

# The Florida Green

SUMMER 2014

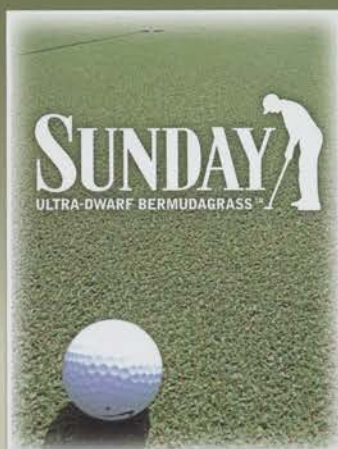


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# The Florida Green

Summer 2014

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**ON THE COVER:** 9th and 18th Greens Fazio II Course. Boca West C.C. Photo by Joel Jackson.

## FOREWORDS

### It's Never Too Late To Help

Time really does go by fast. It has been a year since I had the honor of taking office as the president of the FGCSA. I had a vision and a lot of goals, all of which centered around one primary objective: providing value to our members and the industry.

The FGCSA Board has breathed life back into the committee system: soliciting the ideas and talents of many superintendents at the local level who may or may not have been active with the FGCSA Board before. By working through committees, the FGCSA was able to focus on many different goals at the same time. Some of the goals where progress was made this year include:

- Strengthen the FGCSA Financial standing going forward
- Provide a proposed Affiliation Agreement to better define the working relationship between the chapters and state
- Hold a Roundtable Meeting to include the leaders of the FGCSA and all local chapters in order to improve service provided to the individual superintendent, the local chapter, as well as the industry
- Conduct a survey to identify members' needs and satisfaction
- Continue advocacy on behalf of the golf course superintendent's profession and the golf maintenance industry
- Improve training sessions and participation in the Golf Certification BMP Program
- Identify superintendents who are not members of any local chapter in order to encourage their participation
- Investigate opportunities for new benefits for our members
- Work to fund research projects that will have a direct benefit to our members

While this is a recap of the 2013-14 FGCSA Board goals, I ask you to revisit the four things I challenged you to do in the Fall 2013 *Florida Green*.



Kevin Sunderman,  
President

1. Attend as many meetings of your local chapter as possible
2. Complete the Golf BMP Certification Seminar and Exam
3. Sign up to participate in EREF (Environmental Research and Education Fund). You can find information about EREF on the FTGA website, [www.ftga.org](http://www.ftga.org).
4. Do business with those companies that support the FGCSA and our local chapters

In the Spring issue I challenged you to do one additional thing, set aside 30 minutes to write, email or call a government official to tell your story and the story of the industry.

How many of these items have you accomplished? It's never too late. Our business is ever changing. Accomplishing these things can improve your knowledge and ability to do your job as well as strengthen the industry's position with legislators and policy makers.

The FGCSA made a lot of progress over the past year but the association must always look to improve, keeping the return of value to the superintendent and industry as its primary focus. As I pass the torch to the capable officers and board who follow, I want to thank all of those who work so hard give their time and effort back to their fellow superintendents and industry. Whether on the local, state or national level, our industry would not be what it is without your service. I sincerely thank you.





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*Dr. John Cisar (holding the bullhorn) hosted turf plot tours at the 2014 South Florida Turf Expo. Photo courtesy UF/IFAS.*

## Central Florida GCSA

Chris Flynn reports: "On March 11 the CFGCSA Memorial Golf Tournament was held at Sweetwater CC. The event was a huge success with the biggest turnout the chapter has seen in years. The concept and format was planned at the last minute but it proved to be something for us to build on for the future.

Proceeds from the registration, raffles and a donation from the CFGCSA benefited the family of slain Orange County Deputy Sheriff Jonathan Scott Pine, who was recently killed in the line of duty. 50/50 Raffle Winner Doug Devries donated his winnings back to the charity.

The day kicked off with some education provided by WESH Channel 2 Meteorologist Jason Brewer who generously donated his time. Then it was out to the course and the weather could not have been any nicer. Doug had the greens rolling pretty fast and, with that tight layout, precision shotmaking was key. A big "Thank You" goes out to Sweetwater CC Superintendent Doug Devries and his staff. The golf course was in great condition!"

## South Florida

Ricky Reeves, reporting on the 27th Annual South Florida Turf Expo: "Unfortunately, the Expo was not a huge success this year. We were short by half the attendance compared to last year. The Big Vendor Tent was pretty empty as well as the classes. Our mainstream supporters this year were the various City Employers (Solid Waste, City of Miami Gardens, Ft. Lauderdale, Town of Davie, Pompano Beach, Boca, etc., just to name a few) and a small portion of clubs. We are still adding the monies and hopefully will still be able to present a good size donation to the University of Florida."

## North Florida

Meanwhile, up north there was a good turnout for the 22nd Annual NFGCSA Memorial Tournament at March Creek CC. Retired superintendent Ron Hill, who led the Amelia Island Plantation golf course operations department for ages, was awarded the 2014 Keeper of the Green Award. Traditionally, the chapter presents a scholarship to Florida Gateway College's Golf and Landscape Scholarship Fund, but since John Piersol announced recently that the program has gone to an all-digital certificate operation,



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*Special thanks*  
to Superintendent Andy Maguire  
and the Marsh Creek CC for  
hosting this event.





From left: Bill Griffiths, Ron Hill, Berry Collett and Alan MacCurrach, Jr. Hill was presented the 2014 Keeper of the Green Award at the North Florida Memorial Tournament in April. Photo by Joel Jackson.

the North Florida GCSA is making plans to convert that program to present general scholarships to deserving college students of chapter members. We'd like to give a big "Thumbs Up" to the low-gross-winning team of Phil Mak, Steve Simmons, Rick Dunham and Rick Perry from the T.Mak's International Marketing Company for donating 50 percent of their winnings back to the chapter!

## Seven Rivers

The Seven Rivers Chapter celebrated 22 years of turfgrass research fundraising on April 21 this year with its 2014 Jeff Hayden Memorial Envirotron Classic at the World Woods Golf Club. According to tournament chairman Glen Oberlander, this event has raised more



From left: Cary Lewis, Jeff Brown and Walt McMahon with Golf Ventures present a check for \$25,000 to Envirotron Classic Chairman Glenn Oberlander after the tournament at the World Woods Golf Club. Photo by Joel Jackson.

than \$800,000 over the past 20 years primarily for UF/IFAS projects but has also supported other special turf research projects as well.

## Treasure Coast

The 21st Annual Blue Pearl Tournament was held May 5 at the Johns Island West Golf Club in Vero Beach. Created to raise funds for Treasure Coast regional environmental stewardship projects, the proceeds from this event have been donated to designated environmental programs, Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary projects for schools, and to supplement turf education programs in



Winners of the Blue Pearl Tournament, from left: Deron Zendt, Thomas Barrett, Jason Bagwell and Chris Miller. Photo by Joel Jackson.

area schools. The team of Deron Zendt, Thomas Barrett, Jason Bagwell and Chris Miller won the Low Gross event. Meanwhile, Matt Gaudet of The Polo Club of Boca Raton bid \$6500 to win the first Bayer Power Pak Auction sponsored by Brian MacCurrach. Those funds are donated back to the chapter.



