

Number 5
Par 3, 163 yards
Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

Island in the Stream

The Indian Creek Country Club

BY JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

One of the great joys of my job is that once in a while, I get to travel back in time on some of Florida's venerable, historic golf courses. This is one of those assignments and I wasn't disappointed. Come with me as we journey back 71 years to a little mangrove island in Biscayne Bay thanks to a written history of the club. The year is 1928.

A group of Midwesterners — Harold Metzinger, Walter Briggs, Fred Todd, Edwin Gould — and John Brander from Virginia, have just purchased a little speck of mangrove swamp in Biscayne Bay just west of North Miami Beach in what is now the Bal Harbor/Surfside area. Chartered as a real estate venture, they had plans drawn up and sold 41 lots from the plan before the land was filled in. The lots cost \$20,000 each.

After the original dredging and bulkheading was completed, golf course architect William F. Flynn designed the Indian Creek course. Robert F. Lawrence, a junior member of the firm Toomey and Flynn, came down from the firm's Pennsylvania headquarters to supervise construction of the course. Lawrence



In the past, this beach area on the par 3, 12th hole was used by sea planes to ferry passengers to and from Indian Creek Village. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

is also credited with the construction of several other south Florida courses including the Miami Shores G.C., the Pompano Municipal G.C., 36 holes at Boca Raton when it was privately owned, Orange Brook G.C. in Hollywood, the Diplomat C.C., and the Fort Lauderdale C.C.

Another noteworthy person of the time was Jim Vigliotti, one of the original greenskeepers employed by the construction firm. Vigliotti was left behind to care for the course. He stayed for 35 years.

In those days, golf courses were built more by men and mules than by machinery. Lawrence once recalled of seeing man and beast sinking up to their shoulders in the shifting mud and sand, "All golf courses have their problems, but when you build a golf course on a filled island in the tropics, you have a few

extra problems and the main one is drainage."

In tribute to Lawrence and his diligence, the course was so well constructed that in all of the subsequent tropical storms, the network of swales has carried off the waters and the course has remained relatively undamaged.

