



*Number 11, Par 3*  
*Photo by Daniel Zelazek*





THE OCEAN REEF CLUB ...

# Tropical Paradise on a Lump of Rock

By Joel Jackson, CGCS

The northeast wind was whipping whitecaps up into a cappuccino frenzy in Barnes Sound as I took U.S. 1 to Key Largo. I was hoping for chamber-of-commerce weather and picture-post-card-views of emerald grass flats and gin-clear water as I made a rare visit to the Florida Keys. A slowly moving low-pressure area put an end to that hope; nevertheless, I was headed to the exotic Ocean Reef Club to discover the secret of how Lee VanValkenburg and his staff maintained a high-profile golf course on a lump of rock on the edge of the ocean. I have had just enough geology and grass-growing experi-

ence to know this can't be the easiest assignment in the world even if the fishing is great!

The Ocean Reef Club was born in 1945 when Minnesota real estate broker Morris Baker bought sight-unseen a 40-acre fish camp on Dispatch Creek on Upper Key Largo. The locals on the Card Sound side of the island called the area Ocean Reef and Baker thought that name would do just fine for his fishing camp. Before he brought Ocean Reef to life, Key Largo had a long, rough-and-tumble history.

Key Largo means "long island" in Spanish and it is one of the oldest place names on





**SPREADRITE, INC.****CUSTOM SPREADING**

FERTILIZER • DOLOMITE • GYPSUM  
ARAGONITE • HYCAL LIME

**FAIRWAY TOP DRESSING**

LAMAR SAPP

ART SAPP

6001 S.W. 19th STREET  
PLANTATION, FL 33317  
MOBILE: (561) 479-9417  
MOBILE: (954) 383-4036

**Upstart Products, Inc.**

Performance Chemistry  
For Aquatics & Turf

**CASCADE PLUS**

LIQUID OR GRANULAR

**PHYTO-FOS**

FAST RELEASE SYSTEMIC PHOSPHOROUS

**AMINO ACID BIOFERTILIZERS**

Quelant-Ca — Quelant-K  
Macro-Sorb *radicular* — Macro-Sorb *foliar*

1 800 203 5629

## Pull the Plug on Drought Stress

Michigan State University bentgrass test plot plug

Grow flourishing, healthy plants with deeper, denser roots—even in sandy, drought, or water-restricted areas—with Hydrozone.

# HYDROZONE™

Conserving water for today and the future.

Call (877) 994-3494 for a free video



*Dolphin No.14, a 497-yard par 5. The lake was created by mining and removing the limestone bedrock in 10-foot stone pillars and selling them to a rock products company. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.*



*Dolphin No. 5, a 148-yard par 3. Since blasting out the lakes was prohibited, Ocean Reef had to purchase the rip-rap boulders to line the lake banks. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.*



on the North American continent, dating from the early 16th century. Spanish explorers found the string of keys lacking in mineral wealth (gold) and fresh water, but the mahogany trees on the island were prized by these explorers who dubbed the species "Madera" or wood. The mahogany groves were logged over the centuries with the last grove reportedly being harvested in the late 1940s.

The first settlers built along the ocean and ruins of old cisterns and evidence of date palms and tamarind groves mark the isolated settlements linked by the ruts of an old wagon road that runs well east of the present SR 905. These early inhabitants had mixed livelihoods as fishermen, slavers, and lime and pineapple growers. Their homes were built from lumber salvaged from the sea or as they called it, the "Ocean Lumber Company."

Those of my generation can't help thinking of Key Largo without thinking of the 1948 movie of the same name starring Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall. Reportedly some bar scenes were filmed on location at the Caribbean Club near Mile Marker 104 on U.S. 1. However, not one of the actors ever set foot on the island for any scenes of the movie; the bulk was filmed on a Hollywood sound stage. Plenty of celebrities visit now including President George Bush, Sr., an avid golfer and fisherman, who also frequented Gasparilla Island on the Florida west coast.

Golf made its debut on Key Largo in 1955 when Baker opened a nine-hole course and added a second nine a few years later. In 1960 a regulation golf course designed by Bruce Devlin and Robert Von Hagge was built and Bob Toski was named director of golf. The game rose in prominence as one of the many amenities for residents and visitors alike.