With a winning bid of \$6,500, Matt Gaudet from The Polo Club of Boca Raton won the first Bayer Power Pak Auction of the year held at the Treasure Coast's Blue Pearl event. Also pictured are Greg Pheneger, Johns Island Club and Brian MacCurrach with the Bayer Company. Photo courtesy of the Treasure Coast GCSA.



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The following speakers presented interesting topics at the USGA Green Section education session at the Everglades Poa Annua Classic last April in Naples. From left: Todd Lowe, USGA Green Section; Rodney Lingle CGCS, Memphis Country Club; Ralph Dain, GCSAA Regional Representative; Bill Davidson, CGCS Country Club of Naples and Brian Beckner, owner of Native Bird Boxes, Inc. Photo by Joel Jackson.

## Everglades

Every April, the EGCSA hosts one of the premier education sessions for superintendents, assistants, vendors and interested club officials. The Spring Symposium always has a stellar line-up of turf researchers from around the country present the latest data from their projects. This year all participants were asked to rate putting green conditions from an on-site, golf-spike-damage study set up on the Naples Hotel Golf Club putting green.

Then in May, the chapter pulls out all the stops for the Poa Annua Golf Classic and G. C. Horn Memorial Tournaments. It's a great weekend outing for superintendents and their families. This event helps raise funds for the Dr. G. C. Horn Memorial Endowment fund to provide funding for graduate students majoring in turf science. Additionally, the chapter donates annually to the GCSAA Platinum Tee Club, Environmental Impact for Golf and FGCSA's turf research fund.

There is also a half-day education session presented by the USGA Green Section in cooperation with the Florida GCSA. This year's lineup of speakers included Rodney Lingle, CGCS from the Memphis CC; Dave Ragan of Ragan Technical Solutions, Dr. Earl Elsner, University of Georgia; Ralph Dain, GCSAA Florida Region Representative; Brian Beckner, owner Native Bird Boxes, Inc.; Bill Davidson, CGCS, Country Club of Naples and Todd Lowe, USGA Sr. Green Section Agronomist for Florida.

News from the golf links reports that this year's Poa golf champ is Darren Zendt from the Banyan GC in West Palm Beach. By winning the Low Gross Individual Trophy, Deron also earned the first spot on the Florida GCSA golf team that will compete in San Antonio, TX next February at the GCSAA Golf Championship event.



Turf researchers Dr. Doug Karcher, University of Arkansas, and Dr. Tom Nikolai, Michigan State University, conducted a "golf spike damage" study on the Naples Beach Hotel Golf Club's putting green during the Everglades Spring Symposium in April. Photo by Joel Jackson.

## Florida GCSA

The Florida GCSA held its spring board meeting at the Country Club of Naples on May 15, before the Poa Annua Classic began. Kevin Sunderman led the discussion of the results of the recent FGCSA Member Survey and followed up with progress reports from action items brought up at the Round Table Meeting held last February in Orlando. Later that same evening, the FGCSA held its annual Past President's Dinner at the Ridgeway Bar & Grill in downtown Naples. During the event, President Kevin Sunderman presented Past President Mark Kann with a plaque honoring his past and continuing service to the Florida GCSA.



After the FGCSA Spring Board Meeting in Naples last May, current Florida GCSA President Kevin Sunderman (left) presented Past President Mark Kann with a plaque honoring his continuing service to the Florida GCSA during the Past President's Dinner. Photo by Joel Jackson.

## Ridge GCSA

On May 25 The Ridge Chapter held its Annual Jack Harrell Memorial Ridge Invitational at the Grasslands Country Club in Lakeland. The popular 18-hole, Par 3 tournament drew a good crowd trying to win \$5,000 for every hole-in-one they could score. Lady Luck was not smiling on that day and all Tim Keeny could do was win the Low Gross prize by shooting a 4-under-par score of 50. However, good fortune did shine on the Lakeland YMCA First Tee program as the organization took home a \$2,500 check from the Ridge Chapter.



Ridge GCSA President Mike Giddens, right, congratulates Tim Keeny who shot a round of 50 in the Ridge Invitational 18-hole, par-3 tournament to capture first place. Photo by Joel Jackson.



\$2,500 check awarded by the Ridge Chapter to the Lake First Tee Program. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Gerald Richardson, Director of Golf for the Lakeland First Tee (left) and Ricky Hirsch, a graduate of the First Tee program and now a student at the University of South Florida, proudly display the



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## BOCA WEST COUNTRY CLUB: "It Takes a Village..."

Actually, the Boca West complex is made up of 54 distinct residential villages located on a 1400-acre site a few miles west of downtown Boca Raton. Winding around and through this collection of single-family homes, cluster homes, villas and condominiums are 72 holes of golf, which make up the Boca West Country Club. They are named respectively: Palmer I, Fazio II, Palmer III and Dye IV. Guess who the golf course designers were?

Like their creators, each course has its own personality; however they all share one thing in

common: TifEagle ultradwarf greens. Courses I, II and IV have SeaIsle I paspalum tees and fairways, while Palmer III is totally Tifway 419 excluding the greens. Three of the courses have Tifway 419 roughs, while the Dye IV course is totally SeaIsle I throughout except for the greens as mentioned before. One other notable exception is that the Palmer I course also has TifGrand collars around the greens, which gives the course a real "shades of green" effect with the contrasting colors of the TifEagle, TifGrand, SeaIsle and Tifway 419.





## SUPERINTENDENT FACTS

### Meet Steve Wright, CGCS

**Originally from:**  
Alpena, Michigan

**Family:** Wife Sheree (Married 32 years). Daughters Casey (27) and Bayley (21), and son Piercen (25).

**Education:** Lifelong continuing education and formal classes at Seminole Community College and Rollins College of Business.



*Photo by Joel Jackson.*

**Employment history:**

1978-1983 Crew to Assistant Superintendent, Sugar Mill CC, New Smyrna Beach (9-hole construction project); 1983-84. Golf Course Superintendent, Rockledge CC, Rockledge; 1984-89 Superintendent Suntime CC, Melbourne (36 holes & Champions Tour event); 1989-94 Superintendent Alaqua CC, Longwood (18-hole construction project); 1994-2003 Superintendent Long Cove Club, Hilton Head Island, SC (Course in Top 100 listings); 2003-Present Director of Golf/Landscape Operations, Boca West CC, Boca Raton, (Two complete course renovations on Fazio II in 2005 and Dye IV in 2006. In 2013 the tees, greens and fairways were renovated on Palmer I. Possible renovation on Palmer III in 2015).

**Professional affiliations/awards:** Florida GCSA member since 1982. GCSAA member since 1985 and CGCS since 1991. Carolinas GCSA member since 1994. Past president of the Central Florida GCSA and Carolinas GCSA and currently president of the Palm Beach GCSA.

**Personal/Memorable Moments:** Any of the golf trips with Gary Player, Gary Ellis and Tom Spence and gang from Alaqua. Of course my wife and now adult children and all the memorable moments they bring along life's journey. Being baptized (this time for real) in the waters of Hilton Head Island.

**Hobbies and Interests:** I still love to play golf and compete to win. I'm a surf dude at heart but not so much in Boca Raton. Fishing is great in the deep Atlantic waters here off south Florida. Just getting involved in a new church.

