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The Florida Green

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ON THE COVER: The 9th green, St. Johns Golf & Country Club, St. Augustine.
Photo by Joel Jackson.

FOREWORDS

Superintendent Responsibilities

Another winter golfing season is coming to a close and Mother Nature never ceases to amaze. Many parts of the state received a great deal of rain and many cloudy, overcast days. Parts of the East coast received more than 15 inches of rain in a single day. So much for winter being the "dry" season. While most of us escaped the many days that were bitterly cold, the northern part of the state actually saw some frozen precipitation! Golf course superintendents tend to be a resilient bunch, typically rolling with the punches very well and meeting the challenges posed by Mother Nature.

Superintendents are not only resilient but multi-talented as well. In the Hands On section of this issue, you will read about duties and responsibilities that superintendents have beyond normal course maintenance. When most of us got into this business we had no idea that this career would be so much more than just management of the golf course grounds. However, superintendents often have responsibilities including clubhouse maintenance, tennis court maintenance, managing the golf cart fleet just to name a few. Personally, I get to manage the beach behind the clubhouse, which I thought was going to be a glamorous job until I experienced my first red tide.

An industry-wide responsibility that all golf course superintendents need to learn is advocacy. This past February I had the opportunity to join the Golf Florida Alliance and represent the FGCSA in Tallahassee for Florida Golf Day. We spent the day visiting with members of the House of Representatives and the Senate. The message delivered was one of golf's benefits to the state of Florida including a strong economic impact, positive influence on youth through the First Tee program, significant contributions to charity and a dedication to environmental sustainability.

The legislators we met were receptive to our message but they all said the same thing: as an industry, we must do a



Kevin Sunderman,
President

better job communicating our message. Every day they hear about how golf is bad for the environment. They hear that we are polluters, water gluttons and that our fertilizers destroy our precious waterways.

Opponents of our industry are numerous and bombard our legislators with these messages of unsubstantiated allegations. The people we met with liked our story and the facts that support it. They want and need to hear it more often. We are all busy people but we can all find 30 minutes a month to write, email or call a representative, senator, city councilman or other official and tell them our story. If you don't know what to say, there are plenty of people who can help. Your local chapter board, the FGCSA or GCSAA Field Staff representative Ralph Dain are all sources for help. Even if your area is not a current hotbed of debate it is best to get ahead of the curve. I promise you our legislators want to hear from you, so reach out to them.

I am happy to report that the FGCSA Board and Committee members are still focused and on track to provide benefits to our members. A committee that needs your immediate help is the Research Committee. The Research Committee wants to play a greater role in determining what topics are researched with FGCSA funds. We want your ideas of what research you'd like to see conducted. Feel free to email the FGCSA your ideas. I encourage you to continue to share your talents and stay resilient.



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Chapter Activities In the Spotlight



From the left: Calusa GCSA Secretary Jake Wentz, Fiddlesticks GC, Keith Hill, House Parent Florida Baptist Children's Home, Aimee McLaughlin, Director of Development & Communications, Children's Network of Southwest Florida and Calusa GCSA President Mark Thomas, Kelly Greens G&CC. Photo courtesy of the Suncoast GCSA.

Calusa GCSA:

(Editor's Note: This news item came in too late to get into the Winter Issue but we wanted to share the Calusa Chapter's holiday experience.

Ralph Dain reporting.)

"I had a conversation with Calusa Chapter President Mark Thomas about their recent Toys 4 Tots campaign where they raised \$5200 for the Children's Network of Southwest Florida. Mark said it was an emotional experience as he and several other board members visited three separate homes in the area and personally dropped off the toys to the network."

Central Florida GCSA:

Trent Inman from the Old Memorial GC in Tampa and Mark Guyer with the Beard Equipment Co. teamed up to win the CFGCSA/FTGA Research Tournament at the Interlachen CC in Winter Park. This 26-year-old event

has raised over \$100,000 for the FTGA Foundation. This year's event raised another \$4,500 to be used for turfgrass research.



From the left: Trent Inman and Mark Guyer hoist the Low Gross Division winner's trophy at the FTGA Research Tournament hosted annually by Superintendent Stuart Leventhal, CGCS and the Interlachen CC in Winter Park, FL. Photo by Joel Jackson.



G.C. Horn Seminar
 Around 100 attendees showed up for the newly revamped Everglades January Seminar, renamed in honor of Dr. G. C. Horn, who put turfgrass research on the map in Florida. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Everglades:

G. C. Horn Seminar report by Matt Taylor: "This used to be our traditional January education seminar meeting. Then it turned into the FTGA regional event and all proceeds went to the FTGA. Over the years we have been building the G. C. Horn account and now have reached our goal of \$100,000 in the account.

"We are now going to fund a grad student at the University of Florida each year for \$10,000. In order not to touch the principal we needed to find \$10,000 of income each year. So we decided to run the January seminar again which should profit around \$4,000 combined with the annual April Spring Symposium, which yields about \$6,000 per year.

"Bottom line, we voted that all proceeds from EGCSA educational events would go the GC Horn Account. Not sure if you remember, but David Barnes gave us the account and balance a few years ago. The FTGA has moved the regional seminar for

the Fort Myers-Naples region to a March date so I guess it all worked out for everybody."

EGCSA hosts Assistant Superintendent Outing by Kirsten Conover: On Tuesday February 25th, members of the Everglades chapter took some time out of their busy schedules to celebrate area assistant superintendents. A BBQ social hosted by Matt Taylor, CGCS, at the Royal Poinciana Golf Club drew around 36 assistants and 90 people total. The event included a chipping contest organized by the assistant superintendent committee with The Club Pelican Bay assistant, Andy Newton, in charge. Felix Martinez, assistant at Mediterra GC, survived a 32-man bracket to claim the top prize over Erick Landis, assistant at The Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club.

A wonderful meal of pulled pork, sausage, coleslaw, green beans and rolls followed the main event. Cookies, courtesy of Bob Bittner, CGCS, and The Club Pelican Bay capped the meal with



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the perfect sweet touch. The maintenance equipment bay was well staged by Royal Poinciana assistant Gabe Gallo, a member of the Everglades Chapter's Assistant Superintendents Committee, with the aid of his fellow RP assistants and provided a comfortable gathering place to catch up with old friends and make new ones. In attendance along with the assistants were representatives from Bayer, Harrell's, Wesco, BASF, Glase Golf, Syngenta, The Andersons, Toro, MJS Golf Services, USGA, area superintendents, and GCSAA Field Representative Ralph Dain.

The face-to-face time with colleagues and networking opportunities for assistants provided a personal touch in our technology-driven society. Building these professional relationships will benefit and strengthen our profession. Everyone had a great time.

Palm Beach:

The Palm Beach First Tee maintenance facility had a complete renovation that started with a redesign by one



2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

- May 5 Treasure Coast Blue Pearl, Johns Island Club, Vero Beach
- May 15 FGCSA Spring Board Meeting, The Country Club of Naples, Naples
- May 16-17 Everglades Poa Annuu Classic, Naples Beach Hotel & Club, Naples
- May 28 Ridge Invitational, Grasslands G&CC, Lakeland

JUNE

- June 7 Palm Beach Future of Golf Tournament, The Falls G&CC, Lake Worth
- June 21 Palm Beach Fishing Tournament

AUGUST

- Aug 21 Calusa Meeting, Old Corkscrew GC, Estero

SEPTEMBER

- Sept 8 FTGA Conference & Show, TBA
- Sept 12 Calusa Meeting, Sanctuary GC, Sanibel Island

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

of the associates at the Jack Nicklaus Company. The Palm Beach Chapter recently donated \$10,000 to help with the renovation. According to PBGCSA President Steve Wright, Mark Reid, director of grounds at the Breakers G.C. volunteered to coordinate and oversee the reconditioning process. Wright said, "Mark has done just about everything after his real job, to get facility in great shape. You name it, he helped do it."

Some of the Palm Beach GCSA members involved in the First Tee project, from the left: Kevin Downing, CGCS, Steve Wright, CGCS and Mark Reid (A) stand in front of the newly renovated First Tee Maintenance Facility donated by the Palm Beach GCSA.