During the 1970s, the annual Pro-Guest Golf Tournament was in its second decade attracting a fraternity of touring pros including Gene Sarazen, Julius Boros, Dave Marr, Dow Finsterwald, Bob Murphy, Jim Colbert, and Tommy Bolt along with Toski, Ocean Reef's own Mister Golf.

The present-day Ocean Reef Club, with its Dolphin and Harbor courses, evolved from a succession of ownership groups and course configurations; the latter included the Snapper and Barracuda courses and the Card Sound Golf Club.

Ocean Reef's director of golf maintenance, Lee VanValkenburg, CGCS came to Key Largo in 1985, succeeding Dick Blake as the superintendent of the Card Sound Golf Club. He served as the director of golf maintenance for both Card Sound and Ocean Reef clubs from 1992 to 1995 and assumed his current role with Ocean Reef in 1995 during the final split of the courses into their present operations.

In 2000 and 2001, the Dolphin Course was redesigned by Chip Powell with the construction done by Reed Berlinsky. Because of the short grow-in time between seasons and limited fresh water, only nine holes were renovated

K U B O T A M S E R I E S

## THE FUNDAMENTALS OF THE GAME VERSATILITY. POWER. COMFORT.



Specialty turf work can be made simple with the new design of the Kubota M Series Turf Special tractors. Special tires provide low ground pressure to protect the turf. Kubota's rugged and environmentally friendly E-TVCS emission certified engines deliver more power than before.

And new cab models provide all day comfort.

**Versatility. Power. Comfort.**

**If this is everything you value in a tractor, climb aboard.**

### SEE ONE OF THESE KUBOTA DEALERS TODAY!

BRADENTON  
FRANZ TRACTOR COMPANY  
5504 15th Street E.  
(941) 755-5722

CRESTVIEW  
WISE EQUIPMENT SALES & SERVICE  
1147 South Fardon Blvd.  
(850) 682-3366

DELAND  
TRIPLE D EQUIPMENT  
2820 S. Firehouse Road  
(386) 734-2119  
[tripledeg@worldnet.att.net](mailto:tripledeg@worldnet.att.net)

FT. MYERS  
CREEL TRACTOR COMPANY  
3771 Palm Beach Blvd.  
(941) 694-2185

FT. PIERCE  
PIPPIN TRACTOR  
3200 Kings Highway  
(800) 332-7896

HOMESTEAD  
RICHARDS TRACTORS & IMPLEMENT  
1995 N.E. 8th Street  
(305) 247-8711

LAND O'LAKES  
GULF COAST TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT  
3827 Land O'Lakes Blvd. (Hwy. 41)  
(813) 995-2533

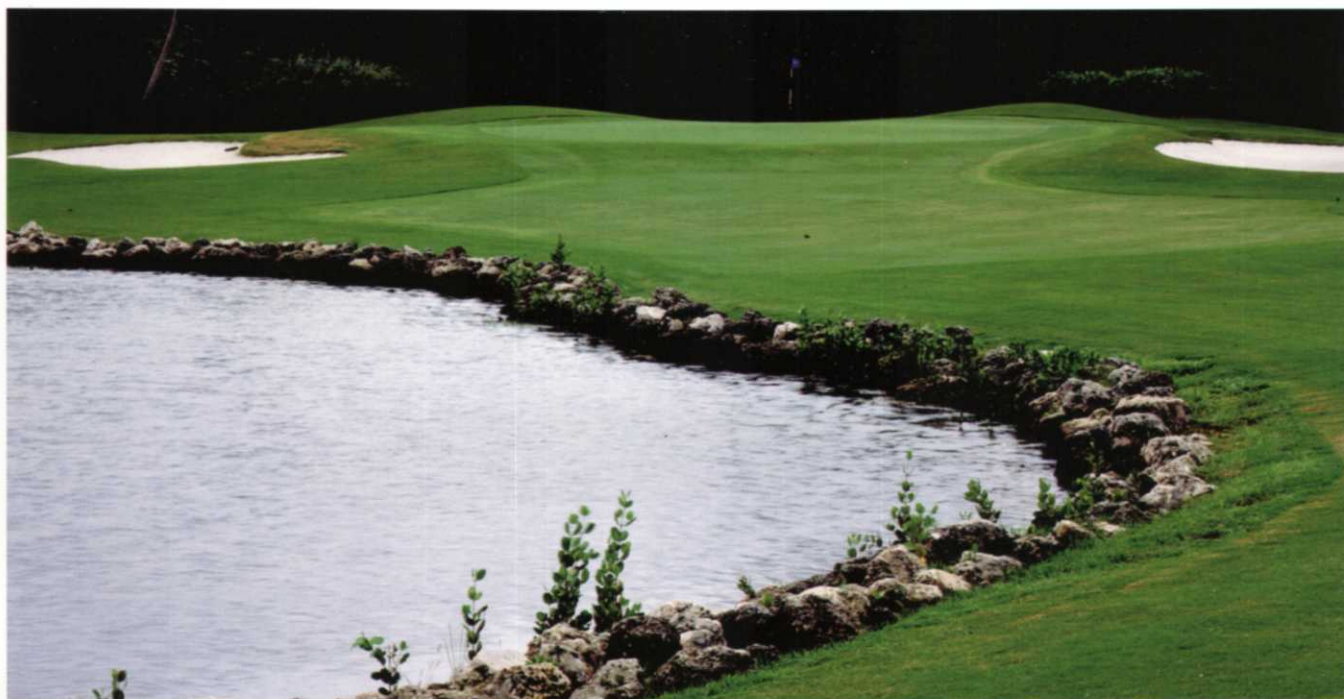
PLANT CITY  
GULF COAST TURF & TRACTOR  
404 N. Frontage Road  
(813) 764-0603

