



Photo by Craig Weyandt

*A 5-by-5-by 3-foot bale of pine straw gathered on site by a mechanical sweeper has been dropped off to mulch an azalea bed behind the green.*

## Recycling is profitable at Y&CC of Stuart

BY CRAIG WEYANDT

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**R**ecycling and waste reduction have been receiving a good bit of attention for several years now. While good for the environment, some people have the opinion that it is expensive and a waste of time. The following are three recycling strategies that have proven to be just the opposite at the Yacht & Country Club of Stuart.

1. I was fortunate when I arrived at the Yacht & Country Club because there was a good variety of equipment on hand. One piece was a Vermeer 620 chipper that was primarily used to reduce the mass of limbs and debris collected from the course and surrounding property. These chips were then hauled off as waste.

At the same time, I was purchasing cypress mulch at \$15. - \$18. per yard. My Green Chairman and I decided to try the hardwood mulch that we generated on

the property in the most critical area possible (the clubhouse) as an experiment.

We both waited for the phone to ring and, when it never did, we asked people if they noticed anything different. Mulch was never mentioned. Once the members were told that we did not have to throw away anything and that this mulch did not cost anything, the smiles started and the program was eagerly accepted.

Another type of mulch we use is pine straw. It sells for approximately \$3 per bale. We have tried hand-raking before, but it is just too labor intensive. We found that a PTO-driven Olathe sweeper with a good operator was a perfect harvester. It makes a 5' x 5' x 3' bail that can be dropped wherever you need it. There is still an occasional need to purchase pine straw, but we now produce 95% of our own mulching material.

2. Recycling aluminum cans is something everyone can do. It's easy and everyone, from your golfers to your staff, generates them. Some ballwasher/trash

containers made today have recycle containers as accessories. At the Yacht & Country club, we have three locations on property marked "Aluminum Cans". On rainy days the cans are taken to the recycle center.

3. The third recycling effort at the Yacht & Country Club is the easiest, most profitable and most logical idea yet. A newspaper recycling bin, courtesy of Southeast Recycling Corporation, is located at my maintenance facility.

Club members place their newspapers here for recycling. Every three to four weeks, the newspapers are picked up and another container is dropped off. One week later, Southeast Recycling sends a check to the Yacht & Country Club. This money goes to supplement the tree fund for the golf course. To date, this money has helped to plant 262 trees on property.

The best part about recycling newspapers is all I do is make a call when it is time for a pickup. You can call Southeast Recycling at (407) 282-1211.