

# Wildlife and Habitat Management AT THE EVERGLADES CLUB

By Shelly Foy

*The Everglades Club provides valuable green space in a dense urban setting. Photo submitted by Peter Brooks.*

Golf courses that are surrounded by an urban environment often struggle with how to increase habitat for wildlife. Peter Brooks, CGCS, at The Everglades Club in Palm Beach has found several ways to do this on the 75-acre property that is surrounded by a retail district to the north, residential properties to the south and east, and the Intracoastal Waterway to the west.

## Aquatic Areas

All nine lakes at The Everglades Club were sterile, with grass all the way down to the water. Over the years, Brooks'

main concern with the lakes was that the edges were steep, which was costing a lot of money in erosion-prevention projects. Five years ago, after consulting with Mark Wano from Lake Masters, Brooks slowly started adding aquatic plants to the lakes. Peter said, "We added a little here, a little there, probably a \$3,000 investment in plant material." The largest cost of the project was about \$15,000 worth of sand that was used to create the littoral zones so that they could plant the aquatics.

Once the plants mature, Brooks is able to harvest material for use in other lake plantings. In the freshwater lakes, they use primarily pickerelweed, duck potato,

cannas and blue flag iris, and in the brackish lakes they use black rush and sea ox-eye daisy.

Peter says that the aquatic plants have helped significantly with erosion control, have improved aesthetics, benefited water quality and dramatically increased the wading bird population. As a side benefit, the members also like the fact that the aquatics help stop balls from getting lost in the water. The Everglades Club started slowly with this project in order to gain knowledge about the plant material as well as acceptance from the members. As one of Brooks' members likes to say, "It's not a race, it's a journey."



**BEFORE**

Barren lake bank devoid of wildlife habitat on the Everglades Club's 15th hole. Photo by Peter Brooks.



**AFTER**

15th hole after the installation of aquatic plants. Photo by Peter Brooks.





# 1

*A floating island for aquatic plants build from PVC pipe and metal lathe. Photo by Peter Brooks.*

# 2

*Positioning a completed 4x4-foot floating island. Photo by Peter Brooks.*



# 3

*"Build it and they will come." Two Little Blue Herons enjoy their new habitat. Photo by Peter Brooks.*



## Floating Islands

Brooks and fellow superintendents talk and share many ideas about successful projects. The "floating island" idea came to him from Rob Kloska, superintendent at The Jupiter Island Club in Hobe Sound.

4-inch PVC pipe is used for the main outer frame with a supporting 4-inch crosspiece connected by two 4-inch T-fittings. Then metal lathe is placed on top, tied down, and holes cut in the mesh so that potted plants can fit into the structure and sit in the water.

The structure is taken out into the lake and anchored with wire and blocks.

They decided to make the structures 4ft. by 4ft. because they would be easier to handle. So far, they have constructed four floating islands for use in the lakes. Members have asked if they can make the islands larger and they are already making plans to give it a try.

## Daconil Action™ Fungicide, A New Era in Turfgrass Management

The power of the active ingredient contained in Daconil® fungicide combined with a revolutionary Turf Protein Booster results in longer, more efficient, and broader spectrum turfgrass disease control.

- Boosts turfgrass natural defense proteins (PR proteins)
- Enhances overall plant health
- Increases tolerance to environmental stresses, like drought
- Suppresses activity of fungi, bacteria, viruses, and abiotic diseases

To learn more about Daconil Action, visit [DaconilAction.com](http://DaconilAction.com) or contact:

Matthew Brecht, PhD  
407-448-8343

Lee Bloomcamp  
352-317-0379

Jeff Huelsman  
813-410-1685



**Daconil Action™**  
Fungicide

**syngenta.**

## Osprey Stand

While visiting with friend Karl Schmidt at his home on Pine Island, Brooks commented on the osprey stand on the property and told Karl, "I want one of those!" Peter took photos and gave them to John Bouse, a local contractor who builds bridges and bulkheads on golf courses. Boluse built the osprey stand and, once installed, it took only seven days for an osprey to visit!



