



View of the 18th hole and the Island CC clubhouse which was renovated in 2005. Photo by Daniel Zelazek

ISLAND COUNTRY CLUB

A Tribute to Golf History

The Island Country Club is located on Marco Island just off Florida's southwest coast, south of Naples and at the beginning of Florida's Ten Thousand Islands, which extend into Florida Bay west of the Keys. It is the largest island at 17.1 square miles and is home to 15,000 year around. The population swells to about 35,000 during the peak vacation season.

The Deltona Corporation developed the island back in the 1960s and built the original club called the Marco Island Country Club, designed by Dave Wallace and opened in 1966. When the members bought the club in 1986 it was renamed the Island CC and in 1992 Dean Refram renovated the greens



Crushed rock beach areas reduce irrigated turf acreage and provide buffers around water bodies. Photo by Wayne Kappauf, CGCS.

You can't write a story about the Island CC without delving into the golf history of longtime resident and club member, Gene 'The Squire' Sarazen (1902-1999). One of only five men to win all four of the majors in their lifetime or 'Career Slams,' Sarazen won seven major titles overall and made the famous double eagle on the 13th hole of the Masters in 1932.

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After the club was renovated in 1995 he was provided an office in the clubhouse. He ate lunch at the club every day, and Sarazen lived out his retirement years on Marco Island. He and his wife, Mary, are buried on the

island and the local medical center bears their name.

Other notable residents of Marco Island included Ken Venturi and LPGA star Pat Bradley; Alan Jackson and Shania Twain, C&W singers; Michael Collins, astronaut; Bob Turley, retired baseball pitcher; James "Buster" Douglas, pro boxer; Leighton Meester, actress; Lauren Embree, tennis player, Robin Quivers, talk show host and John Spiker, musician-bassist from Tenacious D. Oh yes, Melody and Wayne Kappauf – the membership director and golf course superintendent at the Island C.C.

Superintendent Wayne Kappauf, CGCS met Sarazen (age 93) in 1995 and said he never saw The Squire play a full round of golf, but he would see him out on the range each April hitting balls in preparation for his honorary starter appearances each year in Augusta. Kappauf said the club added a new restaurant at the club in 2005 and named it The Double Eagle Grille in honor



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of their legendary golf ambassador. The club abounds in tributes to Sarazen with photos and memorabilia in the Sarazen Gallery in the clubhouse, and a bronze bust and a statue of The Squire outside near the putting green.

Kappauf is celebrating 14 years at the club and he has loved managing the changes that have helped the playing conditions improve with expanded teeing areas and the installation of TifEagle greens in 2001.

"You know I like to play a lot of golf and some courses are just very fun to play and this is one of them," Kappauf says. "We have a good variety of holes so everyone can be tested but also enjoy the round."

A new Toro Site Pro irrigation system was installed in 1999 which also helped to provide consistent conditioning of the turf.

Kappauf has also been keeping up with the modern trends in sustainable course management.

"We have over 40 varieties of trees on the golf course," he said. "We have removed invasive trees like melaleuca, Australian pine and Brazilian pepper on purpose or with the help of a few hurricanes and, in return, we plant several varieties of palm trees, ficus, oak, black olive, flowering trees like bottlebrush and royal poinciana. Since this is a tropical island setting, palm trees have the edge because they do so well here.

"We are also making an effort to control maintenance costs by judiciously removing out-of-play turf areas where it makes sense and installing beach-like waste areas consisting of crushed concrete screenings. As these areas replace turfgrass, we can remove irrigation heads one at a time and conserve water.

"Even though the Island CC has been on reclaimed water since the very beginning, availability of water becomes an issue with potential increases in the number of users of the water and with

the fluctuating populations with less water being reclaimed in the summer, so conserving available supplies is very prudent.

"The 'beach areas' require relatively low maintenance and still provide playable surfaces. We also use them as natural cart paths where we have removed the concrete paths in sensitive landing areas where golf shots can ricochet into the water. Additionally by wrapping the waste areas around the base of pine and palm trees, competition between the trees and turf is eliminated as is the need to edge and trim around the trees saving substantial labor costs.

"At Island Country Club we love aerification and slow release fertilizer. We try not to begin core aerifying before June 1 and never core aerify after Sept. 1, but in between we do as much as we can. Our preferred source of nitrogen is polymer coated urea which we apply to greens, tees, fairways and roughs four times per year at 1.5 lbs. N per 1000



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SUPERINTENDENT/FUN FACTS



Wayne and Melody Kappauf

WAYNE KAPPAUF, CGCS

Originally from: Long Island, NY Moved to Naples at age two.

Family: Wife Melody, daughter Aimee (28) son Kyle (22) grandson Christopher (7)

Education: Naples High School graduate 1978; Bachelor of Science degree Florida Southern College 1982.

Employment history: 1995-present superintendent, Island CC. Marco Island; 1982-95 superintendent, Quail Run GC, Naples; 1976-82 part-time. Forest Lakes GC Naples.

