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GCSAA

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ON THE COVER: 18th Green. Orange Tree Golf Club, Orlando. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Positive Changes and a Bright Future



Bill Davidson, CGCS

It is with great pride that I would like to announce that the executive committee has offered Jennifer Bryan the position of executive director of the FGCSA and she has accepted. Jennifer's tremendous leadership and intimate knowledge of the inner workings of the association make her the perfect fit for the position. This past year with Joel Jackson's retirement, Jennifer has shown that she has the business skills and public relations ability to perform in the capacity we truly need. If you see Jennifer, please take a minute to congratulate her in her new position.

The FGCSA Board has made great strides this past year under Kevin Sunderman's leadership and Jennifer Bryan's guidance to tighten up operational expenses. The FGCSA has controlled expenses and done such a good job running the business side of the association that this past year we were able to generate a modest profit for the first time in a decade. I am also happy to report that your board is using a portion of that profit to replace money taken out of our reserve account years ago.

It also has been — and will continue to be — a goal to provide value to your membership and recognition to your profession. Great public initiatives such as We Are Golf and the Capital Golf Alliance, along with internal business momentums, have allowed the FGCSA to grow this past year. The future for the FGCSA is bright and our new business model is one that I think will carry the association well into the future. I am humbled and excited by the opportunity to continue to provide leadership for this great association.

Finally, I want to say, "Thank you," to Kevin Sunderman for his tremendous leadership this past year as president. Kevin's seemingly tireless efforts towards the improvement of the FGCSA are directly responsible for where we are and how well the association is doing. The FGCSA was very fortunate to have had Kevin this past year.



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Chapter Round Up

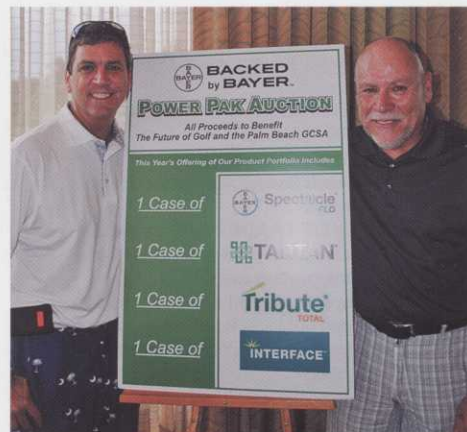


The winning team at the Palm Beach Future of Golf Tournament: (from left) Shannon Wheeler, Tom Phillips, Deron Zendt and Mark Heater. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Palm Beach GCSA

Superintendent Steve Pearson, CGCS and The Falls Country Club in West Palm Beach hosted the 34th Annual PBGCSA Future of Golf Tournament on June 7th. The chapter recently made the news with its donation of funds and hands-on assistance with the Palm Beach First Tee Program, which is what this event was all about – helping junior golf! This year’s winning Low Gross Team, shooting a score of 56: Shannon Wheeler, Tom Phillips, Deron Zendt and Mark Heater.

The Future of Golf event also kicks off the Bayer Power Pak Auction hosted by Brian MacCurrach. These auctions allow superintendents the opportunity to get a bundle of turf care products at below market price. Steve Wright, CGCS from the Boca West CC was the high bidder (\$6,000) at this event. The money raised by these auctions is donated by Bayer back to the chapters.



Steve Wright, CGCS (left) poses with Brian MacCurrach by the list of products he won in the PBGCSA's Future of Golf Power Pak Auction in June. Photo by Joel Jackson



Everglades GCSA

I have a correction to the Summer Issue’s Spotlight section: In the Chapter Round Up summary, the Everglades GCSA section should have read: “The official winner of the Everglades Poa Annuia Classic was Bryce Koch from the Cypress Lake Country Club in Ft. Myers” and not Deron Zendt as reported. In August, the EGCSA hosted the Calusa GCSA in a joint chapter meeting at the Old Corkscrew GC. These joint chapter meetings have grown in popularity over the past couple of years and are a great way to expand your network of contacts within the industry.

Bryce Koch, Superintendent at the Cypress Lake CC in Ft. Myers was the official winner of the 2014 Everglades Poa Annuia Classic. Photo by Bob Toski.

South Florida

While immediate past president Ricky Reeves reported earlier that the turnout at the South Florida Turf Expo was less than previous years, the chapter was still able to make a donation of \$15,000 to the UF/IFAS Ft. Lauderdale Research and Education Center. This donation aids ongoing turf research projects and maintenance of the Otto Schmeisser Research Green.



South Florida GCSA president Roly Molina left presents Dr. George Snyder, UF Professor Emeritus, with a \$15,000 check for turf research at the UF/IFAS Research Center in Ft. Lauderdale. Looking on is past president Ricky Reeves. Photo submitted by Ricky Reeves.

Florida GCSA

It was a “three-peat” victory for Deron Zendt and the Palm Beach GCSA at this year’s 19th Annual FGCSA Golf Championship at the Southern Dunes GC in Haines City. Zendt has won this event five times since 2008. He is the second person to earn a spot on the FGCSA Golf Team competing in the GCSAA Golf Championships next February.

Here are the scoring results of the top finishers:

Individuals (Low Gross): 1st - Deron Zendt, Banyan GC, PBGCSA (70); 2nd - Alan Lichter, Dubsdread GC, CFGCSA (72); 3rd - Seth Strickland, Miami Shores GC, SFGCSA (73) and 4th - Dave Tandy, Delray Dunes, G&CC (74).

Teams (Low Gross): 1st - Palm Beach GCSA (298); 2nd - South Florida GCSA (308) and 3rd - Everglades GCSA (320).



The Palm Beach GCSA team led by Deron Zendt swept the Low Individual and Low Team honors at the 2014 FGCSA Golf Championship held at Southern Dunes GC. From left: Deron Zendt, Mark Heater, Steve Bernard, Steve Wright. (Team member Dave Tandy is not pictured). Photo by Joel Jackson.



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Celebrating winning GCSAA's 2014 Most Valuable Technician Award on August 8th are from left to right: Superintendent J.R. Irwin, Equipment Technician Joe Stefanick, GCSAA's Scott Hollister and Foley United Chief Operating Officer GCM, Jim Letourneau. Photo submitted by J. R. Irwin.

GCSAA

GCSAA news release: *Florida's Stefanick wins 2014 Most Valuable Technician Award*

Lawrence, Kan. (Aug. 25, 2014) - Joe Stefanick, the equipment technician at Seven Lakes Golf and Tennis Community in Fort Myers, has been selected as the recipient of the 2014 Most Valuable Technician Award, presented by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and *Golf Course Management* magazine in partnership with Foley United.

Now in its fifth year, the award recognizes excellence among golf course equipment technicians and the vital role they play in the golf course management industry. Technicians are nominated by their golf course superintendents, and a panel of industry judges narrows those nominations down to three finalists, who are then voted on by GCSAA members through the association's website.

"It is a great award," said Stefanick, 50, a native of Conshohocken, Pa. "I have had a great opportunity to work with the best of the best in this business, like Luke Majorkie, who got me started. And I have loved it every day."

"Our members know full well just how important a competent and professional golf course equipment technician is to the success of a golf facility," said Rhett Evans, GCSAA chief executive officer. "We're pleased this award program has helped shed light on the value of equipment technicians, and we're honored to recognize Joe for his long-term accomplishments in the industry and his contributions to the success of Seven Lakes."