**Kubota**



Kubota Tractor Corporation markets a full line of tractors and construction equipment through a nationwide network of over 1000 authorized dealers.





Superintendent Lee VanValkenburg had to outfox land crabs with geotextiel fabric layers and ballast stone to keep them from undermining the rip-rap lining the lake on Harbor No. 6, a 162-yard par 3. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.



The Harbor Course may be shorter than the Dolphin, but the 412-yard 10th hole challenges all players to bring their "A" games. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.



Harbor No. 4, 254-yard par 4/3. The Harbor Course is carved through the native hardwood hammock and managing shade is a high priority. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

at a time, which offered its own special challenges according to VanValkenburg.

VanValkenburg said, "In 2000 we found ourselves growing in TifEagle on one nine while maintaining our old Tifdwarf greens on the other. The next year we were in TifEagle grow-in mode again on one nine and maturing the one-year-old greens on the other, so we had two different regimens in play at all times.

"We chose the nine-hole-only approach because we have limited storage capacity for our irrigation water and if we got into a drought situation, we didn't want to have to rescue 18 holes of brand-new turf. So we bit the bullet."

There won't be much rest for the weary as Ocean Reef has begun master planning for the upgrade of the Harbor Course.

*'...if we want to trim limbs that overhang the cart paths we have to go through the course and remove any Florida tree snails and put them in a moist pail. After the trimming is finished, we tack paper cups containing the snails back onto the trees so they can crawl out and return to their habitat.'*

"The most positive thing to come out of all of this is the creation of a formal master plan for the club," said VanValkenburg. "This document gives succeeding committees the guidance for what has been done and what needs to be done to achieve the stated goals of the club. Previously, we had a laundry list each year of projects to do this or that, but now we have it all mapped out and we can really plan ahead, which is what I like to do."

"The Harbor Course is going to be an interesting and challenging project. We don't have the access points as we did on the Dolphin Course so we will have to work our way out from the far points back to the road. We have some serious shade considerations; and we have been documenting the sunlight patterns by taking photos of the greens at set intervals from June 23, the summer solstice, and during the year as the sun moves south casting more shadows on the turf."

"If we have to trim or remove any trees, we will have to get permits from the county since they have very strict codes along those

lines. Even now, if we want to trim limbs that overhang the cart paths we have to go through the course and remove any Florida tree snails and put them in a moist pail. After the trimming is finished, we tack paper cups containing the snails back onto the trees so they can crawl out and return to their habitat."

"Another big consideration for the Harbor Course renovation will be upgrading the irrigation system. It's a long run to the course, and the pipe sizing isn't consistent, so we have serious friction loss which needs to be corrected. We are evaluating possible pump sites and ways to create additional storage for our irrigation water."

