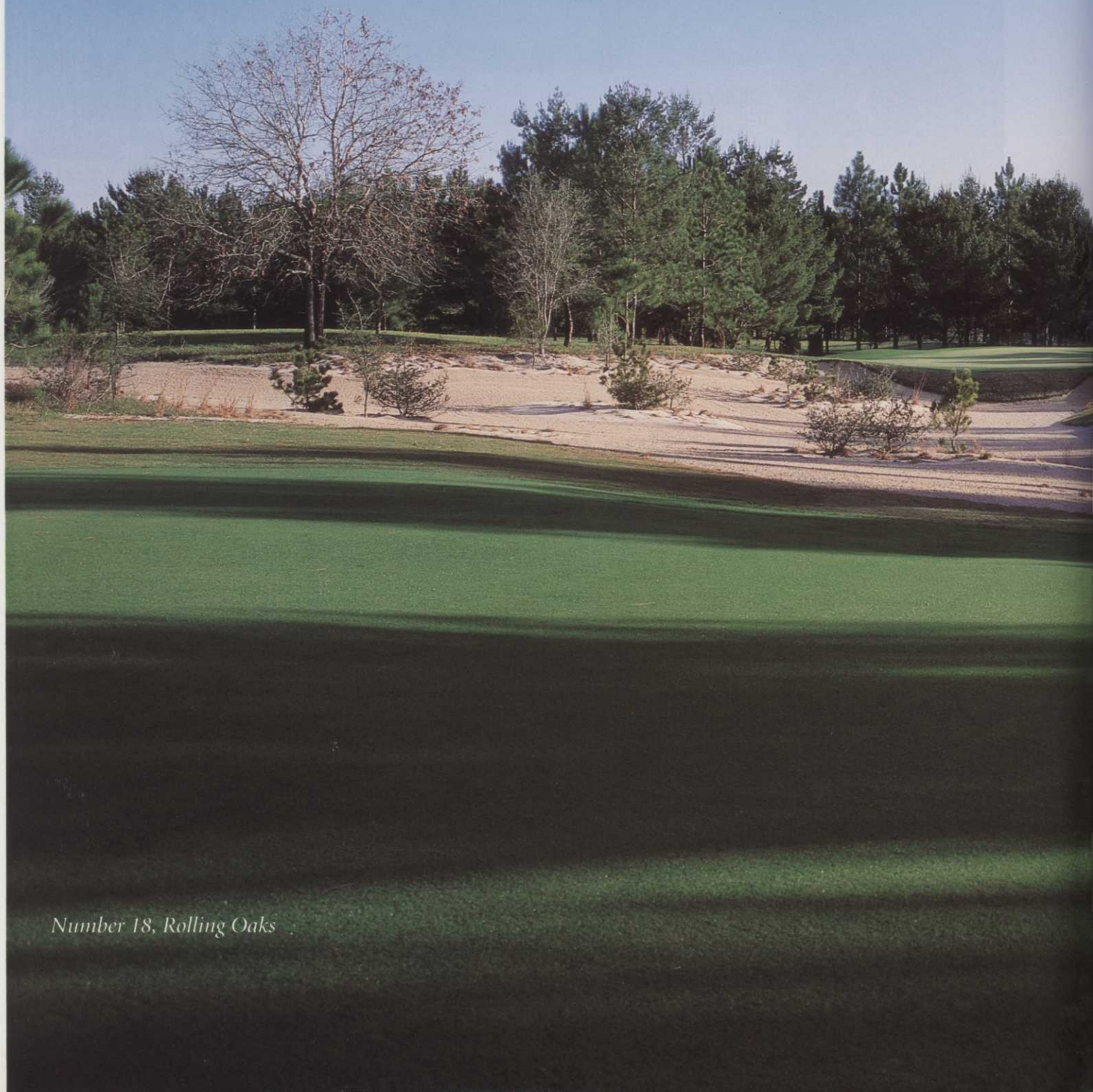


If you go down to the 'V



Number 18, Rolling Oaks



oods' today...