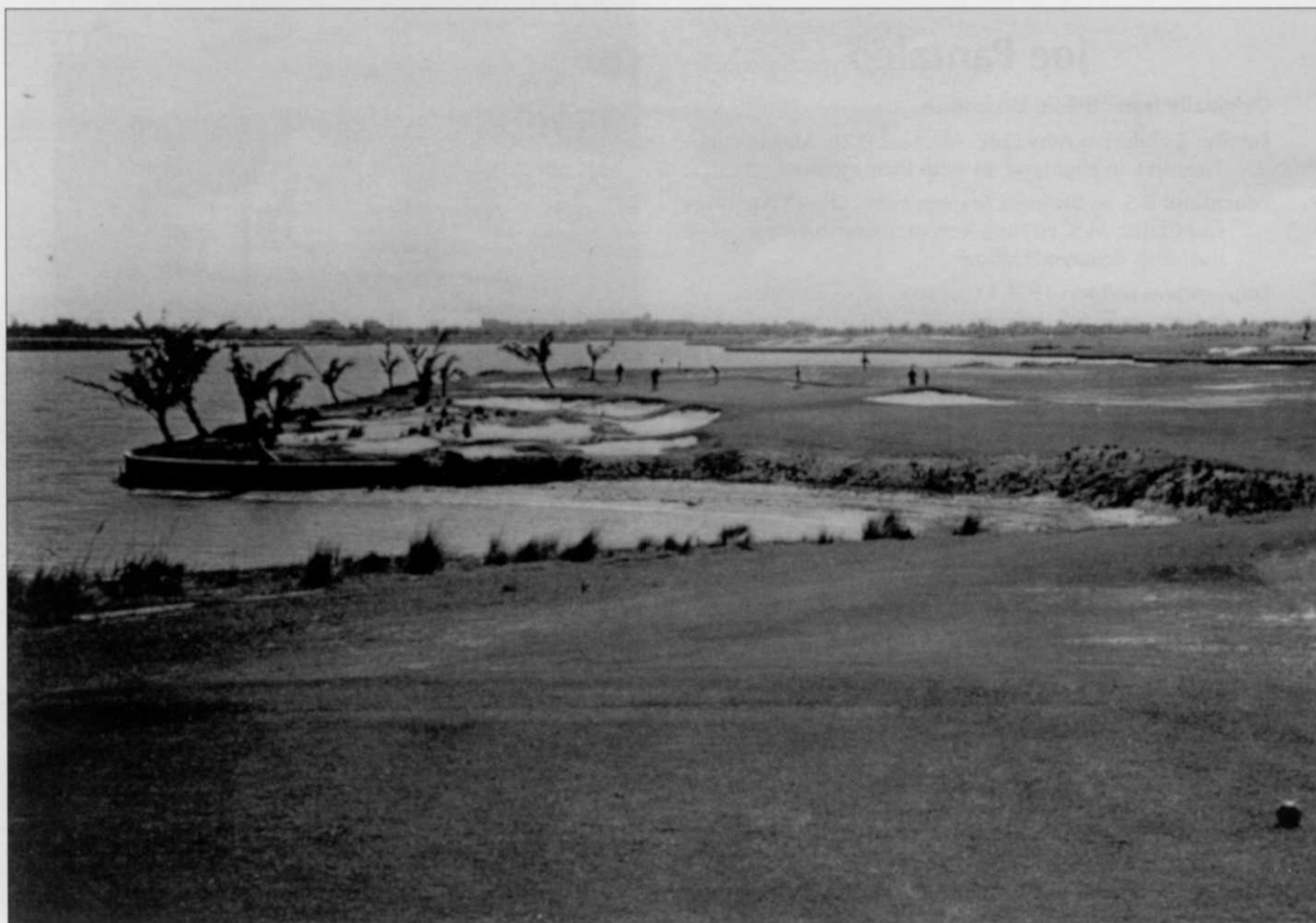
After construction was completed, it was time to grass the course. Lawrence is again quoted, "There was not a bush or even a weed on the whole island over 18 inches in height."

The original turf varieties used are not documented, but in 1964 an anonymous club historian writes, "At the time of construction such hybrid bermudagrasses as 328 had not been perfected. Now these cover all of the fairways and tees." The Ormond still survives today. The historian also mentioned that the course maintenance budget was

approximately \$90,000 at that time.

Surrounded by salt water, the course needed a reliable supply of fresh water to survive. Potable water was purchased from the towns of Surfside and Miami Beach. In the 1940s two deep wells were sunk on the island and the brackish water was mixed with the potable water in a holding pond. This worked for awhile, but eventually the course had to revert to potable water to flourish.

Besides a golf course taking shape on the emerging island, a magnificent clubhouse was also erected... one that would dominate the bayside skyline for decades. The clubhouse site on the southwestern side of the island was the highest point in Dade County at 35 feet above sea level. Built on concrete pilings 45 feet long, the architect once boasted that a hurricane could wash away the soil and the clubhouse would still be standing on its pil-



This photo from the club archives also shows the 12th hole in the early 1930's. There are many photographs displayed in the clubhouse which document the history of the club. Photo courtesy of Indian Creek CC.

ings. Because of its elevation, hurricanes have bothered the clubhouse very little. The Mediterranean-style building sprawls over several acres and reigned as the most elegant club in the county.

When the doors opened in 1929 or 1930 (the dates get a little contradictory in the record) only 50 guests were there. Ozzie Nelson made his first radio broadcast from Indian Creek and played there the first season.

"Those were extravagant days," Harold Metzinger once told the *Miami Herald*. "After the stock market split open, only two or three people would show up for dinner. Twenty or thirty waiters and bus boys would be hanging around, and Ozzie would play bravely on every night."

