



*Before: Hollybrook G&TC No. 5 & No. 6 before Hurricane Irene. Photo by Jim Goins.*

*We haven't seen the last of the effects of last fall's hurricanes*

## Remember the Adage: Ugly In, Ugly Out!

*Editor's Note: We received these pictures and comments too late for the last issue. They are included in this issue as a stark reminder of the chaos and damage to our golf courses caused by mother nature just six months ago. As we move into the spring season, Bob Klitz reminds us why we may still see some of the long-term financial and cultural effects from the hurricanes of 1999.*

BY BOB KLITZ, CGCS

*General Manager*

*Golf Hollywood at Orangebrook*

**H**urricane Irene swept through South Florida in October with strong wind gusts and heavy rain. Structural damage was minimal but flooding and electrical power outages were widespread throughout the south Florida area.

Rental cars were unavailable after the storm due to the number of vehicles damaged by flood waters that rose quickly during the early evening hours. Vehicles that had been parked in front of homes or in driveways were submerged quietly in the night as the heavy rains pounded relentlessly. One area golf course had its entire fleet of cars submerged in water that reached over the seat cushions of the carts.

More than three dozen trees were knocked over on the two 18-hole courses at Orangebrook. The gusty winds contributed to the trees' demise, but the soaking rains are probably what caused the more serious damage by saturating the soil in the root zone. The softened soil and soaked roots were easily dislodged by any significant winds that occurred that evening.

The large ficus trees have been trimmed and propped back up, and the melaleucas, and any other exotics have been removed. Four weeks after the storm, some stump removal still needs to be finished. A very large debris pile is waiting for a tub grinder to reduce the volume of the unsightly debris.

Many golf courses throughout the area were closed due to heavy rainfall. The







*After: The same two holes immediately after the hurricane. Photo by Jim Goins.*



***One area golf course had its entire fleet of cars submerged in water that reached over the seat cushions of the carts.***

*This submerged irrigation controller on Hollybrook's No. 4 is a reminder of the not-so-obvious damage and destruction to electrical and mechanical course maintenance systems which have affected course conditioning. Photo by Jim Goins.*



***...the haunting reminder of Hurricane Irene will return for a visit during spring transition.***

*Hollybrook's hole No. 11 was inundated with flood waters from Hurricane Irene, as shown by photo far left. Adjacent photo shows the hole before the hurricane. Saturated soils and the spread of weed seeds will have a lingering effect on turf quality until the next full growing season is behind us. Photos by Jim Goins.*





two-day rainfall total at Orangebrook was at least 20 inches. October had already been a very wet month and combined with 30 inches of rainfall from June 1999, this has been one rough summer. Construction projects, cultural programs, and weed control programs have all been hampered by this summer's weather.

As we scurry around to cover our problems with winter overseeding, we cringe at the thought of spring transition, remembering the adage: Ugly in, ugly out. The water levels have receded, the winter snowbirds are here, but the haunting reminder of Hurricane Irene will return for a visit during spring transition.

*Extensive tree trimming, replanting and removal placed a tremendous strain on course budgets and work priorities. Many 1999 projects were postponed to deal with course cleanup. Photo by Bob Klitz.*

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### **Textron Raving Fans Award**

Golf Ventures, Inc., of Lakeland, was honored by Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products with a Raving Fans Award for 1999, Second Place. The Raving Fans Award, which is based on consumer satisfaction surveys, recognizes outstanding achievement and excellence in customer service. The presentation was made at a dealer meeting during the recent Golf Course Superintendents of America Conference and Show in New Orleans. A special guest at the ceremony was golf legend Gary Player, who participated in the presentation.

Pictured from left are Carl Burtner, CEO TTCSP; Michael McLaughlin, Golf Ventures VP operations; Player; Don Delaney, Golf Ventures VP sales; Phil Tralies, president TTCSP



**GOLF VENTURES**

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