Fresh water, much less irrigation water, is a critical issue for island dwellers in the Florida Keys. Potable water costs \$6 per thousand gallons and so reverse osmosis technology has been employed since the 1970s to provide cheaper water for irrigation. The irrigation wells are more than 1,000 feet deep and tap into the southern extremities of the Floridan Aquifer as it empties somewhere into the Atlantic Ocean.

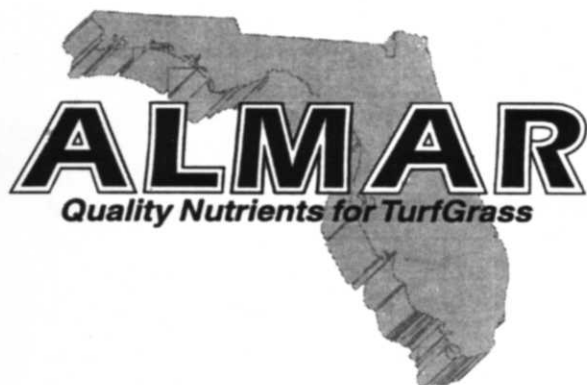
At this point in the strata, the aquifer water tests about 15,000 parts total dissolved salts and is made usable by passing the water under pressure through osmotic membranes. The water is then stored in a 2.7-million-gallon, shallow reservoir for pumping onto the grounds. While the golf course is the primary user right now, there are plans to expand the use in the future to include more home and condo sites, and resort grounds areas.

Like most people, I think of the tropical islands as getting lots of rainfall, but VanValkenburg says Upper Key Largo averages around 38 inches per year compared to the 50-60 inch average for mainland Florida.

VanValkenburg says, "We also have the plight of being the stall point for a lot of weather fronts. We get pounded with days of high winds and salt spray followed by high humidity and heavy rains as the tropical air meets the frontal zone. We can go into disease mode pretty quickly if we're not careful. We often time preventive fungicide applications when the fronts approach because we know the conditions will be ripe for disease."

Another challenge for growing turf in the Keys is the lack of soil. With only a couple of inches of material covering the limestone bedrock, renovating the golf course was interesting to say the least.

"We wanted to clean up our fairways



**THE POWER of Foliar Nutrition ...**  
**Hyperspectral Turf Enhancer Program**

**(800) 340-3888**

P. O. BOX 291370, TAMPA, FL 33687  
 FAX (813) 988-0329

## North Georgia Turf, Inc.

*"Providing Sodding and Sprigging Services to Golf Courses"*



- Superior Cold Hardiness
- Superior Response to Close Tee and Fairway Mowing Heights
- Genetic Purity
- Mole Cricket Non-Preference



**'El Toro'**  
*Zoysia*

**For Fairways and Tees**

1487 Blackdirt Road  
 Whitesburg, Georgia 30185

**800-273-8608**





## DOLPHIN COURSE



*Dolphin Course crew.*

**Location:** Key Largo

**Total acreage:** 105 acres. No overseeding.

**Greens:** 5,250 sq. ft. TifEagle. HOC: .120 in. summer; .110 in. winter. Green speeds: 8-8.5 summer, 9-10 winter.

**Tees:** 4 acres Tifway 419, HOC: .350 in.

**Fairways:** 22 acres Tifway 419. HOC: .500 in. summer; .450 in. winter.

**Roughs:** 65 acres each of mixed 419, Ormond and common bermudagrass. HOC: 1.25 in.

**Bunkers:** 72 bunkers FS100 sand and 10

acres of naturalized links areas (coral screenings). Greens bunkers hand raked. Fairway bunkers machine raked with Toro Sand Pros with spring-rake attachments. **Waterways/Lakes:** 13 acres, 3 lakes.



# Your Sand Man

- Trap Sand
- Top Dressing Sand
- Greens Mix
- Green Divot Sand

**All Sands meet U.S.G.A. Specs**

**E. R. JAHNA INDUSTRIES, Inc.**

Lake Wales, FL 33859-0840 • (863) 676-9431

and plant certified Tifway 419, so we leased a sod harvester and cut out the existing sod on the fairways," VanValkenburg said. The contractor scraped and hauled off the loose sod. Then we encouraged the remaining sprigs and stolons to regenerate and when they produced new growth we treated with a combination of RoundUp and Fusilade.

"After that died off we encouraged it to grow again and sprayed it again.

"Then we added 2-3 inches of sand, some starter fertilizer and ran a heavy-duty tiller generally used to tear up roads (Rototarian) over the surface to mix the sand and organic layers together. All that was graded out and then we grassed the fairways with rolled sod."