*View of the 3rd and 4th holes on the Dye IV Course at Boca West. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

The Boca West property was developed by the Arvida Corporation in 1969 at the same time the company took over and modernized the Boca Raton Club located on the section of the Intracoastal Waterway known as Lake Boca Raton. A brief online search revealed that the original property opened on that site as the Ritz-Carlton Cloister Inn in 1926. During those Florida Land Boom times, the original architect, Addison Mizner, also envisioned a beachfront resort hotel and a golf course and residential community on property west of the Seaboard Rail Line called,



"The Ritz-Carlton Park." However, that never happened until Arvida took over in 1969.

The Boca Raton Club was used as a military barracks during World War II and housed soldiers during the Boca Raton Army Air Field's operation. It was touted as "the most elegant barracks in history." When the Boca West Country Club finally opened in 1969, it sported 36 holes designed by Desmond Muirhead and Gene Sarazen, today known as the Palmer I and Fazio II courses.

Arvida also developed the resort beach club property in 1980 on the site Mizner had in mind for the main hotel. In 1983, VMS Realty succeeded Arvida and renamed the hotel to the current Boca Raton Resort & Club, a Waldorf Astoria Resort. Now that we have explored some basic facts and history surrounding Boca West, let's meet the folks who taking care of the golf courses and learn about current operations.

Steve Wright, CGCS, is the director of golf course and landscape operations, heading up a 105-person department. He comes to Boca West with a long resume of accomplishments beginning in 1978. You can see his credentials on his Facts Page elsewhere in the story. One particular comment he made speaks to his credentials. Wright said, "No one imagines that they might work with the greatest in golf, but I've managed to build golf courses and play golf with Gary Player, Jim Fazio, Pete Dye and Arnold Palmer. Who would have thought? It would have been all for naught without the great staffs that I worked with over the years."

Wright's job is administrative by nature these days. He arrives at work around 7:00 to 7:30 a.m. each day. When he rides the courses, he will target a course that has a specific activity going on or, if things are on routine ops, he'll

## WRIGHT FUN FACTS



*From the left: Steve Wright CGCS, Jay DiPietro CCM General Manager/President and William 'Billy' Wright Country Club Services.*

**Vehicle:** 2010 Toyota Tundra

**The last good movie I saw:** American Hustle

**I stay home to watch:** College Football – Florida Gators or Michigan Wolverines

**What I've been reading:** John Grisham's "Sycamore Row," and Walter Woods' "Memoirs of a Greenskeeper"

**Favorite meal:** Anything Sheri cooks

**Prized possessions:** My memories

**Personal heroes:** My mom, Mae Wright

**Nobody knows that I:** Practice Yoga. Don't laugh! It's great for golfers' bodies.

**If I could do it over:** Learn mind control. It's better than arguing.

**My fantasy is:** Big Lotto jackpot

**The one thing I can't stand:** Bad or rude drivers

**Most humbling experience:** Having children. It changes everything.

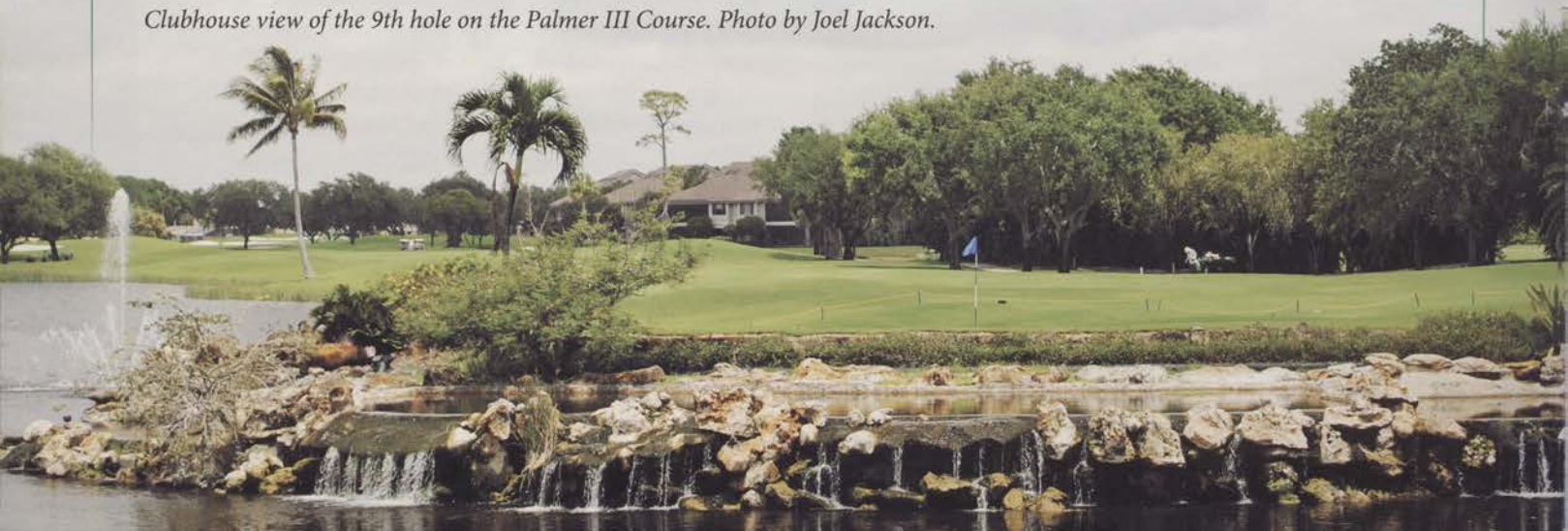
**If I could change one thing about myself:** Have more patience or better spelling skills.

**The words that best describe me:** Determined, confident.

**My best fish story:** My daughter Casey catching a 3-4 lb. bass on Hilton Head Island then having a gator chase her with the fish through a waste bunker. The gator wasn't that close.

**My most amazing/lucky/important golf shot(s):** First shot I hit at the Old Course in Scotland in 2000. Close second was when I double eagled the par-5, first hole at the Alaqua C.C.

*Clubhouse view of the 9th hole on the Palmer III Course. Photo by Joel Jackson.*





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- DYE IV

head out in no specific order. He catches up with his superintendents, makes notes, jots down things to do, and follows up on schedules. He says his role basically is to "support, guide and assist." He meets formally with his superintendents once a week and the assistant superintendents once per month.

Wright discussed the overall cultural programs followed on all courses. He said, "In our fertility

program, our goal is to apply 10-15 pounds of potassium (K) and around 10 pounds of nitrogen (N) on the greens per thousand square feet (M) in a combination of foliar products (Brandt Maniplex®) with Anderson's 13-2-13 granular fertilizer.

"On the Bermuda tees we apply 6 to 8 lbs. each of N and K per 1000 square feet. On the paspalum tees we go at a rate of 3-4 lbs. of N and K/M. The bermuda fairways receive

around 6 lbs. N & K/M while the SeaIsle I fairways get 3-5 lbs. N and K/M. We also apply 4-5 ounces of Primo® growth regulator per acre to the greens weekly and every 3-4 weeks on the fairways May through October. We might raise those rates prior to a tournament event."

