Spotlight: Florida Tour

Getting MetroWest's 220 acres of Robert Trent Jones Sr.-designed course ready for the CGA event included putting up show fences and more than 12 miles of ropes, posting hole signage, erecting leader boards, and a host of other last minute necessities. The roping of the course may have been the most obvious change, but behind the scenes work on the greens, tees and fairways had been going on for some time.

Jim Karvellas, Commissioner of the CGA, said his staff had been meeting with Tom for more than a month, identifying course conditions that needed improvement and watching Tom coax and nurture Mother Nature along.

"We are always striving to keep our greens in top shape," Trammell stated. "In this case, as we approached a transition period, we were working to keep the winter grass with us."

Their special attention paid off, for when a host of celebrities, media and fans came together on the course March 21, the course's eighteen varied splashes of emerald green were well appreciated.

"The players commented very positively on the greens," explained Karvellas. "These are golfers and celebrities, so they have the opportunity to play the world's finest courses. They openly said that Metro West had some of the best winter greens they had seen all season."

And what about Karvellas and his CGA event? "We've held our Central Florida tournament at MetroWest for two years now and our players love it here. We consider MetroWest our Central Florida home, and we're looking forward to coming back," he added.

Those words will be music to one course superintendent's ears.

Editor's Note: Last year we did a series on the traditional LPGA, PGA and PGA Senior Tour sites. With the popular growth of the Celebrity Golf Association, it seemed only fitting to run this story submitted by freelance writer, Carol Barfield, to complete the picture. MetroWest was also one of the courses played in the GCSAA Golf Championships this past February. Congratulations, Tom!

Turf Trivia

Temperature Modification

All plants play an important role in controlling climate. Turfgrasses are among the best exterior solar radiation control ground covers because of their capacity to efficiently intercept solar radiation.

Since turfgrasses effectively cover the ground surface, little radiation is lost or not utilized — and each blade of grass acts as an evaporative cooler. An acre of turf on a summer day will lose about 2,400 gallons of water through evaporation and transpiration to the atmosphere, which can dissipate approximately 50 percent of the sun's heat.

When the temperature of the sidewalk or street is well over 100 F, the temperature at the surface of turfgrass areas will remain around 75 F. It has been estimated that on a block of eight average houses, front lawns have the cooling effect of about 70 tones of air conditioning (the average home-size central-air unit has a three- to four-ton capacity).