2014 SUNCOAST SCRAMBLE



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Special thanks

To Superintendent Nick Kearns and The Oaks Club for hosting this event!

Photo: The 18th hole on the Eagle Course at The Oaks Club, Sarasota

Suncoast:

SCGCSA President Nick Kearns hosted the 32nd Annual Suncoast Scramble Tournament at The Oaks Club in Sarasota March 17. During the business-meeting portion on the event a slate of speakers gave the audience a comprehensive update on various aspects of governmental affairs, superintendent association goals and initiatives at the national, state and local levels.

After FGCSA President Kevin Sunderman and GCSAA Regional Representative Ralph Dain updated the group on government affairs, chemical label expirations, FGCSA committee work and research, and research and education fundraising programs, Don Rainey explained the latest work on the statewide BMP program and requirements.



Sarasota County Commissioner Christine Robinson gave a positive presentation about the history and economic impact of golf in Sarasota during the business meeting at the Suncoast Scramble. Photo by Rick Rivers.

figures with those of Sarasota County, showing that golf indeed is a leading economic factor in the county. She said the county is looking more at what it can do to make capital investments to upgrade the local infrastructure to reduce nutrient inputs.

She added, "The Commission represents the needs of 380,000 people in Sarasota County. I write that number



Suncoast President Nick Kearns presents a check for \$2,500 to Alison Barrick with the Ronald McDonald House Charities at the 2014 Suncoast Scramble. Photo by Joel Jackson.

The special guest speaker this year was Sarasota County Commissioner Christine Robinson. She gave a rather positive outlook of the current County Commission with regard to the golf industry in Sarasota County when she said, "This group of commissioners does not consider golf to be the enemy!" She proceeded to outline the long history of golf in this area dating back to 1886 and she compared the 2007 Florida Golf Economic Impact Study

on my file folder I take to meetings as a reminder. But we see the same 12 people at all our meetings that are always pointing fingers at others. I have heard all the other reports today from those asking you to get involved because of all those attacking golf. I will say this, 'If you are not at the table, you will likely be what's on the plate!'"

Florida GCSA

At the FGCSA Winter Board Meeting in January held at the Isla Del Sol Yacht and Country Club in St. Petersburg, host and FGCSA President Kevin Sunderman laid out the agenda for moving forward with the plans to upgrade the reorganization, operations and member services of the association.

A follow-up FGCSA Round Table meeting of all interested parties to gather input and ideas was held at the Shingle Creek Resort on the afternoon of February 6th during the Golf Industry Show in Orlando. Later that same evening, the FGCSA held its annual GIS Reception at the B. B. King's House of Blues at Pointe Orlando across from the convention center. Highlight of the evening was a special recognition presentation to Joel Jackson, CGCS Retired, for his years of service to the FGCSA. Jackson will continue to serve as the editor of the Florida Green Magazine as he begins the "semi-retirement phase of his career."



From the left: SCGCSA President Nick Kearns presents FGCSA President Kevin Sunderman a check for \$2,500 for turfgrass research. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Susie and Joel Jackson, CGCS Retired with the special "Recognition of FGCSA Service" award presented at the FGCSA GIS Reception in Orlando on February 6th. Photo by Rick Rivers.

THE 2014 FLORIDA GCSA RECEPTION



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The Andersons, Plant Nutrient Division
UniFirst Corporation

IN MEMORIAM

Bill Entwistle (1929-2014)

Posted: Sunday, January 19, 2014 in the Leesburg *Daily Commercial*.

William (Bill) Entwistle of Leesburg suddenly passed away January 14th at the age of 84. He was born in Syracuse, New York on August 19, 1929.

"Pops the Great" (PTG), as he was affectionately known by his immediate family, was a devoted husband and loving father. He is survived by his wife Janet of 55 years, his son Bill, Jr. (Chantal) of Pembroke Pines, and daughters Kitty (Fred) of Pensacola,, Amy (Derek) of West Palm Beach, Julie (Jeff) of Bear, DE and his grandchildren: Jennifer, Jackie, Matt, Ryne, Kaitlyn, Derek, Brad, Kelly, Riley, Jordan, Jarrod and great-grandchildren Jackson, Hailee, and Brody.

Bill grew up in Syracuse, graduating from Christian Brothers Academy. Right out of school, he followed in his father's footsteps and began his long career in the golf business. He also served in the United States Air Force from 1951 to 1954. In 1958, he married Janet Billy of Syracuse.

Bill spent a lifetime in the golf industry, making friends all over the world through the game he loved. He passed the love of the game to his children and grandchildren. With his dry sense of humor, Bill was a practical jokester, loved sharing stories of his life and nicknaming his family and close friends.

A viewing was held for family and friends Jan. 20 at the Allen J. Harden Funeral Home, Mount Dora. A Funeral Mass was held Jan. 21 at St. Patrick Catholic Church, Mount Dora.

The family is requesting, that in lieu of flowers or other gifts, that donations be made on his behalf to the Florida Golf Course Superintendents' Association Scholarship Fund. Donations may be sent to Bill Entwistle Jr., 2211 NW 101 Terrace, Pembroke Pines, FL 33026

Everett Comstock (1939-2014)

North Florida GCSA member Lon Chatfield remembers North Florida superintendent Everett Comstock:

"Everett Comstock, golf course superintendent at Blue Cypress, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2014. Everett was 75 years old. I do know that Everett was once superintendent at Cecil Field, Deerfield Lakes and most recently, Blue Cypress. His wife, Jacqueline Comstock, two daughters and a son, survive Everett. Everett and his brother, Byron, a PGA pro who played the Tour in the 1970s, managed facilities together. I enjoyed my visits with Everett; he was a good man. The Memorial Mass was celebrated Feb. 15 at Christ The King Catholic Church in Jacksonville. Mr. Comstock's ashes were buried in Jacksonville National Cemetery Feb. 17 with military honors. In lieu of flowers, the family gratefully requests donations to www.CaringBridge.org or www.communityhospice.com. "May you rest in peace Everett."



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GIS Orlando Recap

From the GCSAA Website

If the buzz surrounding the 2014 Golf Industry Show, Feb. 1-6 in Orlando, is any indication, the golf industry's journey along the road to recovery continues at a steady and sustainable pace.

Final statistics from this year's gathering of golf course superintendents, owners and operators, architects and builders were on the rise across the board versus the 2013 event in San Diego. Total attendance was 14,147, an 8 percent increase over last year. In addition, the two-day trade show, Feb. 5-6, attracted a total of 6,845 qualified buyers (up 14 percent from San Diego), who enjoyed 184,500 square feet of exhibit space and 561 exhibitors - increases of 7 and 9 percent respectively, from 2013.

"The feedback that I received during



The GCSAA presented the 2014 Old Tom Morris Award for outstanding contributions to the golf industry to LPGA Hall of Fame legend Annika Sorenstam during the Opening Ceremony of the 2014 Golf Industry Show. From the left: GCSAA Past President Pat Finlen, Annika Sorenstam and GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans. Photo by Joel Jackson.

and the investment for everyone involved, so we are pleased that the event continues to be embraced as enthusiastically as it has ever been."

"The enthusiasm for the week's events that I witnessed in Orlando tells me that the Golf Industry Show is largely hitting the mark," added Mike Hughes, the CEO of the National Golf Course Owners Association (NGCOA).

"We'll continue to evaluate the event to make sure it meets the needs of the event's constituents, but it's rewarding that

the positive responses to the event have been reinforced by the show's final numbers."

The 2015 Golf Industry Show will head to San Antonio, Texas, Feb. 23-26, which will mark the event's first visit to The Alamo City in more than two decades.