Regarding cultural programs Wright added, "We groom weekly and lightly topdress with bagged sand during the golfing season. Also



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Special thanks to Superintendent Kirsten Conover and the  
Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club for hosting our event.

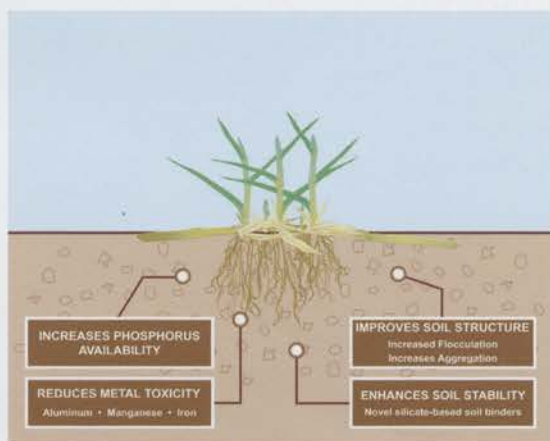


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CrossOver Turf is truly a unique soil amendment. Its silicon constituent actually behaves as a functional hybrid. As silicon from CrossOver is absorbed by the plant, it "crosses over" from its involvement in soil geochemical reactions, becoming an active participant in numerous plant processes that enhance the turf's ability to resist and tolerate environmental stresses and regulate metal toxicity.

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## COVER STORY

in the cool season with light verticutting biweekly and at 1/16 to 1/8 inch during the warm season. We also solid-tine aerify with 1/2-inch tines three times per year in the warm season and we needle-tine monthly during the golfing season."

While Wright says they have a wide variety of IPM programs specific to each course's needs, they universally have been on a successful Neotec® plus Bov-A-Mura program to control nematodes.

Site-specific turf management challenges include the continuing monitoring and removal of paspalum encroachment into the bermuda turf and vice versa. Wright also says they have a year-round, post-emergent, weed-control program because it's difficult to close for pre-emergent applications because of the amount of play they have all year.

On a positive note, the Boca West CC is a member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program.

In addition to the four golf courses, the staff also maintains a four-acre short-game practice area and a practice range with 50 teeing stations. The club also hosts a couple of special events on the range. There is a carnival every December and an April concert with a fireworks finale. This year Diana Ross was the concert's guest performer.



*One of the many ornamental beds and other landscape plantings that accent the four courses and clubhouse grounds. All maintained by the 12-man landscape department. Photos by Joel Jackson.*



*Greg Talerico, Landscape Superintendent.*



## PALMER I COURSE

**Superintendent:** Charlie Gray

Turf Specifications are on the Boca West Fact Page. Additional course information includes:

**Bunkers:** Number of bunkers 54. Sand type: 37M

Machine raked. Equipment: John Deere 1200H

**Landscaped and naturalized areas/beds:** 16 to 20 acres of sandy or crushed rock waste areas including native and ornamental mulched plantings.

**Irrigation: Pumping Station:** Flowtronex. Control System: Toro OSMAC II. Heads: 1,200 at 65-foot spacing. Fertigation system.

**Water Management/Conservation practices:** Strive to maintain firm and fast playing conditions.

**Staff:** Total including superintendent: 20.

**Key Staff:** Assistant David Savareid; Primary Equipment Technician Paul Chuppa; Pest Control Tech Stuart Feignbaum and Irrigation Tech Thomas Kaminsky

**About Charlie Gray:** Charlie is from Gary, Indiana and was raised in Corbin, Kentucky. He has a wife Heather and a new daughter Miller. After earning a B.S. in Horticulture specializing in Turfgrass Management, Charlie took a position with UPS and worked for them from 1991 to 2004. He made a career change to use that turf degree and landed a assistant superintendent's job with Scott MacEwen at the Pasadena Y&CC in Gulfport, and in he 2008 he was hired as the superintendent of the Palmer I course.

Charlie cites his parents as the major influence in his life and his faith in Jesus Christ and also gives all due credit to MacEwen and his current boss Steve Wright for shedding their light on life, sharing a thing or two about turfgrass management in the real world. With regard to work, Charlie says, "Don't sweat the small stuff. Treat others the way you expect to be treated. Enjoy what you do and give 100 percent day in and day out because "you reap what you sow!"

Memorable moments from 2013 include the birth of his daughter and the reconstruction of the Palmer 1 course or as Charlie puts it, "What a year!" In his off time Charlie is an active member at the First Baptist Church of Delray. He loves spending time with his family and he is a huge SEC fan and loves to watch Kentucky Wildcat basketball and SEC football games.



Charlie Gray, Superintendent.  
Photo by Joel Jackson

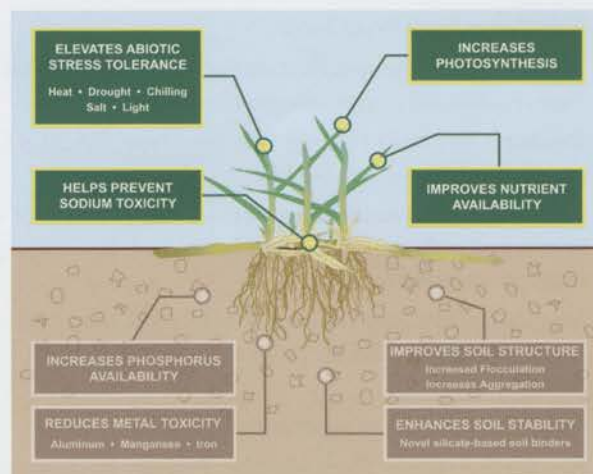
## Addressing 21st Century Turf Management Problems



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## FAZIO II COURSE

**Superintendent:** Brian Birney

History and course specifications are on the Boca West Fact Page. Additional course information includes:

**Bunkers:** Number of bunkers 62. Sand type: GASH – G Angle. Bunkers are hand-raked

**Landscaped and naturalized areas/beds:** 3-4 acres of sandy or crushed rock waste areas and heavy, lush landscaping of multiple waterfall features.

**Irrigation:** Pumping Station: Flowtronex. Control System: Rainbird Nimbus. Heads: 1,100 at 65-foot spacing. Fertigation system.

**Staff:** Total including superintendent: 20.

**Key Staff:** Assistant Ryan Murphy; Primary Equipment Technician Henry Eluett, Jr.

**About Brian Birney:** Brian is from West Palm Beach and he has a wife Amanda. Brian has a degree in Golf and Sports Management from the University of Florida with a minor in Business Administration. He did his internship at Bethpage State Park in Farmington, NY in 2007 and was an Assistant-in-Training at Kinloch G.C. in Manakin Sabot, VA just outside of Richmond. He began his Boca West career in 2008, as the 2nd Assistant on the Fazio II Course and in 2012 became the superintendent. He has been a member of the GCSAA since 2007 and the Palm Beach and Florida chapters since 2008.

*At top: Another dramatic waterfall complex on the Fazio II course. This is on the 16th hole. Photo by Steve Wright.*

Brian began playing golf when he was 10 years old where he developed his love of the game. His grandfather worked as a horticulturist at the Everglades Club in Palm Beach in the 1980's and 1990's. "From him I developed a love of working outdoors and learned to appreciate what it takes to grow plants," he said. "My first golf jobs at the age of 16 were working in the bag room, picking the range and caddying at the Boca Golf Club. The head pro, David Doy, suggested I might like a career as a superintendent."