BY JOEL D. JACKSON, CGCS

If you go down to the woods today, you're in for a big surprise.
If you go down to the woods today, you won't believe your eyes...

Those lyrics are from a song called The Teddy Bears Picnic and were part of the theme song for a 1950's Saturday morning radio show.

Well, If you go down to the woods today on US Highway 98 between Brooksville and Homosassa Springs, you will be in for a nice surprise in the form of the World Woods Golf Club. You won't believe your eyes as you ride through this beautiful golf

venue. It is another Fazio Design Group triumph located in West Central Florida just a hop, skip, and a John Daly drive from Fazio's renowned Black Diamond Ranch golf course.

The World Woods Golf Club, like Black Diamond Ranch, is located in the limestone quarry district of Florida, but this time Mr. Fazio and company molded their designs to fit the rolling sandy hills, piney woods, and oak forests of the World Woods site. There are a few rocky outcrops accenting the landscape to remind you that the quarries are nearby.

What the golfing guests will find are two strikingly different 18-hole courses — Pine Barrens and Rolling Oaks — and a 70-acre

World Woods

between
Brooksville and
Homosassa Springs



Name: World Woods Golf Club **Location:** Between Brooksville and Homosassa Springs, Florida

Owner: Mr. Yukihiisa Inoue, Nagoya, Japan

Acting General Manager: Stan Cooke

Golf Professional: Mark Richards

Playing policies: Public play

Designed by: Fazio Golf Course Designers, Inc.

Construction: Pine Barrens Course by Central Florida Turf. Rolling Oaks Course and the Practice Facility by Wadsworth Golf Construction

Opened: February 1993

Two 18-hole championship courses, Pine Barrens and Rolling Oaks. A state-of-the-art Practice Facility consisting of a 9-hole short course; 3 practice holes; a 22-acre, four-sided practice park; and a 55,000 sq. ft. putting green.

Total Acreage: Pine Barrens (105 with 20 acres in bahiagrass); Rolling Oaks (126 with 30 acres in bahiagrass); Practice Facility (60 with 7 acres in bahiagrass).

Tees: Pine Barrens (3.4 acres, 79 tee boxes.); Rolling Oaks (5.8 acres); Practice Facility (5.7 acres). All tees are Tifway 419 hybrid bermuda. They are maintained at a height of 1/2 inch. All tees are overseeded with Lesco's Eagle I Blend at a rate of 15 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft.

Greens: Pine Barrens (2.8 acres, average 6,200 sq. ft.); Rolling Oaks (3.8 acres, average 6,400 sq. ft.); Practice Facility (Short Course and 3 hole Practice Course - 1.7 acres, average 6,010 sq. ft.); Putting Course (55,000 sq. ft.). All greens are Tifdwarf hybrid bermuda. They are maintained at a height of 5/32 - 9/64 inches. Green speeds range from 9.0 in the winter to 8.0 in the summer. All greens are overseeded in the fall with Pennlinks bentgrass at a rate of 6 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft.

Fairways: Pine Barrens (55 acres); Rolling Oaks (38 acres); Practice Facility (29 acres). All fairways are Tifway 419 hybrid bermuda. They are cut at 1/2 inch. The 15-acre practice park fairway is not overseeded. The rest of the fairways are overseeded with Lesco's Eagle I Blend at a rate of 300 lbs. per acre.

Roughs: Pine Barrens (25 acres); Rolling Oaks (50 acres); Practice Facility (13 acres). The rough areas are a combination of Tifway 419 bermuda mowed at 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 inches, and bahiagrass transitional areas (Pine Barrens - 20 acres) mowed at 3 - 4 inches in the summer. Rolling Oaks is the only course that overseeds its roughs using Transtar Intermediate at 250 lbs. per acre. There are approximately 40 acres of native sand "waste bunkers" on the Pine Barrens course. There is also approximately 3 acres of centipedegrass used to contrast the bermuda and bahia areas on the Short Course and Practice Course. It is mowed at 2 - 3 inches during the summer.