Nominated for the Most Valuable Technician Award by J.R. Irwin, Seven Lakes' GCSAA Class A superintendent, Stefanick has served in his current role for the past two years. His career in golf course management, however, spans several decades and includes stops at such storied facilities as PGA National Resort and Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., Merion Golf Club in Ardmore, Pa., and Olde Florida Golf Club in Naples.

Stefanick also has extensive major championship experience,

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- 6 Central Florida Memorial Golf Tournament
- 6 Seven Rivers Toys for Tots Fundraiser, Juliette Falls G&CC, Ocala
- 6 Suncoast & West Coast Tampa Bay Bucs Football Game Bus Trip, Tampa
- 7 Everglades C.R.E.W. Golf Tournament, Old Corkscrew GC, Estero

DECEMBER

- 1 Everglades Christmas Golf & Dinner Event,
- 1 North Florida Christmas Tournament, South Hampton GC
- 4-6 Suncoast and West Coast Chapter Annual Christmas party
- 9 Calusa Christmas Tournament, Stoneybrook GC
- 11 Seven Rivers Monthly Meeting, Black Diamond Ranch GC, Lecanto
- 19 Central Florida Crowfoot Open

JANUARY

- 14 Suncoast and West Coast Vendor Appreciation Day

FEBRUARY

- 11 Suncoast and West Coast Chapter Education Day
- 26 FGCSA Annual GIS Reception, Hard Rock Café, San Antonio, TX

Registration for most of these events can be made via the FGCSA website by clicking on the individual chapter links.

having worked multiple U.S. Opens at the request of the host club superintendent, and has led the maintenance of equipment being utilized in the construction of several golf facilities, including Medalist Golf Club in Hobe Sound, Fla., and The Florida Club in Stuart."

Editor's Note: *When superintendent J. R. Irwin submitted a photo of the plaque presentation for the Florida Green, he added, "In addition to the check and plaque, Joe and myself will receive complimentary passes to the trade show in San Antonio, and help with airfare and hotel accommodations. That is really cool!"*

THE PALM BEACH GCSA'S

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Special thanks to Steve Pearson, CGCS and
the Falls Country Club for hosting this event.



Orange Tree Golf Club

The Orange Tree Golf Club is located in the Dr. Phillips/Sand Lake Hills area of southwest Orange County. This residential golf

community is located on the site of an old orange grove, which occupied a lot of the land in this area as late as the 1960s. While in college in the early 1960s, my roommate, who lived in Orlando, and I played the nearby Bay Hill club when it was just a clubhouse and nine holes winding through one of those groves. My how time flies. The Isleworth Golf & Country Club is another course in the neighborhood that also occupies a former orange grove.

With the coming of Disney World, the area blossomed as a prime residential area for employees of Disney, Martin-Marietta, hotels and other businesses with easy access to Interstate 4, downtown Orlando and the airport. The Dr. Phillips area is also

situated between the Tibet-Butler and Sand Lake chains of lakes, convenient for boating and fishing trips.

In the 1970s, golf course architect Joe Lee was the king of central Florida with his multitude of courses in this region, and Orange Tree is one of those jewels in his crown. The course opened in 1972, and is a challenging and enjoyable course for golfers of all handicaps with its many tree-lined fairways.

The course has undergone a couple of turfgrass renovations over the years. The green complexes were completely reconstructed in 1998 and grassed with Classic Dwarf. In 2013 the club decided to upgrade the putting surfaces to Champion ultradwarf which was accomplished by using the no-till method and included the planting of TifGrand collars. The improved putting surfaces have earned high praise from the members and have attracted a wave of new members.



In fact, with Orange Tree located in the vicinity of Bay Hill and Isleworth, it gets memberships and/or play from the likes of PGA professionals Bubba Watson, Graham McDowell, Lee Janzen, Robert Gamez, Skip Campbell and PGA rules officials Mark Russell and John Brendle from time to time.

The tee complexes are getting renovated this summer to enlarge and level them to accommodate the increased number of members. The tees will be planted with Celebration bermudagrass, a variety known for its density and rapid growth to fill in divots more quickly than the original Tifway 419, which has been in place since day one.

Since the course lies on a former orange grove site with its sandy profile, most of the course drains very well and play can resume pretty quickly even after a heavy downpour. The exception might be a few areas on a couple of fairways, which are closer to the lake elevations.

Superintendent Rob Torri has been at Orange Tree for 18 years. He began working in the cart barn shuttling golf carts to the staging area. Being an enterprising young man, Torri offered his construction experience as a framer to earn extra hours helping with the clubhouse renovation in 1998. Like many private courses, Orange Tree was closed on Mondays, so Torri again asked for some extra hours by working part time on the golf maintenance staff.

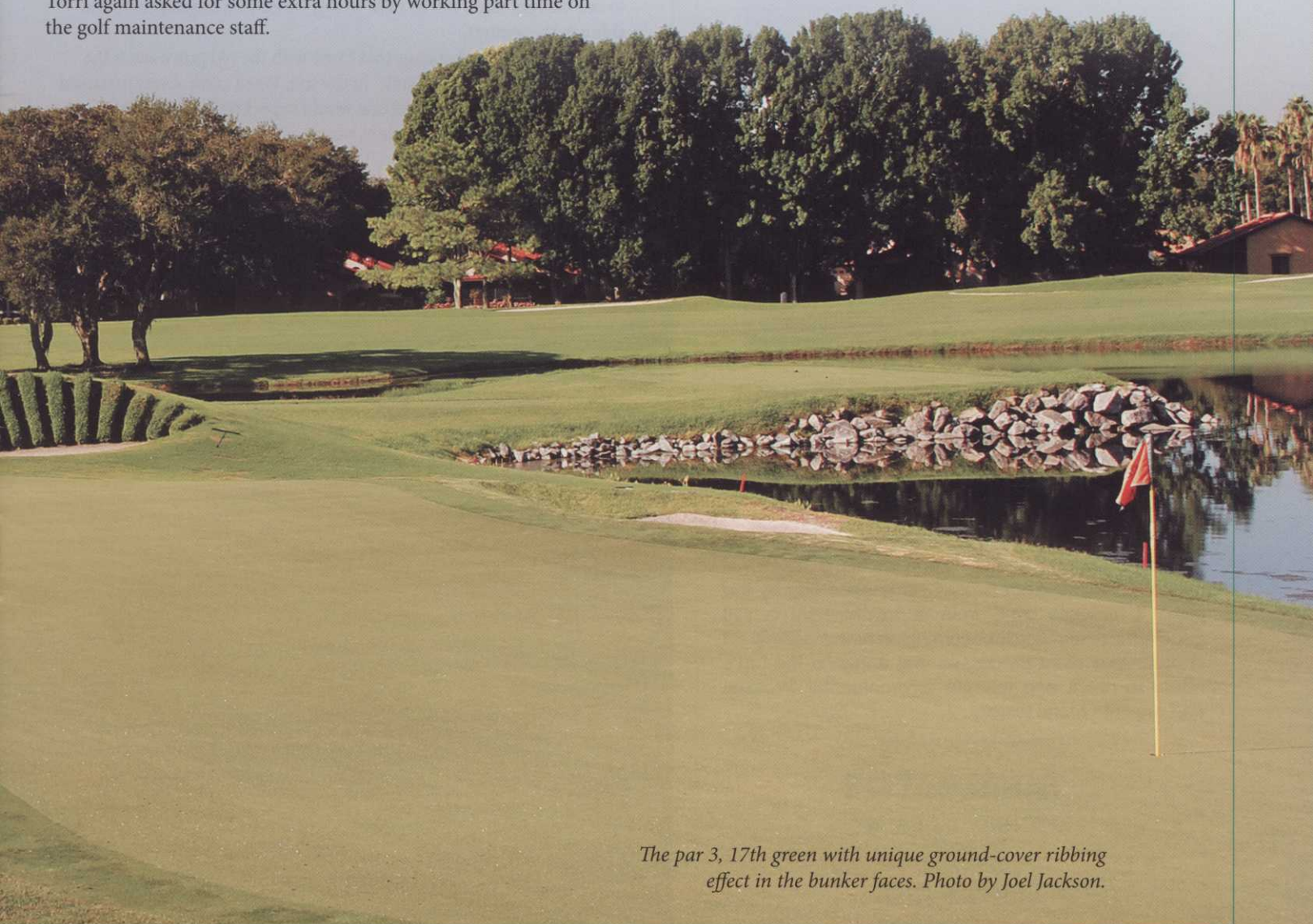
Torri loves the game of golf, and after two years at the Sunset Hill Golf Course in Brookfield, CT, he moved to Florida to work at becoming a golf professional. Torri also plays the game very well, currently sporting a four handicap.