GCSAA Tournament Winner Deron Zendt with his trophy on Disney's Magnolia GC. Zendt is the superintendent of the Banyan GC in West Palm Beach. Photo courtesy of GCSAA.

the week from attendees, exhibitors and allied association colleagues was overwhelmingly positive, so it's gratifying that our final numbers back up those assessments," GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans said. "The changes that we have made to the Golf Industry Show in recent years were done with an eye on maximizing the experience

(Editor's Note: There was an interesting combination of comments about the Trade Show, several vendors mentioned they thought the show seemed small, while most superintendents commented how easy it was to get around and see everything! I found that this year seemed to showcase widespread technical and practical performance enhancements and service access improvements to everything from pesticide combination products to turf equipment. -JJ)



Deron Zendt was also recognized for his golf victory on stage at the General Session of the GIS. From the left: GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans, Darren Redetzke, VP of Commercial Sales for Toro, Zendt, and Pat Finlen, GCSAA Immediate Past President. Photo by Joel Jackson.



The Florida GCSA Golf Team got an electronic salute for its First Place team victory in the GCSAA Golf Championship held in Orlando during the Golf Industry Show. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Jorgensen Selected for Academy



Andy Jorgensen

Seven Rivers
GCSA President
Andy Jorgensen
from the On Top
of The World
Community in
Ocala was chosen to
attend the Healthy
Turf, Healthy

Tomorrow – Plant
Health Academy, a joint project of the
Bayer Corporation and the GCSAA's
Environmental Institute of Golf.

Jorgensen is one of a dozen
superintendents who will attend the
academy which offers two-and-a
half-day education and training
sessions at GCSAA Headquarters in
Lawrence, KS in March and the Bayer
Development and Training Center in
Clayton, NC in September.

The academy's goals are to provide
golf course superintendents with
opportunities to learn more about
innovative plant health research
and practices for the benefit of their
courses, individual careers and the
industry. Attendees receive instruction
in a wide range of topics related to
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THE ST. JOHNS GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB:

OUR MOTTO IS

'Always Exceeding Your Expectations!'

Built in 2001, St. Johns Golf & Country Club is located off of Route 210, halfway between the Atlantic Ocean and the St. Johns River in St. Johns County, putting it just south of Jacksonville and northwest of St. Augustine. The 18-hole layout threads through cypress wetlands, pine tree forests and residential home sites. The site was originally home to a hunting club and 13 of the 14 lakes were on the site when the course was built.

The course is owned and operated by Billy Casper Golf and has hosted the 2004, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2014 PGA Tour qualifying schools. That is not a big

surprise since the PGA Tour Headquarters is just up the road in Ponte Vedra Beach. St. Johns also served as a U.S. Open and U.S. Public Links Qualifying Site from 2005 to 2014. With that list of achievements on the books, it may come as no surprise that the club's motto is "Always Exceeding Your Expectations!"

The St. John's G&CC has another worthy achievement to its credit. The course earned and has maintained the Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary designation since 2009, meeting the program's vigorous environmental protection and stewardship requirements.



A huge pot bunker complex guards the par 3, 17th green. Photo by Joel Jackson.

SUPERINTENDENT FACTS

Truthfully the expectations for my first visit to St. Johns were a bit guarded. When superintendent Nate Maurer and I scheduled the cover story photo shoot, we were trying to take advantage of the mild January that Florida was having at the time. But before I could get there, Mother Nature pulled one of her "gotchas" and sent the first of 2014's polar vortexes dipping down into the Deep South, and I had concerns about how the turf might hold up for photographic purposes.

Since Maurer was on a regular cool-season turf pigment program, the course looked to be in great shape and very similar to those western desert courses with dormant roughs and verdant greens and fairways.

Maurer described his pigment program, "This year we used a product called Envy® every three weeks at the rate of 6 ounces per acre on the greens and 16 ounces per acre on the fairways. We also had liquid fertilizers in the spray tanks alternating between ProPlus 28-0-0 and 12-0-0. We sprayed the greens weekly with this mix during periods of very cold weather and when it warms up we back off."

In addition to those special events mentioned earlier, St. John's has a busy "golf season" in the spring and fall, but Maurer says it has steady play all year, averaging

Meet Nate Maurer

Originally from: West Springfield, MA.

Family: Wife Mary and two sons: Mason (6) and Bradley (3)

Education: 2001, Associates degree in Criminal Justice, Holyoke Community College, Holyoke, MA; 2005, Certification in Turfgrass Management from the U. of Georgia, Athens, GA

Employment history: July 2001-2004, 2nd Assistant Superintendent and Spray Tech, The Landings Club, Savannah, GA; July 2004-December 2005, Assistant Superintendent, The Virginian GC, Bristol, VA; January 2006-May 2011, Assistant Superintendent, The Plantation at Ponte Vedra; June 2011-Present, Superintendent, St. Johns Golf & Country Club, St. Augustine, FL.

Professional affiliations/awards: Member of the Assistant Development Committee, Billy Casper Golf. 2012 – present, Treasurer of the North Florida GCSA.

Personal philosophy of work: Manage your staff with respect. Set example for hard work and dedication. Maintain a good work/quality of life balance.

Goals: Become a CGCS one day. Be a good husband and father.

Hobbies and Interests: Going to the gym. Spending time with my family. The boys are quite active and Mason is on the verge of getting into Pee wee sports.



NATE MAURER

Photo by Joel Jackson.



In this view of the hole No. 1 from behind the green, note the morning shade on the green and the color contrast between the fairway and the rough.

Photo by Joel Jackson.

53,000 rounds annually. Being somewhat closer to the coast, summertime temperatures are a bit milder thanks to the prevailing onshore sea breezes, which help keep conditions a little more comfortable for summer golf.


I was somewhat surprised to learn that, like Steve Keller at Juliette Falls in our last issue, Maurer backs way off of any routine mowing schedule in the winter. He said his team has mowed very infrequently since September/October, adding they just don't get a lot of clippings this time of year. He will schedule rolling and clean-up mowing as needed to keep the greens in solid playing shape and appearance.

Maurer does stick to his biweekly foliar spray program on the TifEagle greens year around. The spray mix includes one tenth of a pound of nitrogen per application mixed with a growth regulator and turf colorant. The growth regulator helps to maintain an even growth rate when the temperatures do warm up and stimulate the turf.

Once the temperatures are up consistently, Maurer works in five to seven verticuts and three aerifications on the greens and applies 5-12 ounces of Primo® per week during the growing season. The tees and fairways receive one major aerification per year, a total of three pounds of combined granular and liquid nitrogen fertilizer and three applications of Primo® per year.

With steady play all year long, Maurer and staff must stay on top of traffic-control measures to prevent turf wear in traditionally high traffic areas near greens and tees. Because the course does wind through cypress and pine forests, shaded areas can also become potential weak turf areas that need to be monitored closely. Speaking of weak turf and turf damage from lots of play, Maurer made an interesting observation I thought our readers might be willing to post to educate their golfers: "Fix your ball mark in a few minutes and it will heal in a day. Wait a day and it will take a week or more to heal!"

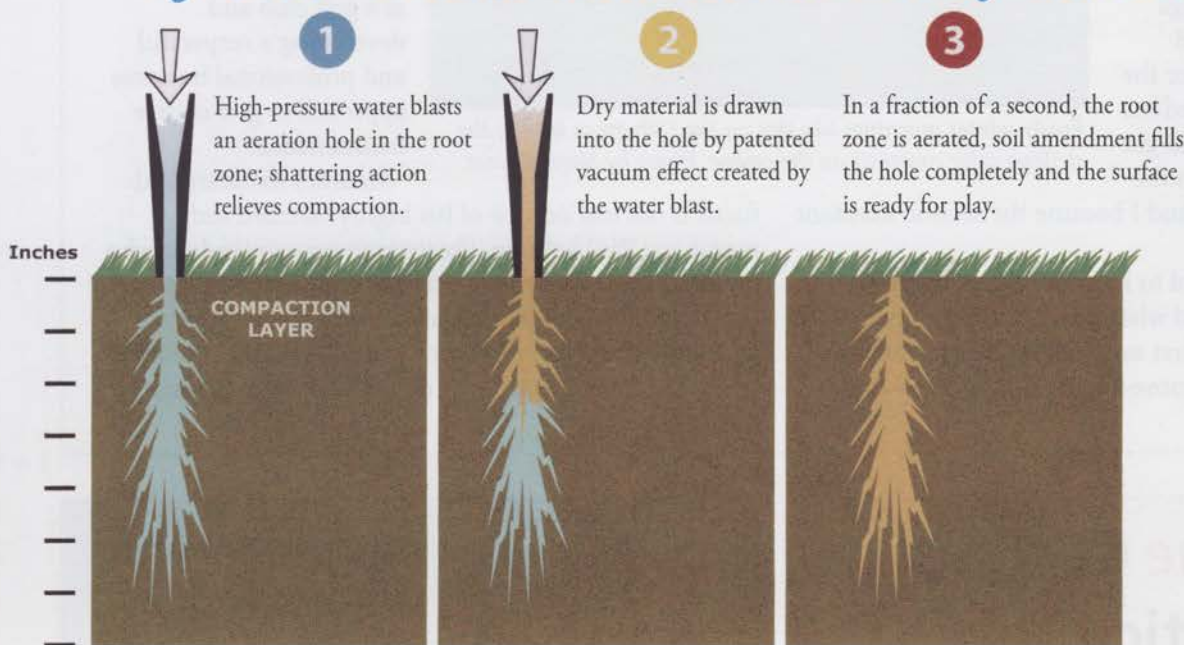
Maurer and his staff, including veteran North Florida