In 1930 the club was refinanced and, after retrenching two more times, things settled down in 1938 and have been run-

ning smoothly ever since.

Now fast forward to 1999.

It's a bright, clear day in late January. I'm driving east on 125th Avenue in North Miami. It has been many years since I lived on South Beach when I was in the Coast Guard and, while the street names are familiar, the sights have changed with time.

As I cross Broad Causeway and slow down for the toll booth, my gaze is captured by a broad band of emerald green turf and dazzling white bunkers off to the right across the water. Indian Creek, an island in the Stream, is a tropical paradise, contrasting against the background of white and pastel high-rise buildings on the beach. A right turn on A1A another right on 91st Avenue and I find myself at the security booth at the bridge leading to the island. My visit to the modern day Indian Creek has begun.

Ironically, the modern Indian Creek finds itself in the middle of a master restoration plan, seeking to regain its historic past. Under the influence of fashion, mowing patterns change over the years and so do bunker locations, size and shape. Trees are sited by committees and they often grow in unexpected ways that change the character of the golf course.

According to superintendent Joe Pantaleo, the restoration master plan came about in part because of damage from Hurricane Andrew. Several hundred ficus trees were blown over during the storm and the members realized how much the course had closed in from its original layout. So only a few of the trees were replaced, and the wheels were set in motion for an eventual makeover.

Ron Forse, a golf course architect who specializes in classic golf course design



Joe Pantaleo

Originally from: Beloit, Wisconsin.

Family: 3 children: Amy (14); Michael (12); Megan (11). They live in Highland, IA with their mother.

Education: B.S. in Business Management, U. of Wisconsin - Eau Claire; M.S. Human Resource Management/Sports Business, Biscayne College.

Employment history: 1996 to present, superintendent, Indian Creek CC, Miami; 1995 - 1996, superintendent, Delaire CC, Delray Beach; 1990 - 1995, superintendent, Ft. Lauderdale CC; 1989-90, superintendent TPC Eagle Trace, Coral Springs; 1984-89 superintendent Key Biscayne Links; 1980-84 superintendent of various parks and golf courses for Dade County Parks and Recreation Dept.

Professional affiliations/Honors: GCSAA, FTGA and South Florida GCSA. Service: 1985-90 served on South Florida Chapter board; president in 1989-90.

People who have influenced your life and career: My parents (both deceased). We had a very loving family with many friends and relatives living within a short distance. Spent a lot of quality family time together growing up. Parents allowed me to be myself, make decisions and mistakes, but supported me through everything.

Jim Walker, superintendent at Palmetto GC. Jim gave me my first book on turfgrass in 1980 and told me to read the chapter on bermudagrass management in my spare time. I was managing the pro shop at Greynolds Park GC at the time. One thing led to another: changing cups, driving tractors, mowing, etc. Jim has been there all along for inspiration and advice especially during my early years in the business.

Other colleagues, too many to name, but: Since I don't have a turf degree, it was tough at first to gain technical knowledge. I had to be very aggressive attending classes and seminars galore. Questions! My peers fear my coming! I'll ask hundreds of questions looking for their experiences, knowledge, advice, etc. My friends warn my golfing partners to be ready for a grilling during the round.

How did you get into the business: While completing my masters degree in Sports Business, I did an internship with the Dade County Parks and Recreation Dept. I had actually been training to pursue athletic-director-type responsibilities, but while interning at the Greynolds Park GC, my interest in turf management was sparked.

Philosophy/Advice: Those people that really know me know that I don't satisfy easily. I'm always looking to improve my position (both current and future). I always try to elevate the facility where I work to new levels of excellence. I encourage team effort and only consider myself the "head coach" of the operation. My players do all the work and should share the credits. Since I don't have a formal turf education, it was necessary for me to be very aggressive early in my career. I couldn't stand mediocrity and I could see early on that getting to the top wasn't going to be easy. Hard work, long hours, patience, perseverance, and many questions later, I've arrived here. That formula for success has stayed with me for my entire career. Anyone knows that staying on top requires an intense effort. The down side to this effort is the strain it can put on family relationships. It led to a divorce for me recently. I knew only one speed, full ahead! Be careful to keep the big picture in perspective, especially with your family and friends away from the golf course.