While working part-time with the maintenance crew and punching in at five o'clock in the morning, he said to himself, "No way I could ever do this for a living!" Eighteen years later he is the head superintendent and operations manager of the club.

Working outdoors had ignited a passion for the maintenance side of the business and he worked hard, asked questions and learned from his superintendents. A year and a half later he worked his way up to assistant superintendent and in 2003 he became the head superintendent.

Torri augmented his practical knowledge by earning a certificate from the University of Georgia's Turfgrass Certificate Program in 2006.

Torri also gives credit to the well-known tradition within the golf-maintenance fraternity of fellow superintendents helping each other to solve a wide range of problems and challenges. He said, "Guys like Sean Duffy over at Isleworth and Rickey Craig at Shingle Creek are always willing to talk about their observations and solutions to problems we often share on our courses."



The par 3, 17th green with unique ground-cover ribbing effect in the bunker faces. Photo by Joel Jackson.

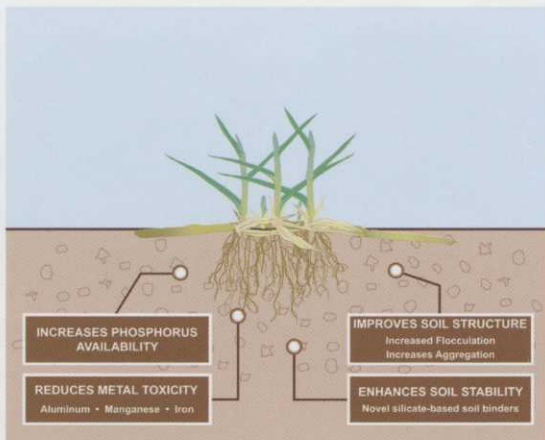
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Every golf course has its unique challenges that come with the site including but not limited to: soil type and pH, prevailing weather conditions, sunlight and shade, irrigation water availability and quality and previous land use when applicable.

Torri discussed some of the built-in challenges to maintaining the turf at Orange Tree. He said, "The course drains well which is a plus of course, but in Central Florida in the summer it gets real hot, so we have to make sure our soil profile remains damp enough to keep the turf from stressing out. Since the design was routed through home sites, the holes can be a little narrow in some areas. That concentrates cart traffic and we have to address worn, thin areas in the cooler months when we have the most play and least amount of active turf growth. Those tree-lined fairways we mentioned before have matured creating a scenic view on the holes but also lots of dense shade in many areas, so traffic control is also a constant concern.

"To help in appearance and playability of the course during the winter, we overseed the entire course, applying perennial ryegrass seed at a rate of 400 pounds per acre on the fairways and 200 pounds per acre in the roughs. In the spring we have to carefully manage the transition back to bermudagrass, which can often be hampered by weird weather conditions. I tried to reduce seed rates to help with transition but the heavy winter play and traffic was too much, so we upped the rate back to our current rates. But as I like to say, we endure the summers and shine in the winters!

"Another built-in challenge that came with the old grove site is the presence of a weed "seed bank" in the soil. Weed control was practiced in groves, but not to the level one would expect on golf courses or even home lawns. Consequently, we are constantly dealing with a tropical signalgrass infestation. I use a combination of the herbicides Specticle and Exonerate in May and June, and get fair control and we also spot treat during the summer to clean up infestations in the greens surrounds areas. I also apply Ronstar in February to help control goosegrass, but we have to be careful with our overseeding so we don't do any fall applications that could affect seed germination."



SUPERINTENDENT FACTS

Meet Rob Torri

Originally from: Bethel, CT

Family: Wife April. Son: Nicholas, 1½ years old and stepson Davis Johnson, age 14.

Education: 1989 -1990 Two years at Connecticut State University, 2006 University of Georgia Turfgrass Certificate program, and the school of hard knocks.

Employment history:

1989-91, Sunset Hill GC, Brookfield, CT; 1992-1996 General Construction work framing houses; 1996 to present, Orange Tree Golf Club.

Professional affiliations/awards: Member of the Central Florida GCSA (2000-present); 2005 Central Florida GCSA Golf Champion; member of the GCSAA since 2008.

Personal philosophy of work: My dad always told me, "Do what you love for a living!" I have a passion for the game of golf and that passion guided by a solid work ethic has led me from starting as a crew member at Orange Tree to becoming the head superintendent and golf club operations manager.

Goals: Work on becoming a certified golf course superintendent.

Hobbies and Interests: Rob is an avid golfer and loves football, baseball and water skiing. Rob is also active in his church and the Family Christian Center.



Rob Torri. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Addressing 21st Century Turf Management Problems