Brian's work philosophy and advice include developing a strong plan and executing it with continuous staff-member training to achieve maximum results. Another tip that he also follows is to "never stop learning!" Brian's memorable moments include his wedding to Amanda in 2009 or, as he says, "It was the best day of my life!" Brian is also quite proud of his two holes-in-one. The first coming when he was 12 and the second when he was 16. Coincidentally, both shots were made with his 5-iron. Besides loving to play golf he loves going to the beach with Amanda and their Mini-Shitzu Poodle, watching Gator basketball and football and spending time with family and friends. Alaquá C.C.

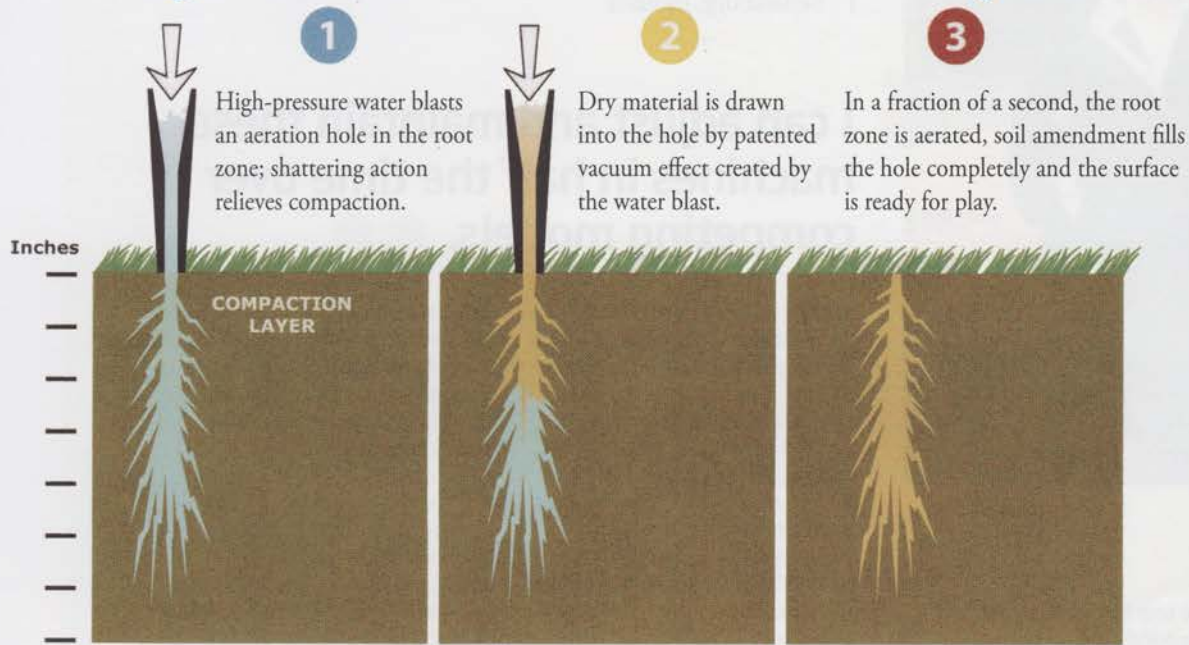


*Brian Birney, Superintendent.  
Photo by Joel Jackson*



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**Chris Rosio** *Superintendent*

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**I can adjust and maintain these machines in half the time over competing models.** ”

cutting deck combination that can really get the job done. “Our findings here at Covered Bridge proved that many of the cutting units we sampled tended to float across the turf and not really get down in and do the work,” says Rosio. After testing Hustler Turf Equipment’s 7700 Fairway mower, he found that the reel and bed knife combination was superior to that of the other test units. “The quality of cut you get with the 7700 is unmatched.”

So, as a result, Covered Bridge swears by its Hustler 7700 Fairway mowers, employing three of them to maintain their beautiful, naturally contoured course. To perhaps all turf experts, while quality of cut is really important, the story doesn’t end there. Maintenance of turf equipment in an effort to keep quality high is just as important as the quality of the cut itself. How quickly you can take your equipment from the shop to the course depends on several factors, many of which are made easier by Hustler. “I can adjust and maintain these

machines in half the time over competing models,” says Rosio about his fleet of 7700 Fairway mowers. While quite a bit of technology goes into making things simple to use, the 7700 forgoes many of the electronics that make other models difficult to maintain. This keeps the footprint light and the maintenance problems few and far between. “I can run these units over 100 hours before grinding...lasting up to 3 times longer than the other units we tested,” says Rosio. Featuring full-time and auto four-wheel drive, getting the perfect finish on course has never been so simple.

In the end, take it from Chris Rosio. For the demanding turf professional, the Hustler 7700 Fairway truly is a piece of turf equipment in a class of its own. For more information, visit Hustler Turf Equipment online at [hustlerturf.com/golf](http://hustlerturf.com/golf) and learn more about Covered Bridge and some of the other stellar courses utilizing Hustler Turf Equipment under their demanding conditions.

**K**eeping a top-tier golf course in playable condition is no easy task, even for a seasoned professional. For example, take Chris Rosio, superintendent at Covered Bridge Golf Club (a Fuzzy Zoeller course) in Sellersburg, Indiana. Nestled in the gently rolling plain at the foot of Southern Indiana’s famous Floyds Knobs, each hole offers an enticing view of an alluring landscape in addition to its fair share of unique management challenges.

Located in what’s classified as a transition zone, Covered Bridge Golf Club sits somewhere in between the need for warm and cool weather grasses. With fairways covered in distinctive and vigorous Zoysia, the turf can prove difficult to cut even under ideal conditions. However, conditions aren’t always so ideal. With its stiff blades and coarse texture (second perhaps only to some Rye grass varieties), the Zoysia at Covered Bridge demands a mower and





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Before small leaf spots/melting-out turn into patches of discolored turf, take preventative action to protect the look and playability of your course. Academic studies confirm that you can effectively control leaf spot on warm season grasses with CIVITAS™ products, on their own or in a tank mix. CIVITAS products help build turf health and prevent disease from taking hold without any known resistance risks. Using CIVITAS helps keep you out of trouble.

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## PALMER III COURSE

**Superintendent:** Steven Morgan

History and turf specifications are on the Boca West Fact Page. A possible total renovation is pending for 2015. Additional course information includes:

**Bunkers:** Number of bunkers 65. Sand type: 37M. Equipment: John Deere 1200.

**Irrigation:** Pumping Station: Flowtronex. Control System: Toro OSMAC. Heads: 1,100. Fertilization system.

**Staff:** Total including superintendent: 20.

**Key Staff:** Assistant Eric Sharb; Primary Equipment Technician Mario Noel; Pest Control Tech Jon Sperr and Irrigation Tech Heriberto Villa.

**About Steven "Scooby" Morgan:** Steven was born and raised in Pompano Beach. He has a wife Heather and three kids, twin sons Peyton and Tyler age 7 and daughter Reese 3 years old. Steven graduated from FSU with Bachelor's degree in Social Science. While at FSU Steven was captain of the baseball team. He also played in 13 Amateur World Series. A left-handed pitcher, after graduation he played for the Boston Red Sox farm system from 1996-2000. He also played for Team USA in Japan. Currently he is on the board of director for the Tamarac Little League.