Irrigation System: Toro Network 8000 with 61 satellite boxes. Head to head coverage provided by 3,100 Toro 640, 650, and 680 heads. There is a dual head system around the greens so the putting surfaces can be watered individually according to USGA guidelines. There are over 350 quick couplervelues which were used heavily during landscape installation.

Pumping System: PSI Variable Frequency Drive @ 4,000 GPM.

Water Source: Three 10 inch wells.

Staff: 41, which includes:

Superintendents: Bob Wagner, Pine Barrens; Steve Hritsko, Rolling Oaks

Assistant Superintendents: Bob Roessing, Pine Barrens; Ryan Weaver, Rolling Oaks; John Hoffman, Practice Facility.

Head Equipment Technician - Brian Scull; Asst. Equipment Technicians - John Dottori; Brian Layle; Neil Pare'.

Spray Technicians: Brian Schaffer, Pine Barrens; Rory Mudge, Rolling Oaks; T. J. Orednick, Practice Facility.

Irrigation Manager, Mark Tooker, Rolling Oaks; Irr. Technician: Andrew Ryan, Pine Barrens.

Administrative Assistant: Valerie Omelian. "This lady does an outstanding job of coding and tracking expenses in our "Blue Book." In addition, she is an expert at screening calls and unannounced visitors. We would be lost without her!" — Bob Wagner.



Number 15, Pine Barrens

parcel simply called the Practice Facility. This Practice Facility has every course owner/operator and teaching pro green with envy.

The Practice Facility consists of a 55,000-sq.-ft. putting green called the Putting Course; a three-hole Practice Course for lessons; a nine-hole Short Course made up mostly of par-3 holes with a couple of short par 4s mixed in for variety; and the piece de resistance is the four-sided, 22-acre Practice Park.

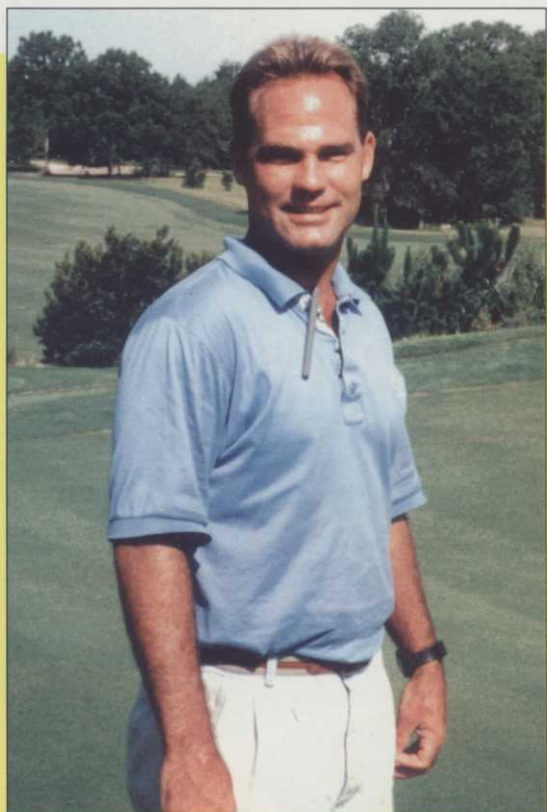
This park/range has clusters of tees around the perimeter. They are separated by landscaped beds and trees to break up the usual monster tee look. The landing areas of the park/range are also designed with target greens, sand bunkers, and trees. Additionally, there is an irons-only range located between the two first tees of each course, and a putting green at each of the first tees.

The total facility is well planned, well

built, well equipped, and well staffed. The owner, Mr. Yukihiisa Inoue, is to be commended, because he went to the "well" the right amount of times. It is refreshing to see an operation that has made the commitment to invest in total quality from the ground up. It will pay dividends in the future.