Dense stands of native grasses, like these on the 3rd hole, line many sections of the course's lake banks protecting the waterways from any runoff. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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superintendent, Paul Salmon, keep the course “exceeding the expectations” in the course motto. I asked Maurer how he came to be in the golf course business. He replied, “Back in 2000, I was a criminal justice major in Savannah, GA and I needed a job. I went to work for superintendent Earl McMinn at the Landings Golf Club. I had a good aptitude and attitude for the job and Earl encouraged me to go back to school and get my turf certificate from the University of Georgia and I became the second assistant at the Landings.”

“I’ll always be thankful to Earl for the opportunity and his counseling, and when I was ready to move up I took a job as the first assistant at the Virginian G.C. in Bristol, VA. I moved to Florida in 2006 and



Frosty winter mornings like this on the 18th green lead to the striking color contrasts on the course. Photo by Nate Maurer.

spent five years working for Fred Theus at the Plantation @ Ponte Vedra near Jacksonville. It was from Fred that I learned about 90 percent of a superintendent’s job isn’t growing grass, but communicating with people up and down the chain of command at a golf club and developing a respectful and professional business approach to golf course maintenance.

Maurer’s maturity and focus is not lost on two of his highly talented staff members: Paul Salmon, the veteran superintendent who is Maurer’s assistant superintendent, has 35 years in the business, 25 as a superintendent and another 10 years in sales with Profile Products. John Pieniazek, senior turf technician has 30 years of golf-course-maintenance

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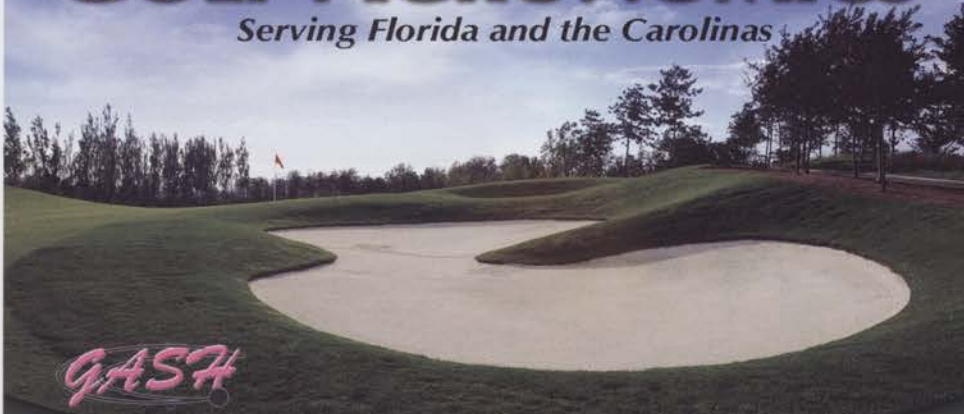
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Contrasting colors in this photo of the 15th green complex with No. 16 in the background. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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experience. Both of these gentlemen agreed that Maurer was the “real deal” and granted that he was wise beyond his years!

Praise of Maurer was echoed separately by the young 2nd Assistant/spray tech, Casey Kelly, who pulled me aside to say how much he appreciated Maurer’s leadership and support. That isn’t all that surprising given that Maurer serves on the Billy Casper Golf’s Assistant Development Committee.

It is nice to know that, unlike some management companies, Billy Casper Golf is fully committed to developing its young professionals.

Maurer says he also wants to develop his own career. He is currently an SM or Superintendent Member of the GCSAA and has set a goal of becoming a Certified Golf Course Superintendent. He volunteers his time as the treasurer of the North Florida GCSA. Another important goal as a down-to-earth family man, with a wife and two sons, is to work hard at maintaining a good work and life balance.

Based on my impressions of this young superintendent’s demeanor and work ethic, I have little doubt that Nate Maurer will exceed expectations in that area as well.

Early morning view of the 14th hole from behind the green. Photo by Joel Jackson.

MAURER FUN FACTS

Vehicle: Nissan Armada

The last good movie I saw: Silver Lining Playbook

I stay home to watch: The Boston Red Sox

What I’ve been reading: Children’s books. My six-year old is learning to read.

Favorite meal: Homemade mac and cheese

Favorite performer: Pearl Jam

Prized possessions: My family

Personal heroes: My father

I’m better than anyone else when it comes to: Dealing with people

If I could do it over: Wouldn’t change a thing

I’d give anything to meet: Eddie Vedder of Pearl Jam

My fantasy is: Winning the lottery

The one thing I can’t stand: Laziness

Most humbling experience: Having my two boys

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

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

My best fish story: I caught a 9-10 lb. bass on a piece of hotdog.



Nate writes, “In February last year, during an outing at our annual Billy Casper Golf meeting in Tampa, I landed the biggest fish of the day, a black grouper. But it was out of season so I had to put it back.”



TIFEAGLE

SOARS AT PRESTWICK C.C.



"To be honest, Champion was on my mind early on, because it was the sexy, in-vogue pick. But I put in a test green with TifEagle, MiniVerde and Champion, and after 2 years of playing around with all three, I got to see the limitations and strong points of each grass. I also looked at a lot of TifEagle courses. In the end, my bosses and I agreed that TifEagle was by far the best ultradwarf for Prestwick."

*Paul Kaufman-Superintendent
Prestwick Country Club
Myrtle Beach SC*



You'll find TifEagle Bermudagrass at the spectacular Prestwick Country Club in Myrtle Beach SC. This links-style gem was designed by Pete Dye and his son P.B. Dye and opened in 1989. Superintendent Paul Kaufman is responsible for the day-to-day management and upkeep of this top-flight course that features towering dune-like berms, stairway bunkers and bulkhead-protected greens. It was Paul along with his bosses who made the decision to go with TifEagle. "Our Tifdwarf was really beginning to show its age and was getting to be almost unmanageable. On top of that, the Myrtle Beach area is so competitive. There are almost 100 courses here now in what's essentially a one-mile by 30-mile strip, and the majority of them have ultradwarf

greens. From a competitive standpoint we were just lagging behind. So I put in a combination test green with TifEagle, MiniVerde and Champion and evaluated all three grasses for over two years. I also looked at a lot of other clubs, and talked to a lot of other superintendents. We decided to no-till and shut the course down on June 18th. Believe it or not, we were open for play on September 1 with superb new TifEagle greens." Take a tip from Paul Kaufman. 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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St. Johns G&CC Maintenance Staff. Photo by Joel Jackson

Location: St. Augustine.

Number of Holes: 18. Yardage: 7,236.
Par: 72. Slope & Rating: 132/74

Ownership: Billy Casper Golf

Playing Policy: Semi-private. Avg. number of rounds per year: 53,000+

Designed by: Clyde Johnston.

Construction by: MacCurrach Golf Construction. Opened: 2001

Management Team: Club Manager, Ryan Roberts; Head Golf Professional, Kris Smith; Dining Room Manager, Brad Little; Director of Club Services, Amanda Dunn; Club Assistant, Jeannie Bryant; Head Chef, Herbert Burgin; Golf Course Superintendent, Nate Maurer.

