



Everybody wins!

Agreement to use Navy's recycled water enables restoration of Donald Ross classic

Golf course architect Bobby Weed had two golden opportunities in one with the restoration of Timuquana Country Club in Ponte Vedra Beach.

The course is a 1920s Donald Ross design that had succumbed to years of tree overgrowth and drainage problems. Its prime location, on the banks of the St. Johns River south of downtown Jacksonville, also provided the club with another challenge with regard to irrigation water supply.

The local agencies were not going to reissue necessary water permits to the club unless treated water was used to irrigate the golf course.

The solution created a way for the golf club to reduce the amount of water taken from the Floridan aquifer and assist the Navy in its goal of releasing less treated water into the St. Johns River.

"It was a joint effort as both the club and the Navy were pursuing a good outcome for what looked like a difficult situation," Weed said.

"The Navy, which borders the course, had been looking for a way to discharge less treated water into the St. Johns River. The course needed a supply of treated water to irrigate due to the mandate by

the state and water management district. The members were also seeking a solution to the drainage difficulties that caused the course to be closed after heavy rains, which we get quite often in north Florida."

After negotiations between Timuquana Country Club, Rear Admiral Kevin Delaney, commander Naval Base Jacksonville; Captain Dick Steinbrugge, commanding officer, Public Works Center; and Captain Robert Whitmire, commanding officer Naval Air Station Jacksonville, it was decided that the Navy would send treated water to Timuquana Country Club and the club would complete a golf course restoration along with a new irrigation system to accommodate use of the Navy's wastewater.

"This was the right thing to do," said Michael Lanaham of Timuquana Country Club.

"We have an agreement that says we can take as much effluent water as we can use."

"We'll send more than 100 million gallons per year of treated water from our wastewater treatment plant to Timuquana Country Club to irrigate their golf course," Capt. Steinbrugge said. "NAS Jacksonville's wastewater treatment plant treats, on average, one

million gallons of water per day."

Kathy Chinoy of the St. Johns River Water Management District Governing Board hailed the agreement as a victory for "common sense."

Chinoy added that the continued growth in Jacksonville is draining the Floridan aquifer and that community water reuse systems need to be established to reduce consumption of valuable groundwater, improve the quality of drinking water and aid in clean up of the St. Johns River.

The Navy completed the water treatment system and installed a pipeline to a pumphouse at the east side of the property line of the golf course. From there, the club now routes the water to a large collecting pond which it uses to irrigate the course.

The soil removed to form the collection pond was used by the Navy on the base, which benefited both parties.

Weed is a member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, the Donald Ross Society, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and the Florida Turfgrass Association.

Robert C. Weed, Jr.
Weed Golf Course Design



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