Memorable moments: Sports: High finish state golf tournament; State championship in swimming in 1975; Poa Annua Classic champion 1993, FGCSA Tournament champ 1997; Moving away from home the first time in 1975; Getting married in 1982 and raising a family; Getting divorced in 1998; Losing both parents at an early age, Dad was 49 and Mom only 64; Hosting pro golf events - Royal Caribbean Classic, Sr. PGA Tour and PGA Tour's Honda Classic at Eagle Trace; valuable construction and renovation experiences at Ft. Lauderdale CC, Delaire CC and Indian Creek; working on volunteer staff at the Masters in Augusta.

Hobbies and interests: Very sports minded. Love golf, basketball, billiards, water sports, fishing. Starting to become interested in classic golf architecture through my association with Ron Forse's work at Indian Creek. And if the lady I'm dating now has anything to say about it, I'll be taking dance lessons soon.



After work Joe Pantaleo mows the practice green in the back yard of the superintendent's on-course residence. Photo by Joel Jackson.



This short but challenging par-4, 13th hole is part of Indian Creek's "Amen Corner," holes 11, 12, and 13. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

was commissioned by the club to begin restoring the original William Flynn layout. Forse had recently completed the restoration of historic Pine Tree County Club in Delray Beach.

The first phase, which was completed during Pantaleo's first year on the job, included the greens' surfaces and bunker complexes. Flynn's "platform" greens have returned and Pantaleo pointed out the "draped over" effect where the putting surface extends slightly downslope creating interesting shots as balls can easily run off the greens. To amplify the effect, the greens slopes are mowed at fairway height which makes for interesting chips, pitches and putts around the greens.

I have to admit that the look of the platform greens is quite intimidating for the first time viewer. At first I thought

these were all redan-style greens with the putting surface falling away from the front of the green, but Pantaleo quickly noted that there is only one true redan-style green on the course, No.13. The rest are relatively level. It is the elevation that hides the putting surface from the fairway view.

Pantaleo admits to getting hooked on classic architecture by working with Forse on the project.

"The course strategy and shot making values by the early architects is so compelling and interesting. The cross bunkers in fairways for example. They are classic risk-and-reward features. Carry them off the tee and you will get an extra 25-30 yards carry from hitting on the backside downslope. Play it safe on your drive away from those cross bunkers and you have a generous landing area but a

more difficult approach shot over greenside bunkers."

Pantaleo, an accomplished golfer and holder of several FGCSA titles said, "Members here at Indian Creek must develop quite a short game arsenal and become accomplished bunker players to score well."

But I noticed that for bogey golfers

Wildlife inventory

Osprey (tower platforms provided on holes 4 and 12), Pelican, Sea Gull, hoot owl, peacock (recently purchased a male for female), hawks, egrets, crows, 2 albino squirrels, rat snakes, land crabs, iguanas, opossum. Indian Creek is a member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program.



like myself, there was usually an opening to the green where the higher handicapper could lay up on his approach and then chip and putt for par or bogey. Indian Creek seems to be a hallmark of classic architecture. Heroic birdies, difficult pars, challenging bogeys.

The restoration story continued as we toured the coral and keystone clubhouse. In 1998 Pantaleo and his crew, under the direction of landscape architect Buzz Jaskella, had just completed a complete rehab of the clubhouse landscape.

"The magnificent architecture of this beautiful old building was being dwarfed and hidden behind spreading Sheffleras and ficus trees," Pantaleo said. "Jaskella had us rip out everything and we started from scratch to open up the view of and from the clubhouse.