Professional affiliations: Member EGCSA and FGCSA since 1982; member GCSAA since 1991, Certified Golf Course Superintendent 1993-present; EGCSA board member 1991-1996, 2000 - present, president in 1994; FGCSA board member 2006-2009.

How did you get into the business? I started playing golf at 11 and have been on a course ever since. I thought I wanted to be a golf pro but soon realized I did not want to be trapped in a building most of the day. Mark Hampton and Buddy Carmouche were two superintendents who greatly influenced my early career and got me involved in the Everglades GCSA.

Goals: My goal has always been to be happy and I have accomplished that for sure. I have tried to be a good son, a good husband, a good father, a good friend, a good employee, and a good servant.

Personal philosophy: When you love what you do, then it is not work. .

Advice: Work hard and set a good example for others to follow, but do not work ridiculous hours and deprive your loved ones at home. Finish that degree. Get certified. Pick up a new license or certificate in something. Learn another language. Get involved in your superintendents' association and visit other courses when you get the chance.

Personal memorable moments: Helping my wife get control of a bus load of Island CC members after the driver had a heart attack and died while the bus was cruising down U.S. 41. Thankfully no one else was hurt.

Hobbies and Interests: Golf and the Gulf get a lot of my attention.

WAYNE'S WORLD

Vehicle: 2008 GMC Sierra

The last good movie I saw: Grand Torino (Clint Eastwood)

I stay home to watch: All the golf Majors and Dolphin games I'm not at in person

The book I've been reading: *Uncommon* by Tony Dungy

Favorite meal: The one I'm eating at the time

Favorite performers: Rascal Flatts

Prized possessions: Our new dock - it's great

Personal heroes: My mom and dad for their unconditional love

Nobody knows that I: Enjoy helping people with their tax returns

I'm better than anyone else when it comes to: Not sweating the small stuff

If I could do it over: I would have served my country in the military

I'd give anything to meet: Tiger Woods

My fantasy (which is also my reality) is: Living on an island with a beautiful blonde.

The one thing I can't stand: Leaving that island

If I could change one thing about myself: We can never have too much patience

My most irrational act: Pulling out a 30-foot tree with a 20-foot chain. I almost didn't make it to my 23rd birthday

Most humbling experience: A direct hit from Hurricane Wilma

The words that best describe me: Easy to get along with

My dream foursome would be: My wife Melody, son Kyle and Dan Marino

My best fish story:

Laughing out loud as I watched my 10-year-old son Kyle get spooled by a big bull shark off Cape Romano. The whole time, he's yelling, "Dad, Dad, Dad..."

My most amazing/lucky/important golf shot:

A hole-in-one on the 18th at Quail Run just after the sun went down.



Wayne was honored to know Gene Sarazen at the Island CC.

'We preach tolerance over perfection when it comes to pesticide applications and this is communicated to our grounds committee.'

sq. ft. We alter the rate as needed to ensure a constant feed throughout the year. Our goal is to use every pound of nitrogen as efficiently as possible. With this in mind, we spray greens with liquid fertilizer at 1/15th lb. N weekly in season, but a little less often in the summer. These programs, along with the use of Primo, allow us to give our members more consistent color and green speed.

"When it comes to pesticides, we believe that less is better and we work hard to reduce pesticide applications as much as possible. Fungicide applications are only made on greens and herbicide applications are limited to spot applications with the occasional boom application for any larger patches of sedges and spurge. We treat the entire golf course for mole crickets and we time the applications so we also control any grub issues we might have. Worms are treated on the greens. We preach tolerance over perfection when it comes to pesticide applications and this is communicated to our grounds committee.

Like most Florida golf courses, we are blessed with an abundance of wildlife. While there are not too many four-legged visitors, bird and marine life is everywhere. From the nesting Bald Eagles, Ospreys, Pelicans and Great Blue Herons, ibis, roseate spoonbills and other water and wading birds to the snook and tarpon often seen in our ponds, every day is an adventure.

"Working with Ormond bermudagrass over the past 14 years has been a challenge but also a pleasure. It took some time to figure it out, but I have come to love and respect it as an excellent playing surface. Growing good turf

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The 10th green and three of the 73 sand bunkers currently being dug out and resanded. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

and managing an extensive tree inventory at only 2-1/2 to 3 feet above sea level has also been a challenge. Managing 4- to 5-foot mounds of straight sand can also be fun. Thankfully our effluent water has been of very good quality and the sandy soils are excellent for flushing

any sodium buildup.”

Wayne’s wife Melody is the membership director at the club. They have a proactive message for all members, membership directors and superintendents in the area.

“When I started in my position and

was showing prospective members around the club, I began to get many very golf-specific questions like types of grass on the course, heights of cut, irrigation systems, maintenance programs, etc. It was easy for me, I just asked my husband. I learned the key points

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The 14th green in the background and in the foreground crushed rock screenings and wedelia ground cover form a buffer zone along the 12th tee. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.