The bedrock also presented VanValkenburg with the experience of watching new lakes being built by harvesting the bedrock in 3x4x10-foot stone columns.

Blasting is not allowed.

The columns were plucked out of the lake one at a time after a huge trenching machine crosshatched the lake site with 10-foot-deep trenches creating a checkerboard effect. A large track-hoe then broke off the stone pillars at the base and scooped them out. The cost of the lake excavations was offset by selling the stone to a company called Keystone Products which milled the columns into benches, tables and other rock

products.

Altering the landscape and creating a new look and challenges for the Ocean Reef members is done with the environmental consequences in mind at all times. Ocean Reef has participated in a USGA-funded and University of Florida IFAS-managed project to reestablish the Schaus Swallowtail Butterfly nearly wiped out by Hurricane Andrew. With the tree snails and butterflies as wards of his stewardship, VanValkenburg and staff take care to scout and time their pesticide applications to avoid harming the endangered species under their care. In fact, VanValkenburg notes that when the county or state wants to monitor the endangered species officials come to the golf course to take their counts because that's where they find them taking refuge.

Managing 36 holes of golf in this unique environment takes a lot of care and attention far beyond one person's ability to cover all the bases and VanValkenburg considers himself to be extremely lucky to have a dedicated staff to help run the operation.

"I remember when I got a chance to prove myself under Jim Ellison at Bay Hill and Adam Yurigan at Johns Island. I try to provide that same experience for our managers. I look for that spark of initiative and the willingness to work hard and improve oneself. I try to judge the depth

of talent and commitment of the individual by what he shows me every day. Then it's up to me to provide him with the resources to get the job done right and to turn him loose to make mistakes; to learn to make decisions on his own; and to back him up when they goof. I guess I must be doing something right because we have a great team in place right now."

***The bedrock also presented VanValkenburg with the experience of watching new lakes being built by harvesting the bedrock in 3x4x10-foot stone columns.***

The course looked flawless in our ride-through and VanValkenburg showed me specimens of the native hardwood hammock environment including some surviving mahogany trees, gumbo limbo, lignum vitae, Jamaica dogwood, green buttonwood, ironwood, torchwood and under story plants common to the Keys.

I didn't unlock any real deep, dark golf maintenance secrets on this island trip, but it sure made me appreciate the differences in turf-management techniques that come into play depending on the location - from an old citrus grove in Lake County to a tropical paradise down in Key Largo.

## Computer-Exact Custom Mixes. Every Order. Every Time.

- All Loads Scaled
- Soil Analysis Available



- Next Day Service
- Volume Orders

Visit our website at [www.golfAg.com](http://www.golfAg.com)!

### Traps Installed to Spec.



Golf Agronomics meets all your top dressing needs with our ability to customize your mix with a variety of soil amendments including:

- Dolomite
- Hi-Cal
- Charcoal
- Wetting Agents
- Humic Acid
- Minor Elements
- Rock Phosphate
- Gypsum
- Customer Products

**GOLF AGRONOMICS  
SUPPLY & HANDLING**

Serving all of Florida

(800) 626-1359  
(941) 955-4690 Fax



# OCEAN REEF CLUB

**Location:** Key Largo

**Ownership:** Member owned

**Playing policy:** Private

**36 Holes:** Dolphin Course - 6,467 yards, par: 71.

Harbor Course - 6,090 yards, par 71/70.

**Designed by:** Dolphin - Robert Von Hagge &

Bruce Devlin with Mark

Mahannah. Opened in

1960. Greens, tees and

cart paths redesign by

Ted McAnlis in 1993-

95. Complete renovation

and regrassing in

2000 & 2001 with

design by Chip Powell

and construction by

Reed Berlinsky. Harbor -

Original design by

Robert Von Hagge &

Bruce Devlin. Opened

in 1974. Greens and

tees redesign by Ted

McAnlis in 1992.

**Management:** Paul

Astbury, club president;

Jim Johnson, green

chairman; Hank

Henrich, golf chairman

and director; Tom

Hilliard, director of

golf; Jim DeMallie, golf

professional; Lee Van

Valkenburg, director of

golf course maintenance.

**Special circumstances:**

Lack of soil depth. Only

2-3 in. above bedrock.

