BEFORE Area between two holes requiring improvement. Photo by Andrew Englebrecht

PHOTOSHOP BEFORE PLANTING

By Andrew Engelbrecht, PGA
Former IPM Manager, Pelican Preserve Golf Club

From Andrew's April 21st "Watching Grass Grow" blog entry:

In the recent Winter 2011 edition of *The Florida Green*, Kyle Sweet, CGCS talks about utilizing Photoshop to get an idea of what an area might look like before actually proceeding with a proposed change. I was recently asked to propose an improvement to an area at our facility and I thought I would give this a shot. I am no Photoshop expert, but I do have the program and understand the basics.

The area in question is an extension of a lake shoreline that rises well above the mean high water mark. The only water it ever sees is run-off from the surrounding hillside. The result is an ugly muddy area filled with rocks and weeds. We have to continually string-trim this location to keep it from looking absolutely terrible. It is unknown why the builder would have graded a shoreline like this. In any case, the general manager wants it to look better and I utilized Mr. Sweet's technique to create the proposal.

I must also credit Darren Davis of Olde Florida Golf Club for providing some advice on what to plant in the area. I went with his recommendation of cordgrass and young cypress trees since the area does fluctuate in moisture. For the actual changes to the image in Photoshop, I photographed the desired species from the same angle and in the same type of lighting (same time of day), so they would blend once I pasted them in. I decided to use some dune sunflower as well, since we have it in other locations on the golf course. I am relatively pleased with the results.

Our superintendent ,Tom Skotzke, submitted the proposed design to our GM, who loved the design and they will be moving forward with it. Actually, the head pro thought it was a picture of the completed project and commented how fast we were doing work on the course. We all had a good laugh at that one.
Editor's Note: Andrew is now an assistant superintendent at the Olde Florida G.C.

AFTER Proposed new design. Photo by Andrew Englebrecht