Projects: Bunker renovation in 2010.

Total property acres: 400.

Acreage under maintenance: 100 acres.
No overseeding on the course.

Greens: Turf Type: TifEagle.
Average size: 8,000 (sq.ft.). Acres: 3.5,
Height of Cut (with any seasonal changes):
.087 inches summer & .110 inches winter.
Green speed goals: 10.5 – 11.0.

Tees, Fairways & Roughs: Turf Type: 419.
Area Acreage: Tees: 5, Fairways: 33, and
Roughs: 60. HOC: Tees & Fairways .500;
Roughs 1.25".

Bunkers: Number of bunkers: 74. Sand
type: Medium Coarse 321, Machine
raked with Toro Sand Pro with leaf rake
attachment.

Waste/Naturalized areas: A total of one
acre of crushed coquina waste area on the
7th hole. Native broom sedge grasses line
most of the lake banks to provide wildlife
cover and filter any runoff.

Waterways/Lakes/Ponds:

Total number: 13. Acres: 50. Lake
maintenance by Charles Aquatics.

Environmental Stewardship: We have
been a Certified Audubon Cooperative
Sanctuary since 2009. The Billy Casper
Golf Company strives to have all of its golf
courses become certified in the Audubon
International's Sanctuary program.

Wildlife Inventory: Resident family of
red foxes. We currently have a young bald
eagle seen around the course, and we have
had adult eagles using the property along
with other raptors like hawks and ospreys.

We also have the usual array of wading
birds and waterfowl in and around our
lakes and the typical songbird populations:
mockingbirds, blue jays, cardinals, wrens,
sparrows, etc.

Irrigation: Water source: Surface water.
We have one backup deep well, seldom
used. Pumping system: Flowtronex.
Controls: Toro Osmac SitePro. Heads:
800. Restrictions: Follow St. Johns River
WMD Consumptive Use Permit. Water
Management/Conservation practices:
Turf areas broken down into selective
SitePro programs and watered separately
as needed.

Staff: Total including superintendent: 12
— 4 full time and 8 part-time. Schedule:
38 hours straight time.

Key Staff: Assistant, Paul Salmon;
2nd Assistant/Spray Tech, Casey Kelly;
Equipment Technician, John Pieniazek.
Others I wish to recognize: Mike
Stevens, Regional Agronomist for Billy
Casper Golf.

Communications: Daily morning
crew meetings, and weekly Dept. Head
meetings.

Top: The 6th green at the St. John's G&CC. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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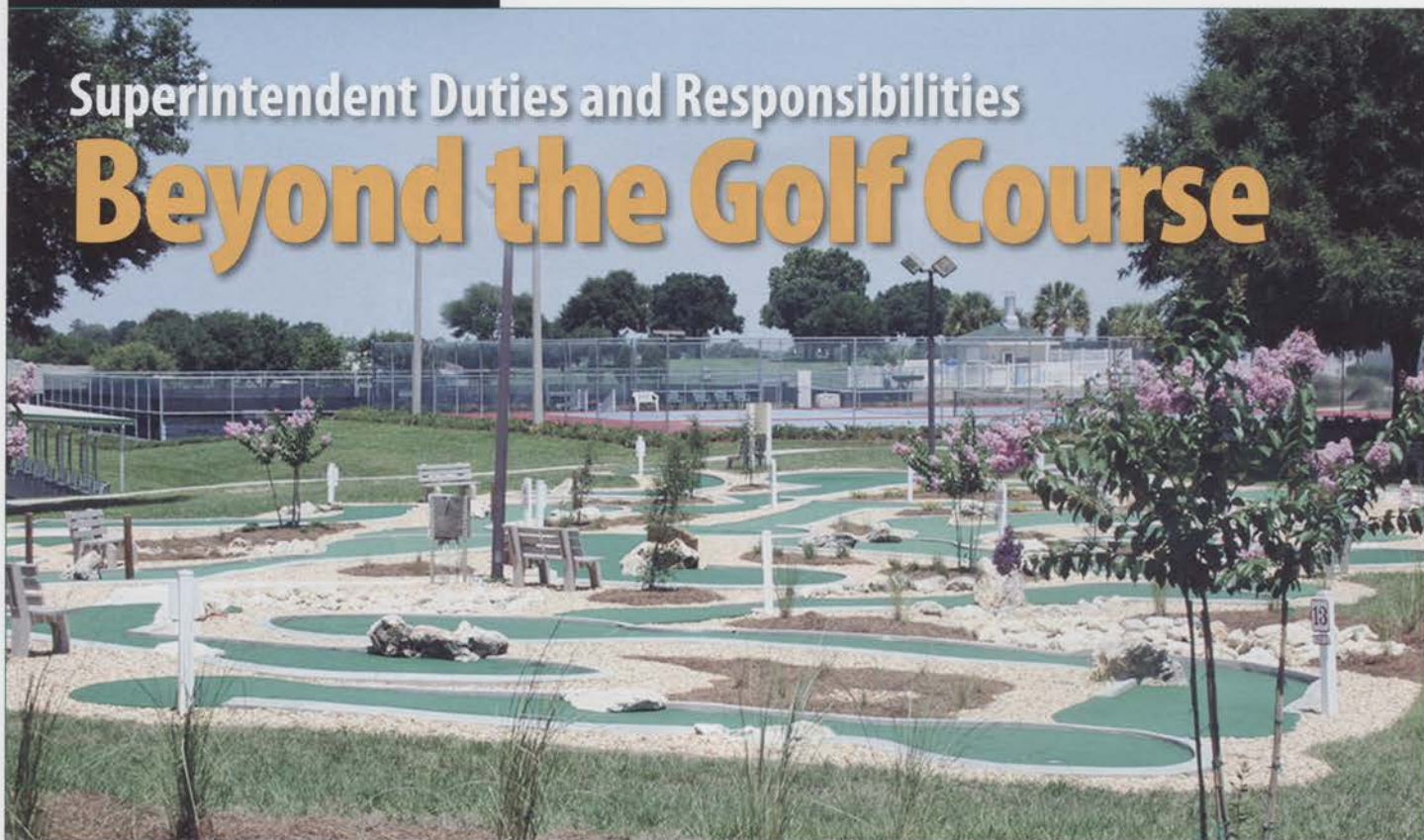
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Superintendent Duties and Responsibilities Beyond the Golf Course



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Andy Jorgensen, On Top of the World Communities: With 54 holes of golf and a 50-person staff, golf maintenance is one of the larger departments within our 12,000-acre master-planned development. We are ready to assist when needed. Besides the normal non-golf-related duties, we also conduct roadside landscape maintenance, assisting the 80-man residential maintenance division with

their 450 acres of residential home sites, helping with invasive weed control and dealing with interference from surrounding new developments. We are often asked to manage many special projects that get thrown our way. With our large staff and the equipment available to do just about any task, we take it in stride as "just another day at the office".

With a large, on-site entertainment venue, we are also responsible for logistics related to parking, crowd control and security for performers like Willie Nelson, Charro and Lee Greenwood. During these types of events, we will oversee a staff of 12-14 people including Sheriff's deputies, fire department personnel, private security, entertainment staff and cleaning crews.

In conjunction with special events, the golf course maintenance department is in charge of the annual 4th of July fireworks show and patriotic celebration. Scheduling and meeting with the contracted firework company, the fire marshal and sheriff's deputies will take place months in advance. With all events, staff hours typically go late into the night or early the next morning, which can create a scheduling nightmare to ensure all golf course duties are completed the next day.

In addition, our department has taken over short- and long-term maintenance and operation of a mini-storage and recreational vehicle storage facility requiring routine pest control, automatic gate maintenance and construction for new units. Coordination with outside contractors has been critical to ensure smooth operation of the facility providing 24-hour access to our paying customers.