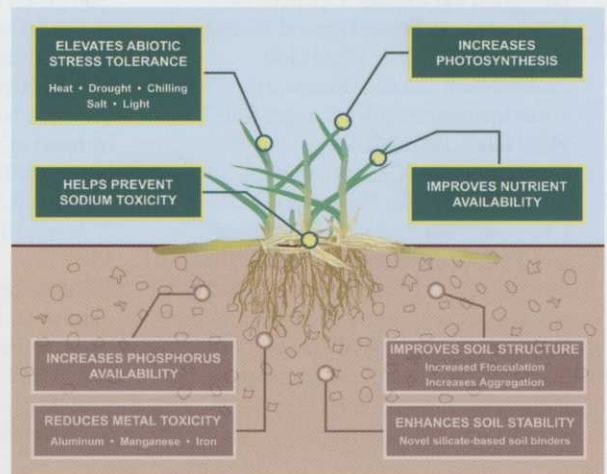


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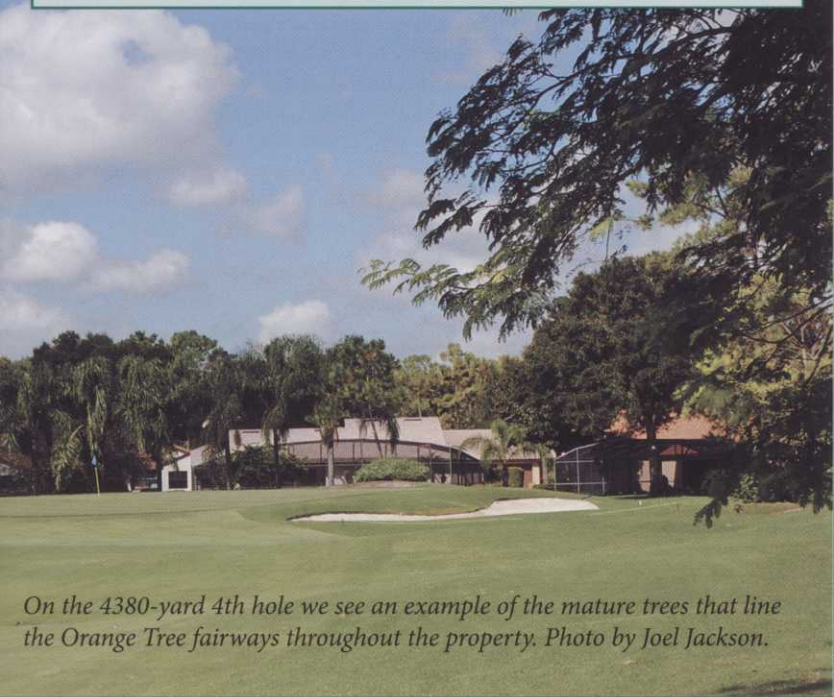
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On the 4380-yard 4th hole we see an example of the mature trees that line the Orange Tree fairways throughout the property. Photo by Joel Jackson.

ORANGE TREE GOLF CLUB



Orange Tree GC Maintenance Staff. Front the left: Front row: Jim Purcell, Joe Hymel, Carmen DosReis, Lyndsay Montgomery, Chris Purcell and Rob Torri. Back row: Steve Hager, Lucner Jules, Alfonso Gonzalez, Randy Kurzinsky, Edwin Rodriguez, Jose Bonano and Hector Rivera. Not pictured: Jeff Sargent.

Location: Orlando, FL

No. of Holes: 18. Yardage: 7,036. Par: 72.

Slope/Rating: 140/73.8

Ownership: The Wisne Family

Playing Policy: Private. Avg. number of rounds per year: 27,000

Designed by: Joe Lee. Opened: 1972

Management Team: General Manager; George Wyckhuys; Head Golf Professional; David Damesworth; Superintendent/Club Manager Rob Torri; Head Chef, Peter Madden.

Projects: 1998 - Greens complex renovation by Ellis Brown; 2013 - Champion Bermuda No-Till greens and TifGrand collars renovation. 2014 - Driving range, practice tee and short-game practice areas converted to Celebration Bermuda from original Tifway 419.

Total course acreage: 94. Acreage under maintenance: 86. Greens: Turf Type: Champion. Average size: 6,000 sq.ft.

Acres: 3.5, Height of Cut (with any seasonal changes): .125 inches summer & .105 inches winter. Green speed goals: 10.5 - 11.0. Tees: Turf Type: 419. Acreage: 2 acres, Overseeding: Perennial Ryegrass @ 500 lbs./acre. Fairways: 28 acres, HOC: .500", Overseeding: Perennial Ryegrass @ 400 lbs./acre. Roughs: 52 acres. HOC: 2.00", Overseeding: Perennial Ryegrass @ 200 lbs./acre.

Bunkers: Number of bunkers: 77. Raked by hand or machine depending on size. Machine: Toro Sand Pro.

Waterways/Lakes/Ponds: Total number: 7. Acres: 10. Lakes maintained by Lake Masters.

Wildlife Inventory: Typically small mammals: fox, squirrels and rabbits. Birds ranging from raptors like bald eagles, hawks and osprey to all sorts of waterfowl including cormorants, anhingas and ducks to the wading birds like herons and

egrets. We have lots of trees and several dense foliage areas, which harbor a wide range of birds from blue jays, cardinals, mockingbirds, and the small birds like sparrows and wrens.

Irrigation: Water source: Reclaimed water. Direct connection to Orange County pipeline. Control System: John Deere. Irrigation heads: 898. Conservation practices: Membership prefers firm and fast golf course. Only irrigate as needed. **Staff:** Total including superintendent: 15 (10 full time and 5 part-time). Schedule: Full time: 40 hours per week. Part timers on variable schedules.

Key Staff: Chris Purcell, assistant superintendent; Mike Good, equipment technician; Jim Purcell, pest control technician; Hector Rivera, irrigation technician and the entire Orange Tree golf maintenance team.

Meetings: Daily crew meetings to discuss current goals and challenges.

View from the fairway of the long par 4, 9th hole with the Orange Tree clubhouse.

Photo by Joel Jackson.





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Approach shot to the green on the par 5, 562-yard, 16th hole. This is the beginning of the challenging “Loop” as the members call it! The finishing holes 16, 17 and 18 loop around a huge lake. Photo by Joel Jackson.

I have often written about the rewards of my role as editor of the Florida Green like being able to visit so many courses over the years and share the stories of the historic courses and those with challenging designs and lovely settings. I also get to share with you the stories of the superintendents who came to this profession by a variety of paths and circumstances.

Some people know from a very early age that they want a career in golf course maintenance either by being the child of a superintendent or by working a summer job at a course. They map out a path that takes them through a classic turfgrass program at a college, graduating with a degree in turf management.

Others with a passion for playing the game of golf join the collegiate golfing ranks, but realize that their games are not quite at the level necessary to become touring pros. Along the way, many of these folks become intrigued with the challenge of preparing those pristine playing conditions they enjoyed as golfers and they alter their paths to feed their passion for golf in a different way.

And then there are those who appreciate the outdoors in general and, even though they may have started down a totally different career path, that passion for working outside, with nature, finally steers them to abandon those jobs in engineering, law enforcement, real estate, education, sales, etc. and finally follow their hearts back to nature.

Rob Torri is one of those superintendents in the latter category. He learned the lessons of hard work and perseverance working with his father in the construction trade. He fell in love with the game of golf as a youth and played a decent game. Because he played very well, Torri envisioned a career as a golf course club professional. He moved to Florida and signed up for the golf professional apprentice program. A few chapters into the manual, Torri rapidly realized that he was meant to be outdoors full time. We traced his step-by-step rise to Orange Tree’s head superintendent and club operations manager positions earlier in this story.

And now it’s September and Torri, the crew and the course are “enduring” the last vestiges of a very hot summer, but knowing what I do about Orange Tree now, I have no doubt the course will “shine” this winter.

TORRI FUN FACTS

Vehicle: 2006 Ford F-150

The last good movie I saw: Couples Retreat

I stay home to watch: Golf and football

What I’ve been reading: A lot of children’s books with my son

Favorite meal: Stuffed artichokes

Favorite performer: My son

Favorite pet: My dog Joey

Prized possessions: My family

If I could change one thing about myself: Be more patient and become a better putter. Actually that is two things I would change!

I’d give anything to meet: Baseball manager Joe Torre

My fantasy is: Playing Augusta National

The one thing I can’t stand: Bad drivers

Most humbling experience: The birth of my son, Nicholas. God bless the folks at the Arnold Palmer Hospital.

The words that best describe me: Easy going and hard working.

My dream foursome would include: Phil Mickelson, Adam Sandler, and my brother.

My most memorable golf shot: Making a hole-in-one with my Dad, first thing in the morning on the first hole of the day, with only one eye open.



The swan and Canadian geese decoys in the lakes make great cormorant roosts. Actually they were installed as floats to keep the residential irrigation system intake lines off of the lake bottom. Photo by Joel Jackson.