*Unique osprey stand design borrowed from a friend. Photo by Peter Brooks.*

*Seven days after installing the stand, an osprey moved in. Photo by Peter Brooks.*

[www.itpturf.com](http://www.itpturf.com)



Call **1.866.ITP.TURF** to  
locate a Sales Rep  
near you

- ✓ Serving the Golf Course and Professional Landscape Industry since 2005.
- ✓ Partnered with leading manufacturers offering the highest quality products.
- ✓ Technically sound sales representatives across Florida and the Southeast region.

**Fertilizers - Chemicals - Surfactants  
Liquid Nutrients - Specialty Products**

**Producers & Installers of Fumigated  
Georgia Certified Quality  
Turfgrasses  
for Golf Courses and Athletic Fields**



**Pike Creek Turf, Inc.**  
427 Pike Creek Turf Circle  
Adel, GA 31620

**1.800.232.7453**  
[www.pikecreekturf.com](http://www.pikecreekturf.com)

- Tifway
- TifSport
- Tifdwarf
- TifEagle
- TifGrand® (PP21017)
- MiniVerde™
- Celebration™
- Meyer Zoysia
- Zorro Zoysia
- Centipede Sod/Seed
- SeaIsle 1
- SeaIsle 2000
- SeaDwarf™
- Platinum TE



## Butterfly Attracting Plant Material

The Everglades Club has also had great success in incorporating butterfly-attracting plants into the existing landscaping. They did not want a formal butterfly garden, instead they wanted to add to and complement the existing natural areas on the course. Peter worked with landscape architect Buzz Jaskela to design areas and develop specific plant lists that would attract butterflies to the property.

On a recent afternoon ride around the golf course, administrative assistant Judy Fischer identified seven butterfly species: Painted Lady, Orange Barred Sulfur, Clouded Sulfur, Julia Heliconian, Zebra Longwing, Monarch and Checkered White. Judy is very active in The Everglades Club's Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program and is currently working to develop a brochure about butterflies for member and staff education.

## Conclusion

The Everglades Club is a good example of how you can enhance wildlife and habitat on a golf course in an urban environment. With careful thought and planning you can implement these projects over time without spending a lot of money and still end up with a great bang for your buck.

## The Everglades Club plant list for attracting butterflies:



|                    |                     |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Firespike          | Pony Tail           | Cattley Guava       |
| Fire bush          | Lariope             | Surinam Cherry      |
| Croton spp.        | Adams Needle        | Plumbago            |
| Heliconia spp.     | Spanish Bayonet     | Japanese Privet     |
| Silver buttonwood  | Dracena             | Confederate Jasmine |
| Green Island ficus | Banana              | Oleander            |
| Bird of Paradise   | Travelers Tree      | Lantana             |
| cocoplumb          | Heliconia           | Shrip Plant         |
| Walters Viburnum   | Ginger              | Pentas              |
| Chinele            | Sea Grape           | Gardenia            |
| powder puff        | Bougainvillea       | Sweet Viburnum      |
| Wax myrtle         | Magnolia Little Gem | Wedelia             |
| Staghorn fern      | Loquat              | Lantana             |
| Coontie            | Indian Hawthorn     | Pentas              |
| Podocarpus         | American Holly      | Passion Vine        |
| Southern Red Cedar | Dahoon Holly        | Plumbago            |
| Screw Pine         | Beauty Berry        | Jamaican Caper      |
| Wandering Jew      | Hibiscus            |                     |
| Elephant Ear       | Bottle Brush        |                     |

## Agronomy Management Solutions

### Consultation Designed to Meet the Club's Goals for Success



**A full service consultation firm specializing in working with club managers and golf course superintendents to maximize operations and meet the needs and goals of the facility. Services include:**

- Operational and Efficiency Audits
- Construction Planning and Oversight
- Nutritional Management Planning
- Integrated Pest Management Planning
- Capital Planning and Budgeting
- Labor Needs Evaluations
- Management Planning and Oversight
- Tournament Prep and Recovery
- Member Presentation Support
- Soil, Water, Tissue Analysis
- Cultural Practice Evaluations
- Budgeting

**Carmen Magro MBA CGCS has extensive experience working with facilities around the world. He has served as golf course superintendent, professional consultant, advisor, university instructor and researcher.**

***"Bringing practical solutions to get the most out of your course"***

**Contact: (215) 908-0044 or [cmagro@agmgt solutions.com](mailto:cmagro@agmgt solutions.com)**

**[www.agmgt solutions.com](http://www.agmgt solutions.com)**