Our staff also works directly with the remote-controlled airplane-flying club we have here on property. Each spring, aerification and seeding of the runways takes place. Throughout the year, insect and weed control, fertilization and rolling of the landing surfaces will occur. We also assist with the scheduling of mowing the surrounding areas and providing portable toilets during their many "fly-ins" in which they host several hundred pilots from other clubs throughout Florida. Since many of the model airplanes that utilize this facility cost more than a small truck, performing our work to the highest degree is crucial.

But perhaps the most rewarding responsibility we have ever been tasked with was the construction of a new miniature golf course located at one of our recreation facilities. This job included golf course maintenance staff performing design work, demolition of the old course, hiring of outside concrete and carpet installers, installing sub-surface drainage, rock wall masonry and landscape installation while overseeing the project from start to finish. The end result is a beautiful layout that is enjoyed on a daily basis by our residents and guests, particularly the grandchildren who often visit.

Being thrown head-first into some of these projects has forced us to learn and grow as we take on additional responsibilities. Making new contacts in both the public and private sector has paid off further down the road when new items get put

on our plate. All of these tasks have increased our knowledge base and reinforced the idea that golf course superintendents are truly "jacks and jills of all trades".



Kevin Sunderman, Isla Del Sol Yacht & Country Club: I'm responsible for beach maintenance. My staff makes a daily run to remove any trash that has washed up. Every Friday the beach is then cleaned of all seaweed and raked using a bunker rake. We often have to dig fire pits in the sand to be used for bonfires and then fill the holes back

in the next morning. Over the years we have used dredging material from area canals to help maintain the beach elevation and shape. Extra attention is given to the beach every time there is to be a function or wedding held on the beach.

Eric Von Hofen, Riviera Country Club: About five years ago, the club approached me to take on the building maintenance operations at Riviera. At first the job was about getting the operation in line and overseeing small projects like building a golf-teaching structure. I have 23 employees on the golf course and 6 employees for building maintenance. Riviera is one of the most



active 18-hole private clubs in Miami. We have over 1,000 members. The clubhouse is open 365 days a year and we serve 250,000 plates of food a year. The golf course is closed only seven days a year for maintenance and that's it. We produce well over 30,000 rounds of golf a year. It's like a miniature resort with the feel of a private country club.

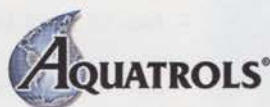
My daily goal is to assist the general manager, Mark Snure, on operations of the Club. Mark is one of the hardest-working GM's I've ever had the pleasure to work with. Our business has changed so much that teamwork is very important. Riviera is a special place that is so busy these days. For example, I oversee permits for the club; manage all capital projects, security, elevator repair and permits, AC maintenance and repair, plumbing repairs and roof repairs. I also attend every long-range planning committee meeting to discuss the direction and needs of the Club. I have overseen the expenditure of \$3 to \$4 million on capital projects in the last five years. We remodeled a lounge area; installed two HydroCourt tennis courts; installed 50 tons of new air conditioning to the Club's kitchen just to name a few. Riviera's clubhouse is 66 years old and needs daily attention to keep things running. My chief engineer, Jorge Cruz, works daily with me on the next function for set up or area that might need some fresh paint. Jorge and I handle many tasks as well, such as inspections from the Fire Marshall to repairing a motor on a industrial wash machine to installing a new walk in cooler. We do it all.



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My budget for the building is at \$1 million. It's a lot of responsibility on top of the golf course operations. I have to use every minute of the day with precision. My morning consists of the tour of the golf course, then a quick walk through of the building, then back on the course until lunch. After lunch, I meet the staff to review building projects and operations. The rest of the day I bounce back and forth between the building and course. Long-range meetings usually take place around 5:30 p.m. so my day is just getting started. We meet monthly but sometimes more frequently, depending on the project that is being discussed. Throw in a monthly Green Committee meeting, two long range planning meetings, a finance committee meeting and a few late-night repairs, time just flies by.

I track and code all invoices for both departments. I do not have a administrative assistant but I do have two very capable assistant golf course superintendents to help manage things on the course. I feel that this is money well spent.



Rickey Craig, Rosen Shingle Creek Golf Course:

My off-course duties include overseeing all the exterior grounds work at all the Rosen Hotel Properties in the SW Orlando area. This includes the Shingle Creek Hotel and six properties in the International Drive area: Rosen Centre, Rosen Plaza, Rosen Inn Pointe Orlando, Rosen Inn International and Rosen Inn Universal. We also take care of the Clarion Hotel on Palm Parkway near Lake Buena Vista.

I oversee and interact with the

contractors responsible for normal turf and ornamental landscape operations including seasonal mulching projects. I also coordinate with arborists for all tree work on the properties and all irrigation installation and repairs and with landscape designers for any other exterior enhancements to the property. I also oversee the landscape operations at a nearby medical facility, the Rosen School of Hospitality and the grounds of the Jewish Community Center on Apopka-Vineland Road, also near Lake Buena Vista.

My time is generally split about 60 percent golf and 40 percent landscape each day. I ride the course early and make a punch list or touch base with my assistant on any issues or observations. Around 10 a.m., I begin my tour of the grounds at all the locations mentioned earlier, which usually includes lunch somewhere along the way. Then around 1 p.m. I'm back on the course for a final ride through to check on project progress and overall course conditions.

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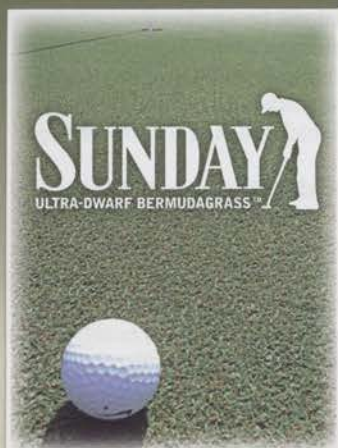
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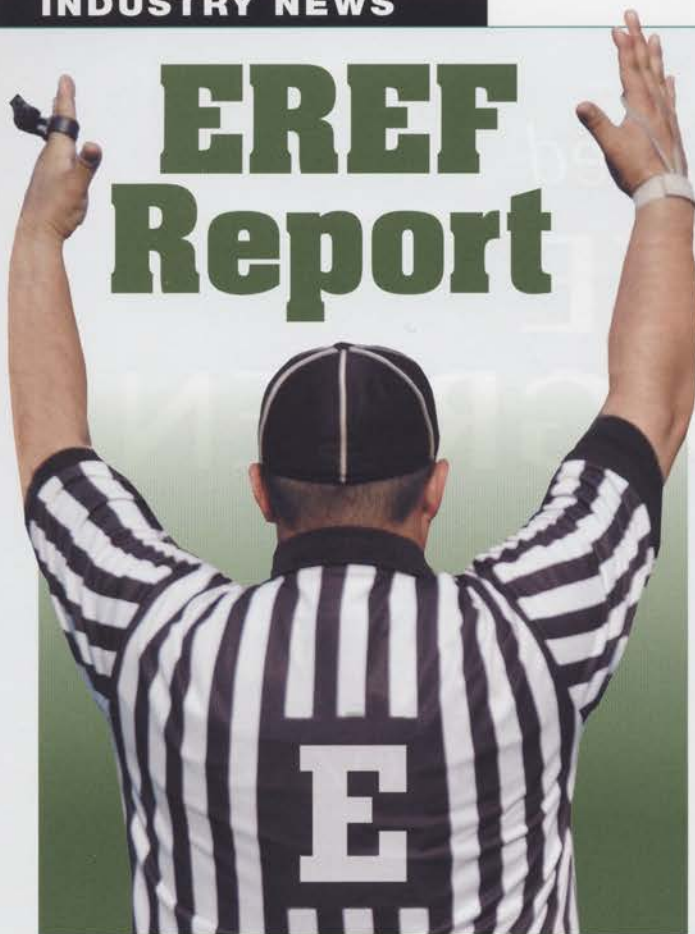


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EREF Report



By Pete Snyder, Executive Director Florida Turfgrass Association



After 18 months of coalition building and gaining the support of many green industry associations, the Environmental Research & Education Foundation (EREF, pronounced E-ref, as in environmental referee) was launched during the third quarter of 2013.