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ISLAND COUNTRY CLUB



Location: Marco Island

Ownership: Member owned since 1986

Playing Policy: Private. Avg. 28,000 rounds per year

Holes: 18; 6,636 yards, par 72; Slope/Rating 73.4/134

Designed by: Dave Wallace, opened: 1966

Management Team: Club Manager Rudiger Loose, Club President Craig Carlson, Green Chairman Byron Farrell, Head Golf Professional Michael DeJordy, Director of Member Services Melody Kappauf, Golf Course Superintendent Wayne Kappauf.

Major Renovations/Ongoing Projects: 1999 new irrigation system (Toro Site-Pro); 2001 greens regrassed with Tifeagle; 2001 tees enlarged and regrassed with certified Tifway 419; 2005 clubhouse renovated and new grill room. Currently digging out and resanding bunkers.

Total acreage under maintenance: 150 A

Greens: Tifeagle, avg. 5000 sq ft; 2.5 A; HOC 0.120 in. year round; no overseeding; green speed goals 8.5 - 9.5 year round

Tees: Certified 419; 2.5 A; HOC 0.400 in.; overseeding: Poa trivialis 6 lbs per 1000 sq.ft. Fairways: Ormond bermuda; 22 A; HOC 0.500 in.; no overseeding

Roughs: Ormond bermuda; 75 A; HOC 1.5 in.; no overseeding

Bunkers: 73; Sand type: G Angle from GASH; Machine raked daily with Toro Sand Pro 2020 (3)

Waste or Native areas/beds: Waste bunkers made of screenings have been added to replace a number of cart paths. Screenings are also used as beach material around ponds and used around the bases of all palm trees. Pine trees are surrounded by pine straw beds

Waterways/Lakes/Ponds: 6 comprising 27 A; all waterways maintained in house; All ponds have Vertex aeration systems.

Irrigation: Effluent from Marco Island wastewater treatment plant; Flowtronix PSI 2000 gpm Silent Storm; Toro Site-Pro with Tmap; 1,084 Toro 750 and 780 Heads at 80 ft. spacing. Two 1000-gallon fertigation tanks with 35 gpm pumps.

Water Management/Conservation practices: Golf course has used 100 percent effluent since being built in 1966. As demand for effluent increases on the island as well as the cost, we have been reducing the number of heads and irrigated turf acres. Irrigation water is kept away from all ponds and pine straw beds.

Staff: Total staff including superintendent: 19. weekly budgeted hours: 40 plus 5 OT.

Key staff members and years of service: Assistant Joe Carlucci (26), Equipment Technician Henry Brunson (43), Equipment Manager Eason Parker (11), Pest Control Technician Willy St. Jean (21), Irrigation Technician James Cooper (40) and Administrative Assistant Dannette Stier (5).

Communication: Daily staff interactions, managers' meeting every other Friday, monthly Grounds Committee meetings (Oct-May), monthly newsletter article and annual club meeting in March.

Special Events & History: The Island CC hosts numerous community events and has its own foundation to benefit charities and special needs on Marco Island. The club was once the home course to legendary professional golfers Gene Sarazen and Tony Lema.

that members were interested in and included them in my spiel. It helped my credibility and also showed the club was very thorough, professional and interested in serving its members.”

Melody and several other directors in the area formed a local Membership Directors Association three years ago to improve the communication and education among its members. Melody is currently the president. The MDA has invited local superintendents to speak at their monthly meetings and the Everglades GCSA has invited MDA members and spouses to join them on their annual cruise.

“The relationship between the superintendent and golf pro is pretty obvious,” Melody said, “but superintendents should also establish a working

Bald eagles also call the Island CC home and usually produce two or three chicks per year. Photo by Wayne Kappauf, CGCS



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Above - Par 4, 8th hole. Tee shot beware. Water, water everywhere.

Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

Compare with old scorecard photo of Gene Sarazen on No. 8, right, to see how the course has matured.

relationship with their membership directors since they are the ones recruiting new members who help keep the club successful.”

And much of the success Kappauf says is also due to the work product of his crew, which sports a longevity record to be envied these days. The prime example is equipment technician Henry Brunson who has been commuting to Marco Island nearly 100 miles round trip per day for 43 years. After working his way into the shop and becoming a technician, he has seen a lot of changes in golf equipment over the years.

“I’ve had to learn new things all the time, but it keeps me going!” he said.



Gene Sarazen on the eighth tee of the Marco Island Country Club course, home of the annual Tony Lema tournament. Gene is chairman of the golf committee and a resident of Marco Island.

Brunson says his next job will be a fishing guide on Lake Okeechobee.

Just as the Island Country Club has embraced and honored the historic accomplishments of one of golf’s leg-

ends in Gene Sarazen, so have Wayne and Melody Kappauf earned the club’s appreciation and respect for their service to the club and especially to its members.