Reverse osmosis. water

increases sodium

replacement of calcium.

Year-round germination

of goose grass. Very

strict county codes for

tree trimming and

removal.

**Communications:** Bi-

weekly department

meetings; weekly staff

meetings; monthly

meetings with green

committee, golf com-

mittee and department

managers.

**Cultural/Fertility/IPM**

**programs:** We scout pest activity and life cycles

for proper timing of pesticide applications. By

hitting the correct window, we have had great

success using Merit for mole cricket and grub

control.

**Environmental management:** Schaus

Swallowtail butterfly, Florida tree snail, both

sensitive to the timing of mosquito control and

tree trimming. Working with an environmental consultant for master planning the anticipated renovation of the Harbor Course.

**Waterways/Lakes:** All water hazards are tidal with an average TDS of 15,000 ppm. Water quality is enhanced by using aeration bubblers and

**Leadership:** Tod Evans, superintendent; Michael Davies, first assistant; Robert Loria and Brian Flowers, second assistants; Miguel Diaz, head mechanic; David McFarling, first assistant mechanic; Santos Cua, second assistant mechanic; Reynaldo Ramirez and Confessor Torres,

pest control technicians; Abelino Garcia, irrigation technician; Elizabeth Palma, administrative assistant. Walter Thompson, landscape supervisor.

**Total staff:** 43 full time, Avg. weekly hours 40 ST with 4 OT. **Total acreage:** 105 acres. No overseeding.

**Greens:** 5,250 sq. ft. TifEagle. HOC: .120 in. summer; .110 in. winter. Green speeds: 8-8.5 summer, 9-10 winter.

**Tees:** 4 acres Tifway 419, HOC: .350 in.

**Fairways:** 22 acres Tifway 419. HOC: .500 in. summer; .450 in. winter.

**Roughs:** 65 acres each of mixed 419, Ormond and common bermudagrass. HOC: 1.25 in.

**Bunkers:** 72 bunkers FS100 sand and 10 acres of naturalized links areas (coral screenings).

Greens bunkers hand raked. Fairway bunkers machine raked with Toro Sand Pros with spring-rake attachments.

**Waterways/Lakes:** 13 acres, 3 lakes.

**Total acreage:** 97 acres

**Greens:** 4,800 sq. ft.

Tifdwaf. HOC: .175 in.

summer; .150 in. winter.

Off-type mutations in

greens need higher cut.

Green speed goals: 7.0

summer, 8.0-plus winter.

**Tees:** 2.5 acres Tifway

419 & Tifgreen 328

HOC: .450 in.

**Fairways:** 25 acres 60% Ormond and 40% common bermudagrass. HOC: .625 in.

**Roughs:** 65 acres each of mixed 419, Ormond and common bermudagrass. HOC: 1.25 in.

**Bunkers:** 51 bunkers FS100 sand and 2 acres of naturalized links areas (coral screenings).

**Waterways/Lakes:** 20 acres, 8 lakes.



*Ocean Reef looks good thanks to the support by key staff. From left, front row: landscapers Augustine Agiatas, Tiu Gaspar and Oswaldo Perez. Back Row: Walter Thompson, landscape supervisor; assistant mechanics David McFarling and Santos Cua and head mechanic Miguel Diaz. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

oxygen diffusers. No display fountains used due to salt spray effects.

**Irrigation:** Water source for both courses.

Floridan Aquifer - saline water treated by reverse osmosis plant. Pump station: Flowtronex VFD, 1800 GPM. Toro Osmac controls with Site Pro. Toro 670 double-row heads. Dolphin - 550 and Harbor 435.



## Lee VanValkenburg, CGCS



**Originally from:** Attica, New York

**Family:** Single. Mother Ardyth VanValkenburg, brother Peter and sister Beth Mullen

**Education:** AS Business Administration, Genesee Community College; 1988 GCSAA Certified Golf Course Superintendent

**Employment history:** 1995-present Ocean Reef Club (36 holes) and 1992-95 Card Sound & Ocean Reef (54 holes), director of golf course maintenance; 1985-92 Card Sound GC (18 holes) superintendent; 1978-85 Johns Island Club (36 holes) assistant superintendent; 1977-78 Bay Hill Club (27 holes) spray technician; 1976-77 Rio Pinar CC crew; 1975-76 Stafford GC crew; 1969-75 Attica GC crew.