EREF was developed in response to the attacks that urban landscapes and the turfgrass industry in Florida have endured in recent years by various activist groups that have used sound bites and half-truths to subvert the aesthetic, environmental and economic importance of turf to Florida. These false allegations have formed the basis for bad public policy development.

We strongly believe that the misrepresentation of the environmental importance of turfgrass will not stop without a concerted education and research effort targeted to multiple audiences including the general public, legislators and regulators, and those working within the industry. Research and education efforts must be funded at levels beyond those currently made by individuals, large companies or trade organizations working independently. Collaboration and solidarity across all industry sectors is essential. This is the purpose of the EREF.

EREF Support

The FTGA sought — and has received — endorsements for EREF from the FGCSA and GCSAA, FLCMAA (Florida club managers), FNGLA (Florida nursery and landscape professionals), FSTMA (Florida sports turf managers), FPMA (Florida pest management), TPF (Florida sod growers). And the FTGA. Outreach to other aligned green industry associations continues.

EREF's mission is to provide urban landscapes and the turfgrass

industry with a strong public voice; to provide funding for research; to promote turfgrass and urban landscape research, education and outreach; and to advocate for turfgrass and urban landscapes before elected officials and regulatory agencies.

EREF is based on a voluntary "pass-through" contribution wherein customers (end users) in various turf and urban landscape industry sectors pay 0.6 percent on the purchase of fertilizer and fertilizer combination products. Six-tenths of a percent is a guideline; some customers may choose to contribute more. Fertilizer distributors will add a separate line item (a separate SKU) called the "EREF Industry Fee" to the invoice of participating customers that will be equal to the customer's contribution. Some customers may opt to send contributions directly to the EREF. According to the IRS tax code after a CPA review, contributions will be considered a normal business expense made to the FTGA, which is a 501(c)5 not-for-profit corporation.

While the FTGA is acting as administrator of EREF, the program belongs to the green industry as a whole. The EREF Board directs how money is spent. In general, money will be spent on environmental research as it relates to urban landscapes and the maintenance and care of lawns (and related topics) and educating stakeholders about the benefits of healthy urban landscapes and what it takes to keep a lawn healthy.

EREF Successes

Much of the administrative burden of EREF falls on fertilizer dealers and distributors. Participating dealer/distributors must maintain an account of customer contributions and forward collected funds, with an accounting, to the FTGA. To date, 15 dealer/distributors have agreed to participate, including Continental Turf Solutions (LidoChem), Diamond R, Direct Solutions (Agrium), Golf Ventures, Green Edge, Harrell's, Helena Chemical, Howard Fertilizer, John Deere Landscapes, Pro Plus, Southeast Partners, Southern Ag, Tampa Bay Turf, The Andersons and Winfield Solutions (ProSource). Other dealer/distributors have been contacted and are expected to participate.

EREF "Terms of Operation" passed legal review and has been adopted. The EREF Board has been appointed. It comprises golf representatives Greg Pheneger of Johns Island Club and Kevin Sunderman of Isla Del Sol Yacht & CC; pest management representatives Bryan Cooksey of McCall Service and Adam Jones of Massey Services; sod producers Mac Carraway of SMR Farms and Betsy McGill of Turfgrass Producers of Florida (TPF); and turfgrass representative Mac Briley of Valley Crest. Carraway is serving as interim EREF chair, and Briley is interim secretary/treasurer.

EREF had collected more than \$104,000 as of the end of February 2014. We have received seed money totaling \$78,500 from such contributors as: Direct Solutions, FFAA, FNGLA, FPMA, FTGA, Harrell's, Howard, John Deere, Mainscape, Massey Services, McCall Service, Service Master TruGreen, SMR Farms, TPF, Valley Crest and Winfield Solutions. In addition, we have \$12,500 in pledges still to come in.

More than three dozen end-user customers, including the state's largest lawn care operators as well as several flagship golf courses, are participating in EREF, either as direct contributors or as 0.6-percent participants. Third quarter contributions totaled \$10,842; and we've just begun. Interested parties can sign up on the EREF website, www.efreflorida.com, by contacting the FTGA office, or by working with their fertilizer distributor.

Money Well Spent

The FTGA has developed and printed marketing materials for

EREF that are available to all participants and friends of the cause. Contact the FTGA office.

The EREF Board has retained Todd Josko of Josko Public Affairs & Communications. Josko maintains and distributes the list of upcoming local fertilizer ordinance hearings. He reaches out to commissioners and council members in advance of the hearings (when he receives enough advance notice), and attends many of the meetings himself. He also works to get as large a turnout at these meetings as possible.

Josko has coordinated editorial board meetings with *Florida Today*, the *Orlando Sentinel* and the *Gainesville Sun*. The Sunday edition (Oct. 20, 2013) of *Florida Today* had a favorable article that advised against fertilizer blackouts and supported the DEP Model Ordinance. FTGA has taken the lead in industry advocacy, and by working with our industry partners; we can act to counter the vicious attacks of activists groups who claim to be acting on behalf of the environment. EREF provides us with the platform to educate about the benefits of turfgrass to a wide array of audiences. Please support us. ■

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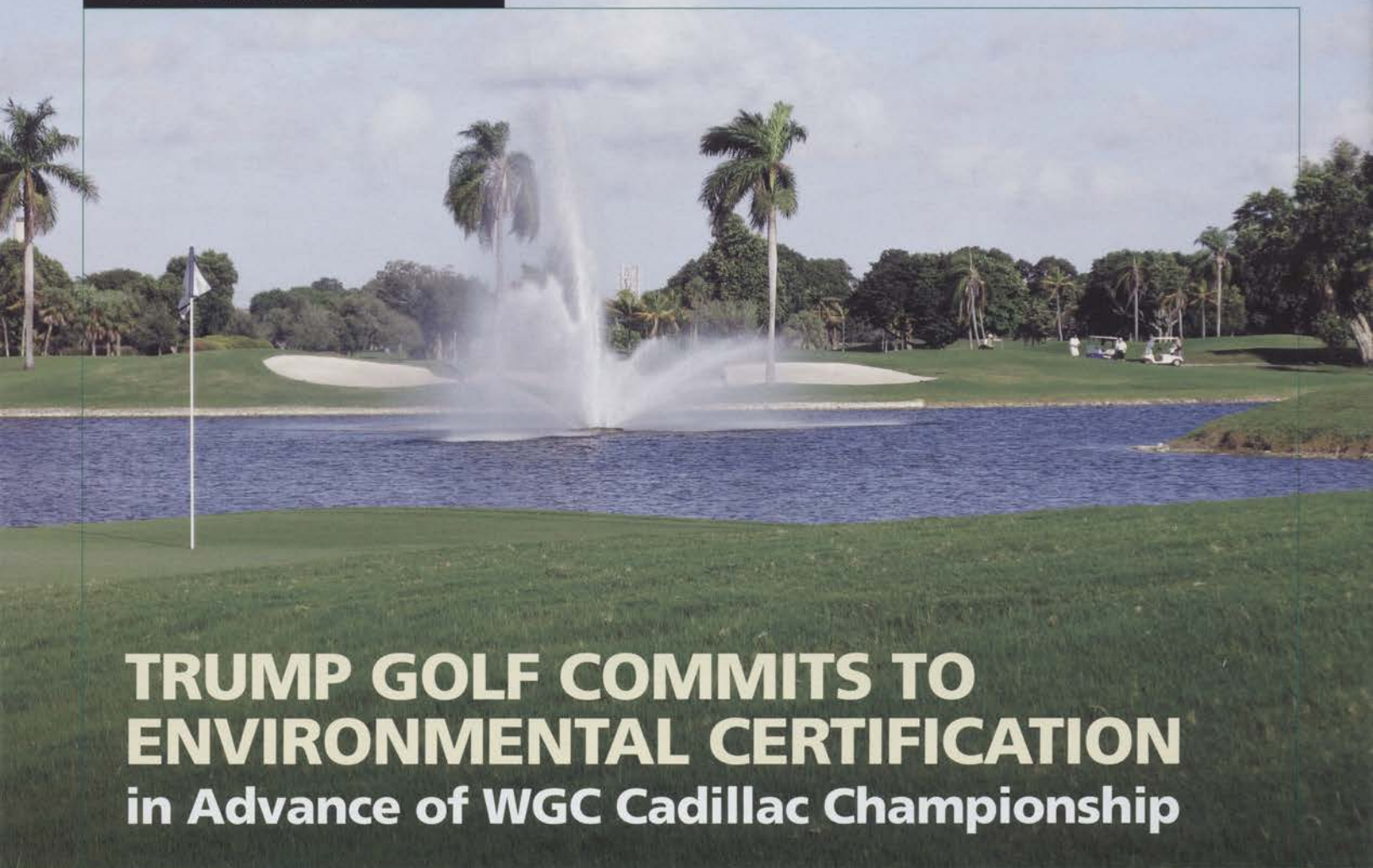
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TRUMP GOLF COMMITS TO ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION in Advance of WGC Cadillac Championship

(Editor's Note: This very positive news release came out the week before the tournament. Too bad it didn't get a mention during the four days of television coverage!)