At Mr. Inoue's insistence, there are no homesites along the courses. Future residential and guest areas will be located nearby, but out of sight from the course. Golfers who visit right now are served by a temporary pro shop and an open-air grill, but everyone seems to be charmed by the rustic "golf only" atmosphere for a

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**Bob
Wagner**
Brooklyn,
N.Y.

Origin: Brooklyn, NY. Relocated to Pinellas County in 1981.
Family: Single. Faithful companion, Satchmo, an Italian Greyhound.
Education: A.S. Degree in Golf Course Operations from Lake City Community College.

Class of '87 ("The Stolons")

Previous employment: Crew member, Innisbrook Resort, The Island Course. 1981-1984; Asst. Supt., Tampa Palms G & CC. Construction and grow-in. 1987-1988; Asst. Supt., Bardmoor CC. 1988-1989.

Supt., Wentworth GC, Tarpon Springs. Construction, grow-in, opening. 1989-1991; Supt., World Woods GC, Pine Barrens Course. Construction, grow-in, opening. 1991-present.

Hobbies and Interests: Golf. Wildlife. Blues music. Diehard N.Y. Mets, Rangers, and Knicks fan.

Goals: Become a certified superintendent in 1994/95. Become more involved in the Seven Rivers Chapter.

Memorable moments: (1) Member of the undefeated LCCC softball team, The Stolons, in 1987. "It was a good time in our lives. We still keep in touch and follow each other's progress in the industry." (2) Getting my first Asst. Supt. job upon graduation, and then realizing my education was just beginning! (3) Opening day from three clubs: Tampa Palms, Wentworth G.C., and World Woods. I have always had a sad feeling of loss the night before the openings. A special time is ending, but it is soon replaced with feelings of pride when you see players enjoying the fruits of your labor." (4) Being part of two very successful Envirotron Golf Classics.

Professional affiliations: Seven Rivers Chapter FGCSA; Florida Turfgrass Association; GCSAA

Water resource conservation was addressed in the design by using bahiagrass on tee slopes and transitional rough areas between the fairways and the surrounding woods. The unirrigated bahiagrass provides an appealing texture contrast and allows the tee tops to be watered with smaller heads.

change. A temporary clubhouse will be under construction soon.

Designed With Nature In Mind

Portions of the 800 acres in Phase I are prime gopher tortoise habitat. World Woods has set aside 100 acres to be maintained exclusively for this Florida "species of special concern." During the clearing and construction phases, the World Woods staff held a voluntary tortoise roundup to move the reptiles out of harm's way. After construction was completed, they were returned to their old chomping grounds. World Woods will not use any pesticide with an LD-50 rating of less than 200 to prevent any potential impact to the tortoise.

The maintenance staff will be challenged to keep nematode populations under manageable levels in the sandy soil areas. The staff will be checking the effectiveness of the new sesame seed-based nematicide, Nematrol, as an alternative product. Currently, the courses rotate being closed on



Steve Hritsko

Ripon, Wis.

Origin: Ripon, Wisconsin. Relocated to Florida in 1984.

Family: Single

Education: University of Wisconsin(1980-1981) studied Business; Moraine Park Tech Institute 1983), certificate in Public Relations; University of Massachusetts(1986), certificate for Short Course for Golf Course Managers.

Previous employment: Spray Technician, Bardmoor CC, Largo, FL. 1984-1985; Asst. Supt., Bardmoor CC. 1986-1989; Asst. Supt., The Bayou Club, Largo, FL. 1989-1990; Supt., Bardmoor North Course. 1990-1992; Supt., World Woods GC, Rolling Oaks Course. 1992 - present.

Hobbies and Interests: All sports, especially golf. Music. Aviation.

Goals: "To purchase a plot of land and design, build, and operate my own facility!"