"We came back in with trees and foliage that wouldn't spread and grow so tall to hide the building ever again. In the pool and courtyard area, we removed several large ficus trees and now the

members have a view of the Miami skyline across the bay.

"We only have two people dedicated to landscaping, so in selecting the new plant material we wanted something that was classy, but not so labor-intensive. We have intentionally limited the amount of annuals that have to be changed out frequently, but use plants that provide variety and interest in growth habit and color. We also were able to rehab the clubhouse irrigation system and put it on the weather station and central controller to help monitor ET and watering cycles."

A quick tour of the interior of the clubhouse yielded hallways filled with photographs of Indian Creek over the years, snapshots showing the changes and maturity of the club. The history said the building sprawled over several acres and it seemed like I was touring a small hotel as Joe took me from the card room and ballroom to the kitchen and the offices. I met the club president, the

green chairman, the head pro, the head chef and even visiting PGA pro Dudley Hart. We enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch in the dining area overlooking the starting tees and finishing holes of both nines.

After lunch it was back out on the course to see up close some of the unique challenges Pantaleo faces to maintain this veritable 300-acre island park for which he is responsible.

Being responsible comes naturally to Pantaleo. He earned a BS degree in business management and an MS degree in human resources with an emphasis on sports business. Pantaleo is a devoted sports nut. On his radar screen he could see a career as an athletic director. He came to his turf management career through the side door at the Dade County Parks and Recreation Dept.

"I was doing an internship in the pro shop at Greynolds Park G. C. during my master's degree studies at Biscayne College," he said. "I started getting interested in what was going on out on the

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Indian Creek Country Club

Location: Miami Beach, Florida.

Ownership: Member Owned.

Playing policy: Private Members and Guests.

18 holes. 6,662 yards. Par 72. Course/Slope Ratings: Blue Tees - 72.1/130; White Tees - 70.1/128; Gold Tees - 68.3/123; Red Tees - 70.7/120.

Design and Construction: William F. Flynn, architect. Clubhouse designed by Maurice Fatio; construction by Toomey and Flynn. Dick Wilson reportedly worked for Flynn on this job. Opened: 1929

Management: Joe Somers, club president; Robert Post Fordham, club manager; Tony Morosco, head golf professional; Wayne Beckner, green chairman; Joe Pantaleo, golf course superintendent.

Major Renovations: Ron Forse, golf course architect. Buzz Jaskela, landscape architect. Construction by MacCurrach Golf Course Construction, Co.; Dale Wittig, Laser Turf, Inc for tee tops. Following a master plan for restorations. Completed so far: Greens complexes including putting surfaces and bunkers; tees; clubhouse landscaping and irrigation; clubhouse building. Future projects by priority; (1) Fairway regrassing; (2) Fairway bunkers; and (3) Native grasses in deep roughs, treescaping and native landscape accent beds.

Acreage under management: Total property 300 acres. Golf turf acreage: 150 acres.

Greens: 4 acres. Average size: 7,500 sq. ft. Turf type: Tifdwarf. HOC (inches) = 9/64 to 1/8. Overseeding: None. Green Speed Goals November to May: 9.0+.

Tees: 3 acres. Turf type: Tifway 419. HOC = 3/8. Overseeding: None.

Fairways: 60 acres. Turf type: Mixture of Ormond, common, Everglades, etc. HOC: 9/16. Overseeding: None.

Roughs. 84 acres. Turf Type: St. Augustine and mixture of old bermudagrass varieties. HOC: 1 3/4. Overseeding: None.

Waterways/Lakes/Ponds: No ponds or lakes. Property surrounded by Indian Creek and Biscayne Bay. Maintain a small beach area which was once a seaplane landing area.

Irrigation: Source: Potable water. Equipment: Syncroflo VFD Pump Station with horizontal flooded suction. Controls: Rainbird Nimbus Central Control with additional Freedom hand-held controller. 700 Rainbird 900 and 950 heads on greens, tees and fairways only. Fertigation system with pHairway injection system.