**Professional affiliation and awards:** CGCS; Class A member of the GCSAA, FGCSA, and South Florida GCSA; Member of the FTGA and USGA. Certified pesticide applicator with State of Florida.

**Getting into the Business:** I grew up next door to the Attica Golf Club. My grandfather, father and uncle all worked there and so did I. My mother would send Lady, our collie, over to the course to find me for dinner.

**Mentors:** My father Irving VanValkenburg - his love and dedication to the game instilled in me a desire to become involved in the golf industry. Robert Simmons, my first boss. Working with Bob with his down to earth approach made me love the profession. Adam Yurigan - Adam is the man who taught me the profession. He gave me the chance to learn by making me make decisions and some mistakes and being man enough to face the heat. How many guys are willing to do that? J.J. Curran and Lou Wozak, - they were both good friends and mentors here at Ocean Reef.

**Philosophy/Accomplishments:** Refuse to lose. You can always find a way to get it done. My greatest accomplishment or satisfaction is seeing guys who have worked for me go out and be successful - Bryan Singleton, Mike Osley and Chuck Calhoun and most recently Tod Evans moving up to La Gorce CC in Miami.

**Advice to new superintendents:** Identify the talent on your team, explain exactly what is expected of them and give them the means to accomplish what's expected. Coach and guide them so they can begin making decisions on their own. This only works if you're a good judge of talent.

**Memorable moments:** After Hurricane Andrew, we housed and fed many of our associates, who had basically lost everything. We were cut off from the mainland and most communications for a week. People got on edge. One day two guys almost came to blows over what day it was. I defused the situation by tossing a newspaper on the table and said, "You might be wrong today, but you'll be right tomorrow!"

**Hobbies and interests:** Fishing. Still dating. Reading. That's all I have time for.

## If You're Looking for Improved Pest Control . . . Du Cor has an Easier Solution!



New Du Cor LEMWET can help improve your pesticide spray application! LEMWET is a lemon extract attractant and surfactant for use with most pesticides. LEMWET attracts nearby pests to your spray. In addition, it's non-ionic surfactants improve spray penetration and bring your pesticide into close contact with pests!

For over 35 years, Du Cor has been coming up with products to fit our customers needs. From liquid micronutrients, humates and fertilizers, to specialty dyes, surfactants, odor counteractants and more, we take pride in finding special solutions that help our clients.

So if your looking for something special to attract a nuisance, or maybe just a different solution to help you grow, give Du Cor a call. We may already have just the solution you need!



**Du Cor International  
Corporation**

P.O. Box 593298, Orlando, Florida 32859  
407-859-4390 or Toll Free 1-800-382-6735



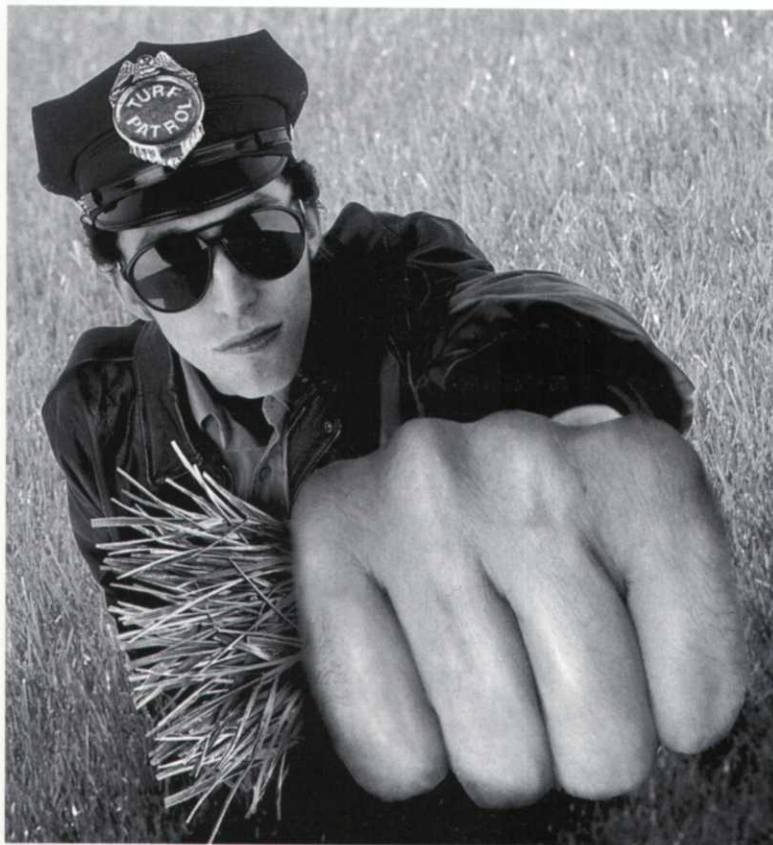
## We Need Your HELP!