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BUNKER MENTALITY

By Trent J Inman, CGCS, Old Memorial Golf Club

The bunkers at Old Memorial are the focal point of the property along with the many native grass plantings. However, they also necessitate a large amount of care because we manage approximately 13 acres of bunker sand.

We have a crew of four to six, depending upon the time of year, that maintains the bunkers on a daily basis.

Obviously the summer months present problems with washouts from heavy rains. However, much of the issue in the summer months is keeping the bunkers weed free and also free of the silt that collects on the bunker bottoms after rains.

Wadsworth Construction built the Steve Smyers design in 1997, and they really did a good job overall of getting the water to move around most of the bunkers when we have a hard rain.

Therefore, even though washouts can be a problem, they are not as bad as most people might think when they see our bunker faces for the first time. The daily raking of the bunkers varies somewhat throughout the year, based upon rainfall. From late fall through spring, most of our bunkers are hand raked. However, when we begin getting steady rainfall, we use mechanical bunker rakes more just to try and stay up with the amount of work.

With the raised bunker lips, our bunker crew uses a metal trailer gate to drive into an out of the bunkers to avoid damaging the crisp, sharp edges. We will also vary the type of rake that we use depending upon the moisture in the bunkers, choosing between the 25-inch Accuform bunker rake and a traditional leaf rake attachment.

We have tried a few different products to line the bunker faces to help prevent washing. However, our native soil is very sandy, and we have not been able to get these liners to adhere to the bun-

ker faces long term. Over time they slowly begin to move away from the native soil. This native sandy soil also creates an issue in that during heavy rains, the soil can erode and mix with the bunker sand. Over time the fine-grained material from the native sand migrates to the drain lines and can dramatically reduce the percolation rates.

We are currently rebuilding our greenside bunkers. This includes getting the most depth possible based upon water levels on the course along with reestablishing a large bunker lip to add to the visual intimidation of the bunkers. We are very fortunate to have both a staff member who has spent years in golf course construction to lead these projects and we also have an excavator in our equipment fleet.

By purchasing the excavator last year, it has allowed us to spend the proper time on each bunker without feeling the need to rush anything as we might if we were using rental equipment. Once the excavator has pulled out all the liner material, we will install new drain lines and install new G-Angle bunker sand from Golf Agronomics. We have found that the G-Angle sand has helped us create a face that is firmer immediately after we install and we also compact the sand using a small plate compactor.

During our daily raking we instruct our staff to rake only the flat areas of each bunker. By doing this we will avoid softening the faces and hopefully avoid the likelihood of golf balls plugging in the sand. This will continue to be a long-term problem at Old Memorial just based on the design. However, we feel that by switching to the G-Angle sand, using the plate compactor, and raking only the flat areas, we have made every effort to improve the consistency and playability of every bunker.

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*Matt Masemore-Director of Golf Course Maintenance
Ibis Golf & Country Club
West Palm Beach, FL*

You'll find TifEagle Bermudagrass on two of the three premier golf courses at the exclusive Ibis Golf and Country Club in West Palm Beach FL. The Legend Course, a signature Jack Nicklaus design, and the Heritage Course, designed by Jack Nicklaus II, were both converted to TifEagle in 2012. The Tradition Course, a Steve Nicklaus design, is scheduled for its TifEagle renovation this summer. Matt Masemore, Director of Golf Course Maintenance, is responsible for the management and upkeep of these three award-winning courses, and Matt was instrumental in the decision to go with TifEagle. "We were having some mutation and off-type issues with our existing ultradwarf greens, and the newest was only 6 years old. It was beginning to affect ball roll on all three courses, so we knew playability would soon be a big

problem. We looked at a lot of different properties, some with MiniVerde and some with TifEagle, but ultimately decided on the TifEagle. It's a genetically stable variety that's proven itself going on 20 years now, and we felt it was the best choice for us. We also needed a grass that could recover quickly after handling a lot of traffic. So far our members love it. My maintenance staff does too, even though we're using a little more Primo and doing slightly more fertility." Take a tip from Matt Masemore. Whether you're renovating your existing greens or planning a brand new facility, insist on the best. Specify certified TifEagle Bermudagrass by name. You can sod it, sprig it or even no-till it under the right conditions.

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The QuickFind Console intuitively helps the operator find boom and actuator switches without looking at them

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Proper Nematode Sampling Yields Reliable Results

By Todd Lowe, senior agronomist,
USGA Florida Region

August 19, 2014

The Florida Region recently hosted two USGA Green Section interns: Mrs. Norma Flor and Mr. Brad Shaver. Both are Ph.D. candidates studying turfgrass science. Norma is researching patch disease resistance in zoysiagrass, and Brad is studying nematode control in bermudagrass turf. Brad shared a recent experience from his lab that emphasized the need for proper sampling to produce effective results.

Several turf samples from a South Florida golf course were sent to Clemson University's Turfgrass Clinic to determine whether diseases or nematodes were present. No pathogens were detected, but a close inspection of turf roots revealed symptoms of root-knot nematodes. Brad collected soil from the sample and sent it to the nematode assay lab. Nematodes were present but none were above threshold levels for bermudagrass and no root-knot nematodes were found. Surprised at the findings, he resubmitted a sample from only the upper inch of the same soil plug. Results from the new sample found root-knot nematode densities to be above threshold levels.

Experts like Dr. Billy Crow, University of Florida landscape nematologist, have emphasized the importance of proper sampling for many years, and this recent experience reiterates that fact. Nematode densities may be underestimated simply due to poor sampling procedures.

The yellow areas on this green at the San Carlos Park GC in Ft. Myers are a result of turf stress caused by plant-parasitic nematodes. Proper sampling is necessary to obtain reliable nematode counts in the soil. Photo by Todd Lowe.

When submitting samples to a nematode assay lab, keep these important facts in mind:

- 1 For diagnostic sampling, only take samples from within and around areas with stressed turf. Nematode densities fluctuate greatly within a given area. In fact, there can be a tenfold (or greater) difference in the concentration of nematodes within a few feet.
- 2 Sample only the upper few inches of the soil. Nematode counts are highest around their food source – plant roots – and may be at much lower concentrations deeper in the soil. Therefore, sampling deeper in the soil where turf roots are not present will yield reduced numbers and not accurately depict nematode activity near the surface.
- 3 Understand that nematode populations fluctuate throughout the year. Populations are generally at their highest during periods of active root growth. Nematode populations may be much lower in late summer as rooting depths recede.
- 4 Keep soil samples cool and out of the sun. Nematodes can die within a few hours in a hot container or delivery truck. Deliver samples overnight and early in the week if possible. Contact the lab to let them know that the sample is on its way.
- 5 Understand that nematode thresholds were developed to provide some general guidelines for their management. The ability of turf to survive nematode damage will vary greatly depending on turf variety, use of turf (putting green versus fairway) and additional turf stress factors like shade, traffic or drought.

