

equipment as an alternative. The only thing for me to do is to figure out where to get the money to pay for it.

The superintendent who approaches all capital repairs with this attitude is valuable at any time but most importantly at this time in the industry when more courses are being built and fighting over sales, which is decreasing the average course's revenues. With the superintendent having this approach to all Cap X, in the end you have a better product for less money.

Thank you Super Savers.

Bill Stine

Editor's note: This Owners Outlook column is a semi-regular feature and part of a cooperative communications-exchange effort between the FGCSA and FGCOA to share information and concerns. In February 2005, at the national level, the GCSAA and NGCOA will hold a joint Golf Industry Show in Orlando and our worlds will move closer together, as they should. Hopefully, we are getting a little head start.

USGA Green Section Florida Regional Update Recovering From Mid-Winter Course Conditions

We have passed the halfway point of the 2004 Florida winter season. After a slightly rough start for some during the late fall and early winter, typical mid-winter conditions are being found during TAS visits around the state.

Normal winter season wear-and-tear is evident, but appropriate and acceptable course conditioning is being provided. On a positive note, temperatures and day length are increasing and becoming more favorable to the resumption of sustained bermudagrass growth, and with this it should be possible to produce some recovery and improvement in course conditions.

Along with direct turf injury and wear, another consequence of heavy winter season traffic is soil compaction. As compaction increases, moisture and oxygen infiltration are restricted, which in turn limits growth and recovery. Aeration of high traffic areas and putting



John Foy

surfaces is encouraged to help relieve compaction and promote a faster recovery response. Water injection cultivation or aeration with small diameter solid tines causes very minimal surface disruption and provides two to three weeks of relief.

The biggest obstacle to winter aeration is often scheduling needed maintenance practices when peak play is occurring. At a growing number of facilities, course closures for maintenance are being allowed during the winter season, which is very beneficial in providing top quality conditions.

The winter and spring months also are the Florida dry season, and below-average rainfall (3-inch deficit as of March 15) has been recorded throughout the central to southern portion of the peninsula. While far from the drought conditions of a few years ago, limited rainfall is starting to present some management challenges. The combination of increasing temperatures,

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bright blue skies, and windy conditions result in rapid soil moisture loss and high evapotranspiration (ET) rates.

Additional care must be exercised with supplemental irrigation to avoid the onset of drought stress, especially at courses where winter overseeding is practiced. Juvenile overseeding, lack drought tolerance and can be thinned quickly by drought stress. Through the spring, closely monitor for drought stress. Daytime irrigation may be necessary to prevent a fast transition of the overseeding cover.

Until rainfall occurs on a regular basis, salt accumulation in the upper rootzone can be a problem. Even with irrigation sources that have low to medium salt content, a progressive build-up in concentration levels can occur. Thus, it is a good idea to monitor with soil sampling and, if needed, schedule flushing or leaching irrigation cycles.

This regional update, and others written by the Green Section staff, may be found on the USGA Web site at www.usga.org/green.

John Foy, Director



GCSAA News New Governance Model Will Save Officers' Time and Jobs

I'll be anxious to see how the new governance model works out as the GCSAA board members turn over the details of running things to the staff under the direction of Steve

Mona our CEO. It's a worthwhile idea since the travel time away from work for a sitting officer or board member ranges between 30 and 100 days a year. That's too long to be away from work and keep your job. Just look at the job changes of former officers. This just makes sense, and might get more people involved.

The 2004 budget and strategic initiatives

- Good news for superintendents looking for a job. The GCSAA's online Employment Referral Service is now free.
- The association is budgeting \$175,000 for television exposure for continuing its national outreach campaign.
- The association will be developing plans for more diversity within the organization's membership and improving international opportunities.
- Florida had two research projects approved in the Chapter Cooperative Research Program. Dr. Lawrence Datnoff will be looking at management of *Bipolaris* and *Curvalaria* on ultradwarf greens, and Dr. Billy Crow will be studying the best timing for nematocide applications based on soil temperatures, nematode



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