Staff: Total including Supt. 22. Marcus Prevatte, assistant superintendent (started Feb 1999); David McWilliams, foreman; Ivan Capeles, chief mechanic; George, assistant mechanic; Paul Henry, Spray tech; Elissee Tassy, irrigation tech; Ariel Perez, arborist; Jean-Claude Jean Pierre and Calixte Lubin, landscapers.

Communications: Monthly column in club newsletter during season; weekly staff meetings with crew; Grounds Committee meeting monthly during season. "I write the agenda and run the meeting;" Board and Finance Committee meetings as needed. Meet regularly with peers for golf outings and to share information.

Cultural Practices: Aerify: Greens-3x/yr, 5/8" tines; Tees- 2x/yr, 5/8" tines; Fairways-3x/yr, 3/4" tines. Spray Program: Greens biweekly as needed with Primo @ 2-3 oz/A; Orthene or Seven @ 4 lbs/A; Micro nutrients @ 1-2 gal/A; Wetting agent @ 1 qt/A. Tees monthly as needed with Primo @ 10 oz/A; Orthene @ 4 lbs/A; Wetting agent @ 1 qt/A; Iron @ 1-2 gal/A. Fairways monthly with Primo 10 oz/A April to October. Fertility Program: Greens biweekly granular 1:0:1 blend Nov-April and 1:0:2 blend May-Oct. Supplemental fertigation. Tees: Fertigation mainly with occasional granular as needed. Fairways: Six week interval with granular Nov-March. Rest of the year fertigation only. Roughs: Fertigation only.

Weed Control: May-Aug MSMA/Sencor timed with moist conditions for grassy weeds. "Manage" as needed for sedges. "Escort" as needed for spurge and other broad leaf weeds. Biggest challenges: Alexandergrass, goosegrass, sedges, spurges on Tifdwarf greens slopes.

Mole Cricket Control: Average 10 -20 acres of infestation each year. Treat with Orthene and baits.

Equipment: Greens -Toro 1000 walkmowers (8) and a Jacobsen Greens King IV w/groomer attachment; collars-Jacobsen 22-inch walk mower; slopes-Toro 3400. Tees-Jacobsen Greens King IV and a Jacobsen 22-inch walk mower for rectangle cut; Fairways-Toro 6700 (2); Roughs-Jacobsen Blitzer (2) and a Jacobsen Turf Cat w/72-inch mulching deck.



This photo of the 358-yard fourth hole shows the opening to the green for the bump and run player. The old traditional course designs always had risk and reward shot values. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

course and started asking superintendent Jim Walker tons of questions. One day he hands me a book on turf management and tells me to read the chapter on bermudagrass. That's how it all started.

"I have high expectations, so when I got into this business, I made it a point to take classes and seminars to learn as much as I could about turfgrass and golf course operations. Much to the dismay of many of my peers, I bombarded them relentlessly with questions about how and why they did things. Just ask them. If they see me coming, they try to hide."

When Pantaleo was placed in charge of the Key Biscayne G.C. back in 1984, he learned that they would soon be hosting the Gus Machado Open, a Senior PGA Tour event.

No one in the Dade County Parks system had ever prepared for a tour event before, so Pantaleo started making phone calls looking for information. Eventually, Ray Hansen suggested Pantaleo call Paul Latshaw at Augusta to see if he could work on the volunteer staff at the Masters. Luckily, he landed a fairway

mowing job at Amen Corner and managed to get two years experience of tournament preparations.

This commitment to excellence and a willingness to ask questions and aggressively seek information has guided Pantaleo throughout his career. After beginning with Dade County 16 years ago, it brought him to Indian Creek after stops at Key Biscayne, TPC Eagle Trace, Ft. Lauderdale C.C. and the Delaire C. C. in Delray Beach.