Source: Todd Lowe, (tlowe@usga.org)

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Florida Certified Golf Course Superintendents Update

Superintendents achieving certified status in 2014:

Darren Davis, CGCS, Olde Florida, Naples
 James Torba, CGCS, formerly at the Wilderness Club, Naples
 Erin L. Stevens, CGCS, Emerald Dunes Club, Palm Beach Gardens

Superintendents recertified as of May 2014:

Andy Maguire, CGCS,
 Marsh Creek GC, North Florida GCSA
 Jason Zimmerman, CGCS, Pelican's Nest GC, Everglades GCSA
 Shane Bass, CGCS, Florida GCSA
 Law J Brod, CGCS, Everglades GCSA
 Marshall Edgren, CGCS, Florida West Coast GCSA
 Alberto Quevedo, CGCS, Everglades GCSA



**Darren J. Davis, CGCS,
 Olde Florida Golf Club, Naples:**

"Although I have achieved a high level of success in my more-than 25-year career, becoming a certified golf course superintendent can only enhance my credibility. It demonstrates to my employer, and others, a desire and a commitment to obtain the highest level of credentialing available. It's been said that one should not expect recognition, but one should always strive to be recognizable. In today's

competitive world, anything one can do to show increased value and knowledge to a current or potential employer can only enhance their opportunity to be recognized. Becoming a CGCS provides such an opportunity!"



**Jason Zimmerman,
 CGCS: Pelican's Nest
 Golf Club, Bonita
 Springs.**

Jason Zimmerman, CGCS, Pelican's Nest GC, Bonita Springs:

"I have been certified since 2004. I earned this designation at the age of 28, and have been very proud of this accomplishment. I set professional goals after I graduated from college and certification was one of them.

I think achieving CGCS status and maintaining it is a personal dedication to the profession and encourage everyone to do it. It also demonstrates and documents my continuing education in my profession.

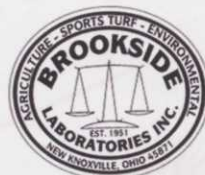
You do not have to be certified to be successful in this industry. I know a lot

of incredibly talented golf course superintendents who are not certified, and they have no desire to do so, and there is nothing wrong with that. I just feel that if our national organization that represents our profession offers an accreditation program, it is a formal, recognized way to document your credentials.

I have two superintendents that have worked with me for six and a half and eight years respectively, and both have achieved Class A status. I am encouraging them to pursue certification as I feel it will benefit them as they grow as professionals in the industry. Head superintendent Keith Einwag gave me that opportunity while I worked at the Innisbrook Resort and I am forever grateful to him for his support. I have never regretted the commitment and I hope to "pay it forward" with my two very talented and dedicated superintendents.

I have never met a certified superintendent who regretted his or her decision to pursue this accomplishment."

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ACRONYMS ANONYMOUS

GCBAA GCSAA IGCEMA LPGA PGA
 R4R UF/IFAS USGA WMD

I have attempted to organize the alphabet soup of golf and green-industry-related associations and government agencies that we often we often have to deal with in our routine work and interactions with allied groups, the public, the media and even within our own ranks.

Sometimes our own association members or their clubs' accounting departments make out annual dues checks to the wrong association. We're here to try and help.

Case in point: The acronym for the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association is FGCSA, but we are often identified as the FGCSAA, which is easy to do given our affiliation with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America we know as the GCSAA. We hope this acronym translation list will help all of us identify each other properly!



If you can think of a group that I missed please drop me a line at flgrn@aol.com. Thanks, Joel Jackson.

- ACSP** Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program with (AI - Audubon International)
- ASGCA** American Society of Golf Course Architects
- CMAA** Club Managers Association of America
- EREF** Environmental Research and Education Fund: A fund governed by the allied turf industries and administered by the Florida Turfgrass Association to support turf research and advocacy.
- FDACS** Florida Dept. of Agriculture
- FDEP** Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection
- FFVA** Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association: Partners for the Annual Spring Regulator Tour.
- FGCSA** Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association: There are eleven local chapters in the FGCSA.
- FNGLA** Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association: Allied partner for regulatory advocacy
- FTGA** Florida Turfgrass Association: Umbrella organization for Florida's turf-related industries
- GCBAA** Golf Course Builders Association of America
- GCSAA** Golf Course Superintendents Association of America
- IGCEMA** International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association
- LPGA** Ladies Professional Golf Association: Headquarters in Daytona Beach
- PGA** Professional Golf Association: Headquarters in St. Lucie. The PGA Tour's headquarters are in Ponte Vedra Beach.
- R4R** Rounds for Research: GCSAA fund-raising program that auctions off donated rounds of golf to raise funds for turfgrass research. \$144,000 raised in 2014, over \$300,000 since 2012.
- UF/IFAS** University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences
- USGA** United States Golf Association
- WMD** Water Management District: There are five in Florida – St. Johns River WMD, South Florida WMD, Southwest Florida WMD, Suwannee River WMD and Northwest Florida WMD





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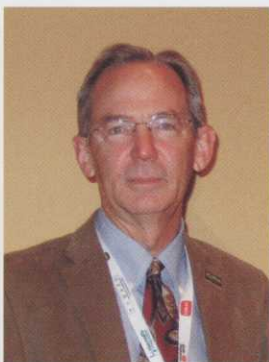
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The Politics of Clean Water:

EREF and Florida's Green Industry Professionals Need Your Help



By Mac Carraway, Carraway Consulting



Mac Carraway, President Carraway Consulting and past president of the FTGA.

Editor's note: Mac Carraway is a past president of the Florida Turfgrass Association and former president of the SMR Turf Farms in Bradenton. Carraway is the chair of the Environmental Research & Education Foundation (EREF), a broadly based coalition of Green Industries professionals working to protect Florida's environment and natural resources through the funding of environmental research and the dissemination of sound scientific findings on the environmental and human health benefits of healthy,

properly maintained green spaces and urban landscapes.

As green industry professionals in landscape, turfgrass, golf, sports turf and lawn care, we are united in a common passion for nature, working outdoors and in our roles protecting Florida's pristine natural resources. We are also united in our concerns about Florida's water supply and for deteriorating water quality conditions across the state – from the Indian River Lagoon, to natural springs, to the Everglades and Lake Okeechobee – and we too are searching for solutions for these serious issues.

Over the last several years, as attention has been increasingly focused on water quality problems across our state, blame gets assigned and decisions get made based on emotion rather than on science and fact. Green industry professionals, who work every day to protect water quality resources, are too often looked at as being part of the problem rather than as being part of the solution. And in the absence of cost effective or politically acceptable measures addressing water quality, such as requiring septic tank conversion to sewer lines or stopping water releases from Lake Okeechobee, environmental activist groups are increasingly demonizing green industry professionals as polluters. These same activists groups then lobby local government to react by adopting rules that contradict green industry best practices and peer-reviewed science, and that unfairly impact our industry and our urban greenspaces without any real environmental benefit.

If this false portrayal of Florida green industry professionals as polluters continues unchallenged, we are ALL in danger of being eventually regulated out of business. You can play a critical role in helping to stop this trend today by joining and supporting the Environmental Research & Education Foundation of Florida (EREF).

EREF is a broad-based coalition including urban landscape professionals, golf course superintendents, lawn care service providers, turfgrass producers, nursery growers, sports turf managers, club managers, commercial and residential property

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managers, and municipal and parks groundskeepers. Collectively, we are working to protect Florida's environment and natural resources through the funding of environmental research and the dissemination of sound scientific findings on the environmental and human health benefits of healthy, properly maintained green spaces and urban landscapes.

Already EREF has begun making a difference in promoting the work of green industry professionals and advocating for better local policy. EREF members have discussed the correlation between healthy lawns and healthy waterways with newspaper editorial boards such as Florida Today, Orlando Sentinel and the Gainesville Sun. Our members have written guest columns on the importance of urban landscapes and the professionalism of our industry that have appeared in the *Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel*, *Lakeland Ledger* and the *Daytona News-Journal*. EREF has communicated with elected officials across the state regarding fertilizer restrictions - providing scientific research, advocacy materials and industry expertise that highlights the many benefits of turf and the good work of green industry professionals. We've also launched a Web site, www.erefloida.com that houses research and news, and which offers an interactive mechanism that allows more efficient communication with local elected officials.