After his baseball career, Steven took a job in the bag room at a public golf course. During the annual Christmas party, the superintendent offered me a job on the course.

"I started on the crew and after a year I became the Irrigation Tech. The next year I became the Spray Tech and 2nd Assistant. I knew then this business would be my career

path and I began searching for other opportunities to move up. In 2003, Steven landed a 2nd Assistant job at Woodmont CC in Tamarac. Two years later he became 1st Assistant. He got a call from the previous assistant Tom McGuire who was now at Inverrary CC. McGuire became my mentor and showed me what I needed to learn in this business. In short I served as an assistant for 10 years overall, which gave me a shot at coming to Boca West to work with Steve. After 4 years as an assistant here, I became a Superintendent in 2013."

Steven has this advice to prospective or new superintendents and assistants. "Be a leader. Show your employees daily how to get the job done. Make your job more than just a paycheck!" In my life I have achieved many small goals. Now that I have a family, my new goal is to raise them right. I try to live my life as an example so that my kids see that I make a difference. I set goals for them so they can reach daily accomplishments.

Memorable moments for Steve include: pitching on ESPN during the College World Series, winning four Amateur World Series games. Signing a contract with the Boston Red Sox. Finding out my wife was pregnant with twins and finally being blessed with a beautiful daughter. Right now Steven most enjoys spending time with his family. He would like to buy a boat so they can all go fishing.



Steven Morgan, Superintendent. Photo by Joel Jackson

*At top: This is your approach shot on the par 4, 2nd hole on the Palmer III course. Photo by Joel Jackson.*



# TIFEAGLE

## SOARS AT IBIS GOLF & C.C.



*"After two really dry, cold winters we started seeing some mutations in our existing bermudagrass greens. When it started to affect ball roll, we knew we had to do something. We tossed around MiniVerde and TifEagle and ultimately decided on TifEagle since it's such a genetically stable variety."*

**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. For more info and a list of TifEagle growers, visit us at [www.tifeagle.com](http://www.tifeagle.com). Or call 706 552-4525.

  
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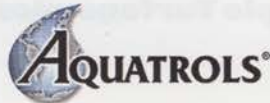




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# TURFONOMICS™

Chapter 5

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

## BOTTOM LINE THINKING

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- Precision
- Ease of Maintenance



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## DYE IV COURSE

**Superintendent:** Wes Dinsmoor

**Note:** History and turf specifications are on the Boca West Fact Page. Additional course information includes:

**Bunkers:** Number of bunkers 70. Sand type: G Angle 26. Machine and hand raked. Equipment: John Deere 1200

**Landscaped and naturalized areas/beds:** 6 to 7 acres of crushed coquina waste areas and many native and ornamental accent plantings.

**Irrigation:** Pumping Station: Flowtronex. Control System: Rainbird Nimbus. Heads: 1,200 at 65-ft. spacing. Fertigation system.

**Water Management/Conservation practices:** Strive to maintain firm and fast playing conditions.

**Staff:** Total including superintendent: 20.

**Key Staff:** Assistant C. J. Levering; Primary Equipment Technician Oscar Echeverria; Pest Control Tech Juan Corretjer and Irrigation Tech Dan James.

**About Wes Dinsmoor:** Wes is from Gillette, NY and is married to Brooke and has two kids: Ava and Lane. Wes attended Colorado State University on a full-ride President's Honors Scholarship and has a bachelors degree in Landscaping Horticulture with Turfgrass Management Concentration. Wes says he stumbled into the business by chance with a part-time job on a golf course while in high school.

"I came to love the nature of the work and being outdoors enough to make a career of it.

In addition to coming up under a handful of great superintendents, I was fortunate enough to have two outstanding

parents who did anything and everything they could, including putting up with some decisions on my part to support me and get me to where I am today. Stops along the way include: crew member at Bell Nob G.C., Gillette, NY; internship at Desert Mountain (Cochise Course), Scottsdale, AZ and assistant superintendent and superintendent positions at Boca West.

Wes is a Class A member of the GCSAA and PBGCSA. As he worked his way through various positions to become a superintendent. His goal was to become a director of golf ops at a high-end golf facility. Wes's philosophy is, "Work hard and keep a good attitude and good things will happen. Don't be afraid to get your hands dirty." His advice to others seeking to advance in the business: "Develop an intelligent plan. Follow that plan. Adapt where necessary and stay organized and you can be successful."

Wes says he has both good and bad/humorous memorable moments: the birth of his two children and a not-so-good incident was when, at the age of 12, he fell off a two-story deck and broke both arms. He says, "Not so funny back then, but now I can look back and laugh!"

Wes enjoys his family time doing almost anything with them. He also loves hiking, backpacking and camping in the mountains. He adds, "Florida doesn't cater to those activities, so we go to the beaches and pools instead, and I also love to cook!"



Wes Dinsmoor, Superintendent.  
Photo by Joel Jackson

*One of Pete Dye's famous "coffin" bunkers with two small pot bunkers on the 5th hole of the Dye IV course. "Here's looking at you kid!" Photo by Steve Wright.*





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## BOCA WEST COUNTRY CLUB



*Boca West CC Golf Course and Landscape Department Staff. Photo courtesy of Boca West CC.*

**Location:** Boca Raton

**Number of Holes:** 72. Avg. number of rounds per course per year: 32,000.

**Ownership/ Playing Policy:** Private Membership

**Designed by:** Palmer I by Desmond Muirhead and Gene Sarazen in 1969. Redesigned by Arnold Palmer Design in 1994 and renovated in 2013: Yardage 7,502. Par 72. **Fazio II** also by Muirhead and Sarazen in 1969. Remodeled by Jim Fazio (1975): Yardage 6,800s. Par 71.

**Palmer III** by Bruce Devlin and Robert Von Hagge in 1974. Remodeled by Palmer Design (1999): Yardage 6,700. Par 72. **Dye IV** by Joe Lee in 1980. Remodeled by Pete Dye (2006): Yardage 6,900. Par 71. All construction done by Ryan Golf.

**Management Team:** Jay DiPietro CCM General Manager/President; Brad Luken, Director of Golf; Steve Wright, CGCS Director of Golf Course and Landscape Operations.

**Total property acres:** 1500. Total acreage under golf maintenance: 420. None of the courses overseed.

**Greens:** All greens: TifEagle. Total Acres: 13.25; Height of Cut: **Palmer I** - .110 - .115; **Fazio II** - .100 - .115; **Palmer III & Dye IV:** .95 - .115; Green speed goal for all: 9.5 - 11.0.

**Tees:** Total acres: 17 acres. Turf Type:

Palmer I, Fazio II & Dye IV - SeaIsle I paspalum. HOC: .250-.275. Palmer III - Tifway 419 bermudagrass. HOC: .475.