That's how Pantaleo got to Indian Creek and now as we rode down the 10th hole after lunch, my first question concerned the soil and growing conditions. Dredged-up bay bottom didn't seem like the ideal medium for growing turfgrass under exacting conditions.

"Actually we have very few problems with the soil and drainage," he said. "Only during extreme high tides and persistent rains do we get some standing water problems in a few low areas."

"The high cation exchange capacity values and finer soil texture hold our applied nutrients and make them readily

available to the turf and trees. We have been very successful with our tree-transplanting ventures. We do get some dry spots around the greens where that "draped over" short cut extends beyond the green's well profile, and we have foot and equipment traffic. But those are like any sensitive area on any golf course that a superintendent has to be aware of.

"The one concession we make to the soil type is that we don't aerify the greens surrounds at the same time we do the putting surfaces. We don't want to mix any of the marly, shelly native soil into the green's profile, so we aerify the collars and slope areas 3 weeks after we do the greens and the holes are healed over.

"Some of the bunkers also show some of the native coquina and crushed shell content as the native soils works up into the bunker sand. On the plus side, the finer material does help to keep the bunkers on the firm side."

With 300 acres to maintain including golf course and roadway, mowing is a major factor in the maintenance plan. A combination of walking and riding mow-



Unique to the Creek

We have a large amount of short-cut turf. We have the largest fairways I've ever seen and we have no rough around the greens which is an interesting feature. 124 bunkers, many large in size pose a huge labor undertaking with raking, edging, weeding, and sand plowing. Wind on this nearly seaside course poses a challenge not only to the player but the turf manager as well with blowing sand, dry spots, turf stress, tree and shrub debris cleanup.

Built on a small mangrove island in Biscayne Bay in 1929, this is a six-month-a-year club — November to May. While the course is technically open all year, the amenities and service virtually close down for all practical purposes after May 1.

The course conditioning expectations are also relaxed as we focus on project work. Tony Morosco, the head pro here is also the head pro at the Weston CC in Boston and most of the caddies all have summer jobs on northern courses. There are 41 resident homes on the island. It remains one of the few clubs in Florida which has a residence for the superintendent on site.

Joe Pantaleo

ers is used to groom the greens surrounds. The slopes are mowed with a lightweight five-gang mower. No riding mowers are allowed between the bunkers and the putting surfaces. Triplexes are used to tie in the slope cut on the approaches, but walking mowers finish off the collars to prevent wear on the native soil surrounds.

The tees now sport an old, classic rectangular cut accomplished by using a triplex to do most of the mowing and a walk mower to groom the clean-up pass and the square corners. To maximize the teeing ground area, Pantaleo had Laser Turf, Inc. level and rebuild the tees, which was also part of the master plan.

The big job is the 60 acres of fairways and 84 acres of rough. Two Toro 6700, seven-gang mowers cut the fairways three times a week. Pantaleo helps keep the fairways tight and the clippings yield minimized by using an aggressive Primo program from April to October. He fertilizes sparingly with granulars during

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the winter and uses only fertigation in the summer to prevent over-feeding and unwanted growth. The fairways are a mixture of Ormond, common and 419 from repairs and sodding over the years. Regrassing the fairways is the number-two priority in the restoration plan

The roughs not only have the bermudagrass mixture, they also contain St. Augustine. This throws in a weed control glitch since chemicals used on St. Augustine are not necessarily compatible with those used on bermudagrass and vice versa. It takes a whole week's worth on mowing to go over the roughs just once in growing season.

In order to reduce the amount of time and money spent maintaining out-of-play rough areas, the club is experimenting with some native grass now to see if they like the look. The same goes for some of the accent beds around the tees. Exotic, high-maintenance plants are being replaced on a trial basis with native grasses and perennials.