Effective communication with elected officials and the media on issues affecting urban landscapes is critical because healthy lawns and urban landscapes are so important to Florida's environment. There are many significant environmental benefits of healthy lawns and landscapes, including air filtration, temperature cooling, carbon sequestration and oxygen generation. But perhaps the greatest benefit of healthy lawns and landscapes is their ability to capture and filter many types of pollution and urban runoff that otherwise would flow into waterways. A U.S. Environmental Protection Agency panel of experts recently released a report on the Chesapeake Bay Program, concluding that the healthier the lawn, the better it is at containing pollutants and preventing them from reaching waterways. Additionally, the nonprofit Environmental Health Research Foundation reports that healthy, dense turf is three times more effective than weedy, unhealthy turf in preventing certain types of urban runoff.

Despite the many benefits of healthy turf and urban landscapes, activist groups such as the Sierra Club falsely argue that Floridians must choose between healthy landscapes or healthy waterways - incorrectly suggesting that one outcome contradicts the other. Green industry professionals know that nothing could be further from the truth, and that healthy landscapes promote healthy waterways by reducing pollution and non-point sources of runoff that would otherwise flow directly into waterways. But despite overwhelming evidence affirming the many environmental benefits of turf, the emotion caused by mysterious algae blooms, manatee deaths and fish kills and the demonstrably false attribution of those events

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to urban landscapes too often leads local decision makers towards policies that reject landscape and turf science and best practice precedent, and towards decisions based on the need to “just do something” – even if such actions are unscientific, unenforceable, and discriminatory towards green industry professionals and achieve no environmental benefit.

You can help change this situation. Over 60 individual lawn-care companies, golf courses and other industry leaders have already joined EREF, and membership sign-ups are being conducted by many prestigious trade associations including the Certified Pest Control Operators of Florida (CPCO); Certified Operators of Southwest Florida (COSWFL); Club Managers Association of America, Florida Chapter (CMAA-FL); Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association (FGCSA); Florida Landscape Maintenance Association (FLMA); Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association (FNGLA); Florida Pest Management Association (FPMA); Florida Sports Turf Management Association (FSTMA); Florida Turfgrass Association (FTGA); and the Turfgrass Producers of Florida (TPF). Now, we need to add your name and your organization to this impressive and growing list.

Companies and associations can join EREF two very simple ways – by pledging a direct contribution to EREF, or by enrolling with EREF and your fertilizer supplier(s) and diverting 0.6 percent of self-assessed fertilizer sales to EREF

(that amounts to just \$6 per \$1,000 of fertilizer or fertilizer combo products purchased). These contributions are intended to create a significant and recurring source of funds to promote the objectives of EREF as outlined above – research, education and outreach promoting the benefits of urban landscapes and their interaction with their surrounding environments. Signing up is as easy as one, two, three.

1. Log onto www.members.ereflo.com and click on the “enroll” tab at the top of the page;
2. Chose to either make a direct contribution to EREF or to enroll in the “EREF industry fee” 0.6 peercent fertilizer purchases diversion.
3. Fill out the enrollment form online or fax a printed copy to (863) 688-9610.

For more information on these programs or how you can best help EREF, please visit www.members.ereflo.com or contact Pete Snyder, Executive Director of the Florida Turfgrass Association at (863) 688-9413 or via email at pete@ftga.org.

The Florida Turfgrass Association, a Florida 501(c) (5) corporation, manages all contributions to EREF in a segregated and restricted fund under the direction of the EREF board of directors.

Most observers expect to see comprehensive water-quality initiatives developed over the next several years. It is also expected that local governments will continue their exploration

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of restrictive fertilizer and landscape ordinances.

Whether policy makers are seeking to improve water flows in north and central Florida springs, reduce nutrient runoff from agriculture, golf courses or homeowner lawns, initiate mandatory septic tank conversions or redirect waterway flow into the Everglades, policies are certain to be adopted that will carry major ramifications for green industry professionals throughout Florida. We can't afford to sit on the sideline and continue to allow our profession to be falsely defined by outsiders and special interests – we must aggressively promote the significant environmental benefits of healthy lawns and landscapes, and the knowledge and expertise of those professionals who work every day to protect Florida's water resources.

YOUR industry urgently needs your help. Please join EREF today.



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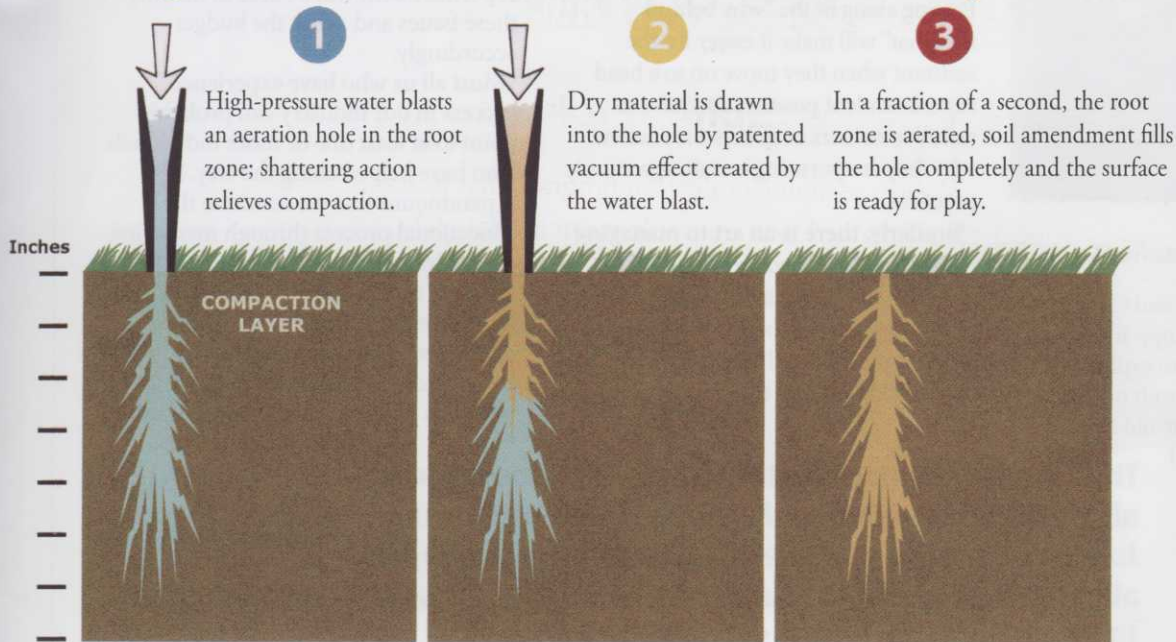
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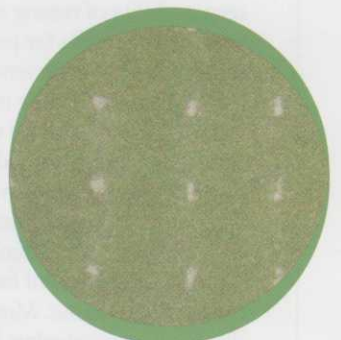
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FIELD OBSERVATIONS

'MOM AND DAD, WE WANT A PUPPY!'