**Fairways:** Total acres: 120. Turf Type: Palmer I, Fazio II & Dye IV - SeaIsle I paspalum. HOC: .400. Palmer III HOC: .475

**Roughs:** Total acres: 215. Turf Type: Palmer I & Palmer III - Tifway 419 bermudagrass. Fazio II & Dye IV - SeaIsle I paspalum

**Bunkers:** Total number of bunkers: 260. Sand type: Palmer I, Fazio II & Dye IV: GASH's G-angle. Palmer III: 37M. Hand-raked and machine-raked with John Deere 1200H. Fazio II is hand-raked.

**Naturalized/waste areas/beds:** 27.5 acres not including annual and perennial plant beds.

**Waterways/Lakes/Ponds:** Total number: 58. Acres: 220. Lake maintenance by Advantage Aquatics.

**Irrigation:** Storm water runoff storage. Supplemental reclaimed water in the near future.

**Water Restrictions:** No restrictions by ordinance.

**Water Management/Conservation practices:** Strive for firm and fast conditions. Hand watering when and

where needed.

**Total Staff:** 105. 80 on the golf courses, 12 in landscape, 12 in the shop and 1 administrative assistant. Schedule: 40 hours straight time. 2 hours OT.

**Organizational Roster:** Steve Wright, Director of Golf and Landscape Operations; Equipment Manager Mark Wonacott. Landscape Superintendent Greg Talerico and Administrative Assistant Karen Mital.

**Palmer I** - Superintendent Charlie Gray; Assistant David Savareid, Equipment Technician Paul Chuppa, Pest Control Tech Stuart Feigenbaum and Irrigation Tech Thomas Kaminsky.

**Fazio II** - Superintendent Brian Birney, Assistant Ryan Murphy and Equipment Tech Henry Eluett, Jr.

**Palmer III** - Superintendent Steven Morgan, Assistant Eric Sharb, Equipment Tech Mario Noel, Pest Control Tech Jon Sperr and Irrigation Tech Heriberto Villa.

**Dye IV** - Superintendent Wes Dinsmoor, Assistant C. J. Levering, Equipment Tech Oscar Echeverria, Pest Control Tech Juan Corretjer and Irrigation Tech Dan James. Weekly superintendent meetings.

Monthly superintendent and assistant superintendent meetings and periodic crew safety meetings.

*Top: Close-up of the 18th green on the Palmer I Course showing the contrasting colors of the TifEagle green, TifGrand collar and SeaIsle I fairway. Photo by Joel Jackson.*



Steve Wright's role of director of golf and landscape operations is the result of a 23-year journey that began by answering an ad for golf course workers in the New Smyrna Beach. Wright says, "Mark Jarrell hired me on the Sugar Mill CC crew at \$3.00/hr. When Mark left to continue his personal journey, Mike Beard took over and trained me and promoted me to assistant superintendent and then sent me on my way. Rodger Widrig also had an early influence on many aspects of the business while I was superintendent at the Rockledge CC. Then Ron Andrews at Suntree CC gave me my first big break when he hired me as the golf course superintendent when he pursued a general manager's career.

"At Suntree we hosted a PGA Champions Tour event, which was a great learning experience and the very prestigious CFGCSA Crowfoot Open. In 1994 I returned to Central Florida to help build and open the Alauqua Country Club up in Longwood. It was there I enjoyed my Gary Player experiences." From there the Wright clan moved to the Long Cove Club on Hilton Head Island on the coast of South Carolina, where I enjoyed my "Top 100 Courses" run for nine years. A good friend up there, Dan Monroe, helped me rediscover my faith in the Jesus Christ, which was a good lesson in humility. But we had Florida sand in our toes and they were itching to get back to Florida, and thus began my Boca West adventure in 2003."

Wright shared these thoughts about work and careers, "My mother, Mae, always said if you work hard and do your best someone will notice. That's still sound advice today. Our business has changed lately, but this industry still does a good job of weeding the folks that are operating on "cruise control."

"My advice would be to get a good education, engage in some practical OJT and build your resume from the ground up, learning and doing all the necessary tasks along the way. That includes being involved, going to meetings, networking with others where you can meet like-minded people. Someone will notice. Back in my earlier days it meant hanging with people like Tom Alex, Steve Sorrell, Stuart Leventhal and Jim Ellison. They were people who set standards we wanted to achieve."

The Boca West Country Club has a motto that says, "We're in the member pleasing business. We want every member to leave satisfied." Well, I know now more about 105 people who are dedicated to just that task!"



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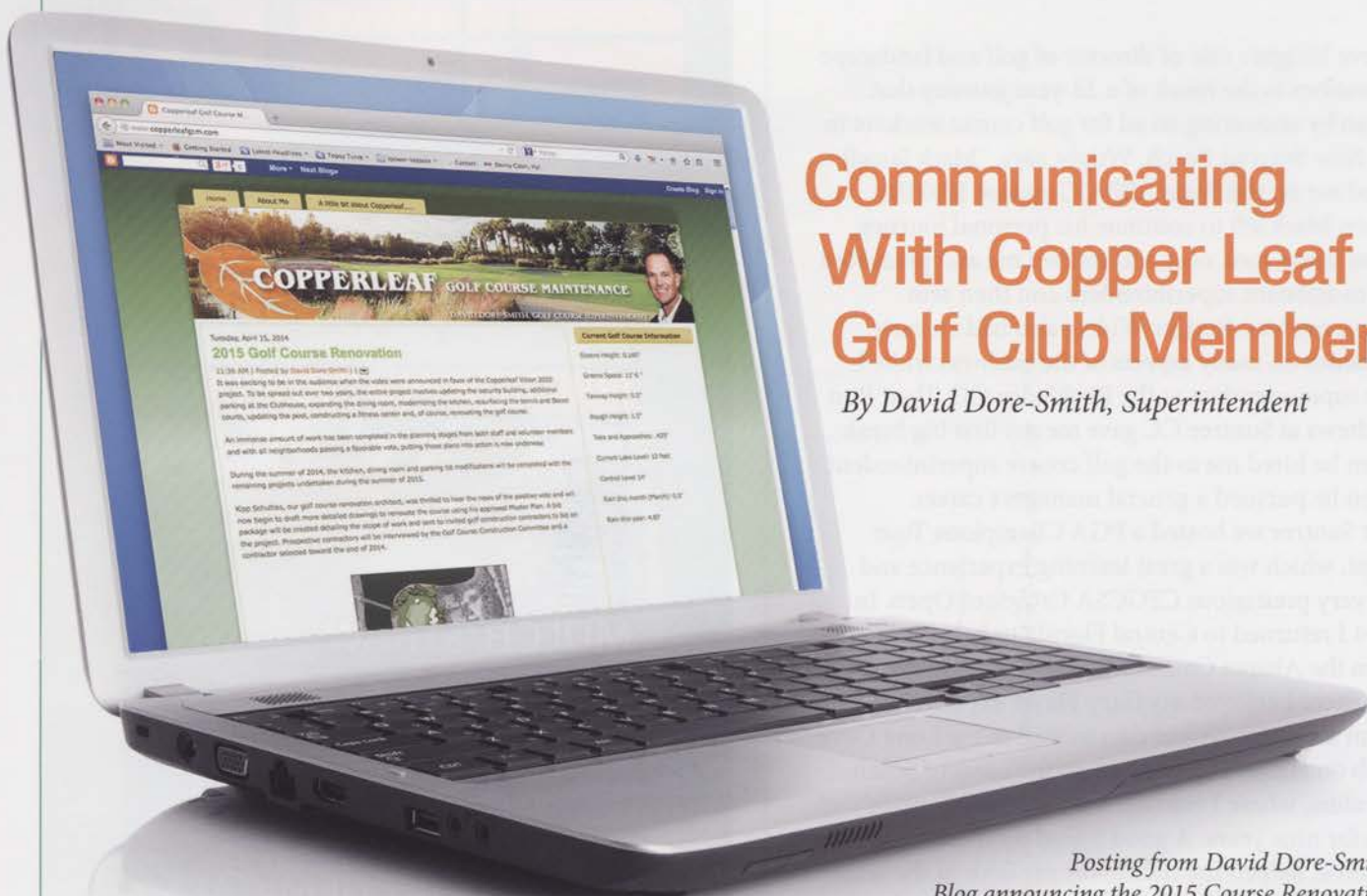
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## Communicating With Copper Leaf Golf Club Members