Memorable moments: (1) The construction, grow-in, and opening of World Woods. (2) The day I was promoted to superintendent at Bardmoor's Bayou Club. (3) The 1988 J. C. Penney LPGA/PGA Golf Classic. "Three days before the event a tropical storm destroyed the course, bleachers, tents, trees, and bunkers. Two days later, a long-time crew member committed suicide. Two days after that, my apartment was burglarized. After that, I became a believer in the adage that bad things come in threes!" (4) Hosting two successful Envirotron Golf Classics.

Professional Affiliations: Seven Rivers Chapter FGCSA; Florida Turfgrass Association; GCSAA.

Mondays to allow time to perform more involved maintenance tasks like spraying, fertilizing, and topdressing without impacting the guests.

Water resource conservation was addressed in the design by using bahiagrass on tee slopes and transitional rough areas between the fairways and the surrounding woods. The unirrigated bahiagrass provides an appealing texture contrast with the bermudagrass and allows the tee tops to be watered with smaller heads. A computer-controlled irrigation system helps prevent overwatering by applying specifically calculated precipitation rates to each area based on its location. Expansive unirrigated native sandy areas are also part of the design.

An ongoing tree-planting program helps to replace storm-damaged trees and to reforest portions of the property that had been cleared pasture land prior to construction.

Temporary signs locate tees and give directions. The staff is diligently looking for natural materials to use for permanent signage. The tee markers are similar to Augusta National's — sawed-off tree limbs with a little dab of paint for identification.

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Pine Barrens

I had the pleasure of playing Pine Barrens and the Short Course during the Second Annual Envirotron Classic this past April. Pine Barrens is reminiscent of the pictures I have seen of the historic Pine Valley course in New Jersey. Superintendent Bob Wagner suggested that this design may have been Tom Fazio's testimony for his love of that course.

The 40 acres of native sandy "waste" bunkers offer a striking contrast of tan color to the green turf and trees. The bunkers also suggest a "target golf" feel to the design.

Intended to be low maintenance areas for labor, fuel, and water conservation,

some of the bunkers have areas that wash out during heavy rainfall. Bob and his crew have addressed those problem areas with additional drains and reshaping and sodding of the bunker edges.

The Fazio people did comment that some erosion is not bad and alluded to erosion features and footpaths created at Pine Valley that have become unique characteristics of that course.

There is a concerted effort to minimize the use of anything artificial on the course. At first glance, I thought Bob and his staff had done such a great job grooming the course that I couldn't imagine why they didn't notice the grass and weeds growing in the cracks and crevices of the rail-

road-tie steps on some of the tees.

It turns out that the steps were seeded with centipede grass and the encroachment of vegetation is encouraged to help soften the angular look of the man-made steps.

Rolling Oaks

The Rolling Oaks course is more reminiscent of the classic designs of the Donald Ross era. There aren't a lot of forced carries over hazards and the bunkering is more traditional with openings in front of the greens for run-up approach shots.

The eighth hole is the signature hole with a highly elevated tee on a hilltop overlooking a fairway that is bisected and



Number 5, Pine Barrens



Number 16, Pine Barrens

bordered by a meandering brook. When you're standing on that tee you could imagine that you were in North Carolina or upstate New York.

Rolling Oaks traverses piney woods and its namesake oak hammock environments. It also occupies portions of old pasture land at its northern limits. The transitional areas between these topographies are the wiregrass areas that support the native tortoise populations mentioned earlier.

Superintendent Steve Hritsko and his crew have earned high praise from the Florida Fish and Game Commission for their management practices to maintain these habitats.

Because of the oak hammock environment and soil conditions, management practices are different on Rolling Oaks. Steve and his staff must contend with denser shady areas and clay and limestone deposits as they manage and groom the turf. One of Steve's projects is trying to maintain a stand of overseeded tall fescue year-round in some shady rough areas. He is trying different rates and application dates to carry the grass through the dog days of summer.