Focused attention on the Trump Doral Golf Course March 6-9 this year at the Cadillac Championship highlights Donald Trump's recent move to enroll Trump Golf in Audubon International's certification program for golf. Trump Doral is a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary, and now Trump Golf has announced that all of its courses will pursue the environmental certification. This includes all 20 courses located on 13 Trump Golf properties in the U.S. and one in Scotland.

"I have a deep respect for Audubon International's work," said Donald Trump, chairman and president of the Trump Organization. "They help courses protect the natural assets that are part of the golf experience: nature, coastlines, rivers, grasses and trees.

I'm proud that Trump Golf courses are located in some of the most beautiful places with stunning views and environmental features. Preserving the landscapes that make golf such a great experience has always been important to me personally and throughout Trump Golf. Doral, which is a certified sanctuary, is an example of how Audubon International helps us care for the environment while maintaining high standards for play."

Audubon International, a not-for profit organization, works to protect and enhance the natural resources of properties and helps improve the environmental sustainability of each facility's overall design and operations. The majority of Trump Golf's courses are enrolled in the organization's largest program called the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf. In this program, each golf course will undergo a review process, examining environmental planning, wildlife and habitat management,

chemical use reduction and safety, water conservation, and water quality management, with a goal of making voluntary improvements toward greater sustainability. In addition, outreach and environmental education are required components of the program.

"Trump Golf is nationally and internationally known for its premier golf courses and has emerged as a global leader in the golf industry," said Ryan Aylesworth, president & CEO of Audubon International. "We are excited to work directly with the Trump Organization and help Trump Golf both achieve bold environmental goals and promote their success industry-wide. This commitment will demonstrate how golf facilities offering the highest level of playability and guest experience can be designed and managed to simultaneously improve environmental quality, conserve water and energy, protect and restore wildlife habitat, and safeguard a wide range of other nature resources."



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FIELD OBSERVATIONS

A Case for BMP Certification



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

Do you ever find yourself thinking back about your days in the classroom? How much fun would it be to go back to school with the wisdom we have now? I would definitely pay better attention in my English classes since I am writing and speaking much more as your GCSAA Representative than I ever imagined I would as a superintendent.

As a matter of fact, I recently had the opportunity to participate as a speaker at a university of sorts, the "USGA Green Committee University." It was a pleasure working alongside my colleagues John Foy, Todd Lowe, and Patrick O'Brien as we taught various subjects ranging from pace-of-play issues to seasonal golfer complaints and water conservation methods, as well as Florida golf course BMP's. Since I did not see everyone there with his or her club officials, I want to take the opportunity to highlight my message. "What are BMP's and why are they so important to us?"

The BMP's, or Best Management Practices, are those operations that you as superintendents engage in to provide healthy turf and quality playing conditions at your facility. While providing these conditions, superintendents are mindful of the economic and environmental implications of their activities. Simply stated, they are sustainable practices with a minimal impact on the environment.

With all the local fertilizer ordinances being discussed around the state it is imperative that our superintendents have a thorough understanding of the concepts in the Golf BMP Manual and adhere to them in their daily activities. I am confident that the practices outlined in the BMP manual are being utilized. But we do need to continue to document our policies and be ready if some regulatory entity knocks on your office door and asks to check your records. After all, there are ordinances out there where the Golf BMP's are required to be followed to avoid fertilizer restrictions.

Record keeping can be accomplished very simply. There is a checklist provided in the manual with yes-or-no answers to indicate that you are or are not employing certain practices. I encourage you to have a copy filled out in your office as well as another copy kept with a club official.

The FGCSA has taken the BMP's to the next level and, since 2012, has been offering a certification program. This program has been endorsed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and serves as another opportunity for superintendents and industry professionals to demonstrate that we are all the actual environmentalists.

While activist groups question our

practices, how many of them can show the positive environmental impacts that golf courses provide? Water filtration, green spaces in urban environments, and wildlife sanctuaries are all qualities of golf courses around our state.

I would urge you as FGCSA members to seriously consider the certification program and attest that you do take the protection of Florida's environment to heart. As I said before, you are most likely employing the practices in the manual. Now is the time to take the next step and complete the certification program.

Thus far, nearly 300 FGCSA members have participated in the program. The goal moving forward is to have 50 percent of the FGCSA members participate by 2015 or "50 in 15." FGCSA is closing in on that goal but needs your participation to reach it.

The BMP's have been very impactful in helping golf through the myriad of fertilizer ordinances around the state. As a quick aside, the city of Stuart is actually discussing an ordinance that includes golf and a summer blackout on fertilizer applications as I write this. Similar to my message during the USGA Green Committee University sessions, I cannot emphasize enough how imperative it is for all of us to know and embrace the BMP's and then take our message to the streets.

Advocate protecting the way you make your living and provide for your families. *I am pounding my keyboard for emphasis as I type this, can you tell?* Don't let others without science supporting them make it even more difficult for you to do your job!!

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

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WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU?



GREEN SIDE UP BY JOEL JACKSON

I came across a quote not long ago that caught my attention. It was a new twist on the old familiar saying, "It's not what you know; it's who you know!" The new version goes like this, "It's not what you know or who you know; it's who knows you!"

In the Hands On section of this issue, four superintendents shared the duties and responsibilities

they have at their clubs beyond the normal turf maintenance responsibilities of the golf course. Those examples showcase many ways they have become known as the "Go-To" person in the overall operations, not just turf maintenance.

In the past, other superintendents have touched on their communication development and increased exposure to the members via blogs, email blasts, Facebook posts and traditional club newsletter articles or bulletin board announcements. Where are you in this modern high-tech and instantaneous communications world?

In today's fickle golf environment you sure don't want to be "Out of sight, out of mind!" That doesn't mean you should flood members' email in-boxes, but it does mean you can develop a more regular pattern of updates and photos that showcase your department and your worth.

That's a start for improving internal relations at the club, but there are never any

guarantees in our line of work. Things can go wrong with course conditions, or changes in management personnel despite *WHAT* you know, and they just might lead to losing your job. It's not a subject to dwell on, but something to be aware of.

This is where *WHO YOU KNOW* and *WHO KNOWS YOU* come into play. In my view, the superintendents who have been involved in their professional associations and local community groups on a regular basis have a distinct edge when voluntary or involuntary job changes occur.

You can spruce up your written resume with all the recommended bells and whistles — and you should — but getting an endorsement from well-known industry or community leaders would go a long way in verifying your character and abilities. The best way to earn your peers' respect and recommendations is to be

actively involved in your local, state and national organizations.

You don't have to run for every office on the board, but showing up and serving on a committee to actually help host an event that helps raise funds for turf research or charitable causes or performs a community service, earns that goodwill and notice you might need one day.

Your participation can help your profession, your personal growth and your club's successful operation at a time when golf — and turfgrass in general — is under constant attack by activists. In return, the time and energy you invest in these activities earns interest that you can draw on when you might need some help.

It's still early in the year with plenty of time to make a new resolution and reach out to your local chapter leaders and tell them, "I'd like to serve on a committee!"

Trust me, you'll be glad you did!

View of the St. John's 18th hole with the clubhouse in the background. Photo by Joel Jackson.



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