See the 'Call For Articles' at the bottom  
of the Masthead on Page 3 to learn how.





Ocean Reef Harbor Course No. 4 tee platform in the mangroves. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.



When it comes  
to your turf, we're  
very protective.

Golf. Soccer. Softball. Picnics. Your turf has to take a lot and still look good. To keep it healthy, dense and weed free, count on professional turf protection from Southern States. We can deliver proven turf blends adapted to your specific climate and growing conditions. And provide herbicides, adjuvants, colorants and markers formulated to take your turf to new levels of quality and playability.

Call the Turf Division of Southern States today at **1-877-383-3199**. We'll connect you to a trained professional who knows how to get results. Because when it comes to your turf, we're very protective.

 **SOUTHERN STATES**

Visit our web site at [www.turfnotes.com](http://www.turfnotes.com)

*Growing Solutions in Turf*



## HARBOR COURSE



*Harbor Course crew.*

**Total acreage:** 97 acres

**Greens:** 4,800 sq. ft. Tifdwarf. HOC: .175 in. summer; .150 in. winter. Off- type mutations in greens need higher cut. Green speed goals: 7.0 summer, 8.0-plus winter.

**Tees:** 2.5 acres Tifway 419 & Tifgreen 328  
HOC: .450 in.

**Fairways:** 25 acres 60% Ormond and 40% common bermudagrass. HOC: .625 in.

**Roughs:** 65 acres each of mixed 419, Ormond

and common bermudagrass. HOC: 1.25 in.

**Bunkers:** 51 bunkers FS100 sand and 2 acres of naturalized links areas (coral screenings).

**Waterways/Lakes:** 20 acres, 8 lakes.

# South Florida Grassing, Inc

Over 35 Years in the Grassing Industry

**TifSport**

**SeaIsle**  
Certified Seashore Paspalum

**Sod, Sprigs and Rolls available**

- We provide reworking and planting services for fairways, tees and greens
- Our grass is grown in Hobe Sound on gassed, sand-based soil
- Hydro-mulching, grassing and mulching also available

**Tifway 419**

**TifEagle**

**Tifdwarf**



**Certified Producer**

Southern Seed  
Certification Association

**(561) 546-4191**

**[www.southfloridagrassing.com](http://www.southfloridagrassing.com)**

**800-483-4279**



## FUN FACTS



*It's plain to see why his fishing tackle is VanValkenburg's most prized possession.*

Here are some things you might not know about our cover story superintendent:

1. Car: 1995 Camaro Z-28.
2. The last good movie I saw: As Good As It Gets.
3. I stay home to watch: Sports and nature shows.
4. The book I've been reading: "First, Break All the Rules."
5. Favorite meal: Mom's homemade spaghetti.
6. Favorite performers: The Rolling Stones, Rodney Dangerfield.
7. Prized possession: All my fishing tackle.
8. Personal heroes: Joe Torre, Colin Powell.
9. Nobody knows that I: Wanted to become a paleontologist. Working in this fossilized coral bedrock, I guess I am one.
10. I'm better than anyone else when it comes to: Anticipation, thinking and planning ahead.
11. If I could do it over: Maybe I would have married a woman instead of a golf course.
12. I'd give anything to meet: Our President.
13. My fantasy is: September 11, 2001 never happened.
14. The one thing I can't stand: Lack of planning ahead.
15. If I could change one thing about myself: I'd try to be more relaxed.
16. My most irrational act: Staying in Homestead for Hurricane Andrew.
17. My most humbling experience: Early in my career, driving a tractor into a tree in front of everyone at the clubhouse and getting exiled back to the push-type rotary mower detail for the season.
18. The words that best describe me: Humorous but intense.