Last year, Mike Mackey, one of Steve's operators, also got creative with the overseeding. He designed and executed an intricate diamond shaped mowing pattern on the 11th hole that became a con-

versation piece among the golfers. Steve says that it attracted so many comments that he will probably have Mike do it again this fall.

The Dynamic Duo

No, I'm not talking about Batman and Robin! I'm referring to the World Woods superintendents, Bob Wagner and Steve Hritsko. The common bond between the two is their friendship. The common trait that each one possesses that makes the operation strong is their professionalism.

Bob and Steve are quick to give high praise to the three assistant superintendents: Bob Roessing, Pine Barrens; Ryan Weaver, Rolling Oaks; and especially John

Hoffman on the Practice Facility who has to deal with their different management styles. He reports to Bob for the nine-hole and three-hole courses, and to Steve for the two ranges and putting green. Bob and Steve also take advantage of the three-hole practice course by collaborating on testing equipment, products, and procedures under normal maintenance conditions.

Bob and Steve also rely heavily on the daily contributions of Brian Scull, equipment manager, and Mark Tooker, irrigation manager, to keep this sprawling layout well groomed and well watered.

Beyond those similarities, meet Mr. Night and Mr. Day! Bob is from Brooklyn, New York and Steve is from Ripon, Wisconsin (population 8,000 when Ripon College is in session). Bob is highly competitive operating somewhere around warp speed, while Steve is more laid back taking the A-train to get there.

Both gentlemen were tested and found

"To be really successful in this profession, this can't just be a job or a paycheck. I feel you have to take it personally."

deserving at the Bardmoor proving grounds in Largo, Florida under the guidance of John Luper, Frank Cook, and Tim Sever, whom they both give extensive credit for their professional growth and development.

Bob's view of the profession includes his philosophy of "taking the job personally" which he admitted he borrowed from a friend. "To be really successful in this profession, this can't just be a job or a paycheck. I feel you have to take it personally. There are times when management thinks the course is great, but you know you have problem areas that aren't right.

Solving those problems, whether they are noticed or not, results from getting personal with the job, and that is satisfying to your head."

Steve offers his own formula for success to would-be superintendents. "First get a job on a golf course. Work at it at least a year. During that time, ask lots of questions and really study what is required of the superintendent and his assistant. If after a year you still have the interest, enroll in a turf management program.

"There is a trend in the industry leaning more and more towards graduates with a four-year degree. I would investi-

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Number 8, Rolling Oaks

gate this option first. If that does not fit your needs, find a good two-year program. After graduation, be prepared to make sacrifices and pay your dues. Nobody gets something for nothing in this business.”

Bob and Steve became good friends while working at Bardmoor. They know each other’s personalities, strengths, and weaknesses, and they respect each other’s management styles. It is a unique personal and working relationship that has been most beneficial for World Woods.

Besides this grand facility on the cutting edge of golf operations, World Woods has established itself as a concerned and committed member of the golf industry. The ownership and management have do-

nated the facility for the past two years as the site of the Envirotron Classic Golf Tournament. By waiving the customary fees and charges, World Woods has helped the Seven Rivers Golf Course Superintendents Association and the Florida Turfgrass Association raise nearly \$52,000 to equip the Envirotron turf research center at the University of Florida.

Few people realize that the combined turf industries in Florida constitute a \$6 billion-a-year business employing around 35,000 people in hands-on and related professions. World Woods has earned a place of honor by its leadership and participation in helping to fund turf research. They have set an example that all golf

clubs in the state, and even in the nation, should follow.

The war chests of the anti-green, anti-golf, anti-agriculture movements that operate under the guise of environmentalism are filled with millions of dollars annually from philanthropic foundations. Their money buys hype, hysteria, and headlines and does little to really help man live in productive harmony with nature.

Balance that against the thousands of dollars our associations struggle to raise every year to find real factual answers to better and safer ways to grow crops and manage turf, and you can see why we are so proud of the contributions made by clubs like World Woods.