By Ralph K. Dain Jr.,
GCSAA Regional Representative Florida

Recently, my sons Logan and Gavin have expressed a desire for a puppy. It's always great in theory but trying to explain the amount of work involved with owning a dog to eight- and nine-year-old kids. This is especially true when you live in a condo. Stella, a cute little Yorkie that lives on our floor has fueled their desire to have a dog. Every time my boys see her on her way out for a walk, they again declare their dedication to raising a dog.

Stella's owners have been very kind and decided they would help us determine if the boys are really ready for the responsibility of raising a dog by allowing us to borrow Stella for periods of time so my sons can experience the rewards and challenges that are involved. For the record, they had started out strong but have faded fast as we had a week-long dog-sitting experience where mom and dad had to repeatedly help "encourage" the boy's participation in feedings and walks.

The "encouragement factor" is what this message is all about. More commonly this is called mentoring. Just like my sons and their desire to have a puppy, almost every assistant superintendent has a desire to move up to become a superintendent. They need the exposure to everything the job entails, and it takes a strong leader to give them the opportunity to experience every aspect of being the head superintendent.

Most assistant superintendents likely have a foundation in the agronomic principles required to maintain a golf course. The superintendent who serves as a mentor will help fine-tune these fundamentals and hopefully share the philosophy behind the agronomic practices used on that particular site. Passing along of the "why behind the what" will make it easier for the assistant when they move on to a head superintendent position and have to justify to owners or golfers the reasons why they are pursuing certain agronomic practices.

Similarly, there is an art to managing people that can also be taught. That includes not just managing the people who report to you but also the people to whom you report. This is probably the most essential skill that can be passed along.

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I know I was fortunate enough to work with someone who was, and probably still is, the best at this aspect of the job. Communication skills help develop these relationships and will be a valuable asset throughout one's career. Even if your mentor is not particularly strong in communication, hopefully they are aware that there are a number of GCSAA educational courses that can assist in this area and encourage you to participate in them. (Ok that was a shameless plug but I was also just writing about puppies!)

Another area that is pertinent to making the transition from assistant superintendent to superintendent is being able to develop and present a fiscally sound budget. This also is a skill that can be shared and taught, as I believe real life applications are critical in sharpening this skill.

The mentoring superintendent can include the assistant in the process

and share the justification for expenses easily enough. The real art in the budgeting process is to understand how the entire facility comprises departments that are dependent on one another and it is not just a matter of "we need X dollars to do what we need to do." Everything is interrelated and the successful superintendent will be able to identify these issues and adapt the budget accordingly.

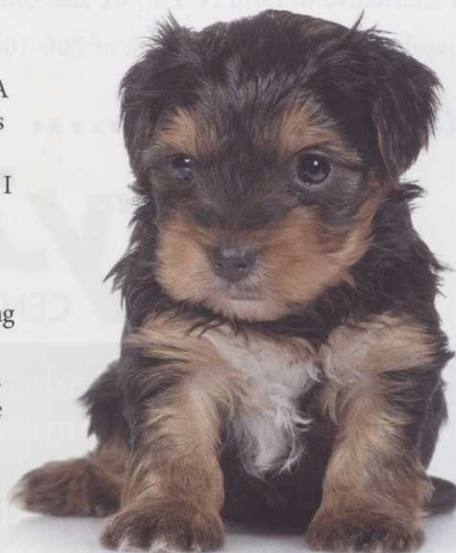
Most all us who have experienced success in our industry can probably point to at least one or more individuals who have helped along the way. It is paramount that we continue the educational process through mentoring the leaders of tomorrow. We want the industry to thrive and it cannot do that if we hold everything close to the vest and do not share the wisdom we have gained through our experiences. Pass along what you know and enjoy the reward

of helping another individual achieve success.

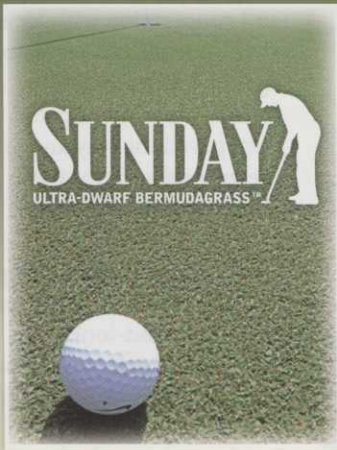
As far as caring for Stella is concerned, here is some wisdom shared with my boys. Don't be the one to walk her after

she eats or you will need to use the little plastic baggy!

Until next time,
Ralph Dain
GCSAA Regional Representative (FL)



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WATER NOTES



**GREEN SIDE UP
By JOEL JACKSON**

While on our recent vacation to California, I was taking notice of the drought effects we've heard so much about, and wondered what we would encounter. Most of the residential neighborhoods didn't really show many effects at all. And most of the yards are small in comparison to what we normally see in Florida. That is also because of the population density so lots are smaller in general so the houses and apartment buildings take up most of the space.

The golf courses closest to where we were staying in Sherman Oaks, a suburb of Los Angeles in the San Fernando Valley, were city- or county-owned and were getting reclaimed water for irrigation, so the greens,

tees and fairways looked pretty normal. Based on the coverage of their systems, some roughs may have been off-color in spots. Meanwhile, farther north as we took the Pacific Surfliner along the coast and up to San Luis Obispo, I saw a few courses from the train and from the rental car we took on up to Cambria. More of the courses in smaller towns had the green circles in the fairways and brown roughs where coverage didn't reach.

A universal drought indicator was evident at all the restaurants we visited. The traditional glass of water was not offered unless specifically asked for, and in some cases a 25- or 30-cents-per-glass fee was charged. In one hotel where we stayed,

We may be "Flori-duh" in some situations, but in water management, the Sunshine State is way ahead of most states in conservation of water resources.

they explained a simple flip switch cutoff valve installed on the shower head to use after getting wet, lathering up and then turning back on to rinse off. The system avoids letting the shower run continuously while bathing.

Another item that caught my eye, which was a bit mind-boggling, was an article in the Sunday paper

that described how the state was considering possible regulations on groundwater use. There are no specific permitting programs in place to regulate groundwater use. Meanwhile, California has 456 water authorities around the state all regulating the use of surface waters. I know in my whole career in golf, we have turned in monthly water pumping reports to the five water management districts.

We may be "Flori-duh" in some situations, but in water management, the Sunshine State is way ahead of most states in conservation of water resources.

Florida's 67 counties and 450 incorporated cities sometimes seek to impose their own restrictions during

drought situations, and once again our Golf BMP Manuals are cited and our past track record of working with the Water Management Districts have yielded positive impressions and working relationships that have given us a fighting chance to use water wisely during dry conditions.

It is critical that

superintendents and assistants have stayed involved and participated in their local chapters and the Florida GCSA. As the generations of superintendents change, we must remain strong in our professional associations to unite our voices and act from a position of strength and cooperation with local governments and regulatory agencies. Current and former superintendents have paved the way and laid the groundwork for these alliances and cooperative efforts.

If you want to have a long and successful career in golf, or have a good-looking, competitive golf course that will attract customers, then you must also be involved in advocating and educating your members, the public and the regulators about our stewardship efforts. The best way to do that is through your local chapters and the FGCSA.

Water is the number-one issue facing the green industries and agriculture. Irrigate wisely and explain your programs to your members by face-to-face interactions and clubhouse newsletters or bulletin board postings. Show them you know what you're doing and show them our BMP Manual and our commitment to water conservation. ■

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