Beyond the mowing challenge, one of Pantaleo's next worries is containing and removing the mutated and or contaminated spots in the greens slopes. The slopes were grassed with Tifdwarf to accentuate the short game. Trying to keep such large areas trouble free during construction and planting was difficult. Now each year, Pantaleo and his staff replace nearly 14,000 square feet of turf, trying to eliminate the intrusive grasses. They have their own nursery area from which they cultivate and harvest new Tifdwarf each summer.

There's another item Pantaleo must get rid of each year. Simple everyday yard trash! With 300 acres of trees and shrubs, there are lots of limbs and leaves and stumps to cycle each year. In one corner of the golf course is a well-screened "lay down" area where the tree debris is collected. Sometime during the year, Pantaleo contracts a landscape company to come in and grind up all the organic debris into a usable mulch that he spreads

back out onto the golf course. The ultimate recycling job.

"There used to be a \$10,000 line item in the budget for trash removal until we started this program," he said. "We feel good about saving the money and being responsible stewards of our property."

Another area where environmental progress has been made is in the selective use of a grass variety to save water and reduce labor. During the restoration of the greens complexes, Forse and Pantaleo got permission from the board to restore a couple of fairway complexes to their original design.

Two were selected which needed drainage work anyway to solve standing water problems. After the reconstruction, El Toro zoysiagrass was used to sod the fairway bunker faces and immediate surrounds. The grass thrives at the 1-1/2 to 2-inch rough cut and it doesn't require as much fertilizer and water, which is sometimes hard to deliver properly to bunker edges.

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Afternoon shadows begin to lengthen across the green and fairway of the 16th hole. Tree and shade management is a key part of the turf maintenance program at Indian Creek. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

South Florida Chapter

History: The granddaddy of all of the Florida chapters, the South Florida Chapter was organized in 1939 as the South Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association. Jimmy Blackledge was the first president. It spawned the Tri-County GCSA which later split to become the Palm Beach and South Florida associations. In 1973, the South Florida GCSA began an association publication called *The South Florida Green* with Mike Barger at the helm. In 1975, Dan Jones stepped in and took over the editorship. Four years later, in 1980, after the entire state mobilized into the Florida GCSA, the magazine was named the official voice of the FGCSA and the name changed to simply *The Florida Green*. So, we all owe the founders of the South Florida GCSA a debt of gratitude for getting it all started 60 years ago.

Activities: The South Florida chapter hosts two important annual events: the **South Florida Turf Expo**, which funds over half of the technician salary at the FGCSA research green. The planning and construction of the research green, built at the University of Florida Research and Education Center in Ft. Lauderdale, was spearheaded by the South Florida chapter. Named for legendary superintendent Otto Schmeisser, the green has been the site for many research projects and turf evaluations by IFAS faculty. The other event, **The Missing and Exploited Children Tournament** supports the work done on behalf of abused children in the Dade/Broward area. In addition to these major events, the South Florida Chapter carries out an aggressive monthly meeting schedule to provide education and networking opportunities for its members.

Current officers: Jim Walker, Palmetto G.C., president; Gilly MacGregor, Westview C.C., vice president; Bryan Singleton, Riviera C.C., secretary/treasurer; Jim Goins, Hollybrook G & T. C., external vice president.

Membership: 191 total members for 1998-99.

It is a win-win solution so far.

A tour of Indian Creek wouldn't be complete without a visit to the superintendent's residence adjacent to the maintenance complex. Once a fixture at many of the exclusive private clubs built during bygone days, only a handful of courses in south Florida still have superintendent residences.

Located in the interior of the golf course behind the 7th green, Pantaleo lives in a house that has its own share of Indian Creek history as room additions were added over the years to accommodate superintendents and their families. The daughters of the legendary superintendent Otto Schmeisser grew up here and often helped mow fairways in the summertime.

Pantaleo invited me to bunk overnight and we shared histories of our own golf experiences far into the night.

A lot of Florida history is to be learned and appreciated at Indian Creek: from real estate development in the "boom" days, classic golf course architecture once lost and now found again, to the stories of the lives of the people who have inhabited this island in the stream.