By David Dore-Smith, Superintendent

*Posting from David Dore-Smith's Blog announcing the 2015 Course Renovation.*

Copperleaf has always utilized printed media to communicate to our membership, such as the Copperleaf publication *The Leaf*, and it has always been very effective. However, we realized over the past couple of years that the cost of printing and mailing these small magazines was becoming quite expensive. Not only was cost a concern, but also the fact that the articles had to be written four to six weeks ahead of the printing deadline made it very difficult to discuss current issues. There were times when articles were written and submitted in the hope that "it would happen." With only five or six publications per year, there was always a restriction on the content to make it relevant for that particular publication.

Once online versions of *The Leaf* were made available to the members, it allowed for more up-to-date articles, photos and events to be promoted. The flow of information became almost instantaneous. The use of specific email blasts about dinner specials, golf rates, and important member meetings and golf course conditions are now the norm at Copperleaf.

There are still a handful of members who prefer to receive a printed copy of *The Copperleaf* magazine. They can simply print out the online version or, for a small fee, have the administrative staff print and mail them a hard copy.

Taking digital media a step further, in an effort to increase communication between the golf course maintenance department and the members specifically, the Copperleaf Blog Web site was created in 2012. The site can be found at [www.copperleafgcm.com](http://www.copperleafgcm.com) and has received more than 22,000 visitors: not only from Cop-

perleaf members but also from interested readers from around the world. It is an excellent method of providing up-to-date information on issues affecting the golf course maintenance department, whether it be current projects, course conditions, wildlife, or other interesting issues.

The ability to take photos out on the course and then simply write about them on the same day has been extremely easy and far simpler than trying to create an article to be published in the future. With online articles, the ability to add more photos and videos has also been well received by the readers. There was always a limit with printed articles as to how many photos could be included due to the restriction on the number of pages and the cost to print and mail them. As they say, "A picture is worth a thousand words."

Overall, the ability to communicate to the membership in real time using photos, videos and hyperlinks has been a great benefit to Copperleaf and its members. They have appreciated the improved communication and have been impressed with articles that have been written over the past two years.

With the upcoming golf course renovation in 2015, I know that there will be a heightened interest in what is happening on the course and the ability to document progress with photos will be important for our members to feel involved in the project. I personally look forward to improving my blogging experience and providing more details and information to the Copperleaf members and other interested readers.

As an informal but significant measure of the effectiveness of



our social media communications effort, I routinely get e-mails from members thanking me for my updates, especially during the summer when they are up north and are wondering what is going on. I have also received e-mails regarding the appreciation for the extent of work that takes place during the summer, as many members simply are not aware of what it takes to perform the various cultural practices during the summer.

I have my G.M., president, head golf professional, assistant golf pro, Green Committee chair, Men's and Ladies Golf Committee chairs and clubhouse administrative manager on automatic updates whenever a new post is completed so that they are aware of what I'm posting. They can then send the update out to their respective committee members so that everyone knows what is happening throughout the club.

Overall, the communication and blogging experience has been very positive in reaching out to members and informing them on all of the various projects and responsibilities that the golf course maintenance team is involved in. A little publicity, whether it be for yourself or for your team, can be very beneficial for many reasons. Most members know who cleaned their golf clubs or served them their food, but I guarantee many of them don't know who cut the cups today or who installed the new plants on Hole 15. Improved employee recognition has a positive effect throughout my department and the members enjoy knowing who they have working for them.



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# NATIONAL GOLF DAY HELD MAY 21

*The golf industry was well represented by the We Are Golf coalition at the National Golf Day event on May 21 in Washington, D.C. GCSAA members and staffs were on hand to discuss issues and regulations affecting golf course operations and maintenance. Photo by GCSAA.*

*(Editor's Note: The following two articles are from a recent online GCSAA Government Relations update.)*

The We Are Golf (WAG) coalition was formed in 1999 with a specific goal of addressing misperceptions about golf by the federal legislators and policy makers. The coalition desires to close gaps in understanding what golf represents in economic terms, what the industry

is doing by way of environmental stewardship and a campaign to get more Americans outside and moving.

During the 7th Annual National Golf Day event held on Capitol Hill May 21, the GCSAA delegation held 70-plus appointments with members of Congress and their staffs. The GCSAA delegation included GCSAA's Government Relations Committee, the GCSAA Board of Directors, the GCSAA executive team and other

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staff and GCSAA's government relations staff and a few others.

The GCSAA delegation to National Golf Day talked to members of Congress and their staffs about the EPA's proposed rule to revise the definition of "Waters of the U.S." (WOTUS) for all Clean Water Act programs. The definition changes contained in the WOTUS rule would significantly expand federal control of land and water resources across the nation, triggering substantial additional permitting and regulatory requirements.

A special We Are Golf (WAG) exhibit was held in the Cannon Caucus Room on National Golf Day. Members of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents provided an environmental display, which showcased the latest golf course maintenance technologies.

Finally, the WAG board of directors held strategic meetings throughout the day including with the U.S. EPA, the White House Ways and Means committee chairman, and chief advisor to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.

*(Editor's Note: Regarding Waters of the U.S. In Florida the former industry alliance action group known as the*

*NNC successfully campaigned to get Florida state control of the Numeric Nutrient Criteria action by EPA. The group has been renamed WOTUS to oppose the new Waters of the U.S. regulatory action by EPA along with other alliances across the U.S.. The following is the latest news on that front.)*

## House members sign the letter against "Waters of the U.S." proposed rule

On May 1, led by U.S. Representative Chris Collins (R-NY) and Kurt Schrader (D-OR), 231 members of the U.S. House of Representatives signed and sent a letter to the U.S. EPA and Army Corps of Engineers asking them to back off their proposed rule to expand the definition of "Waters of the U.S." under the Clean Water Act. The rule would place features such as ditches, ephemeral drainages, ponds (natural or manmade), prairie potholes, seeps, flood plains and other occasionally or seasonally wet areas under federal control. GCSAA has assembled a WOTUS golf industry stakeholder team that will begin meeting via conference to develop and draft a set of official comments that will be submitted to the federal docket by the July deadline.

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# news items

*One of the many environmentally friendly efforts on the Grande Lakes property.*



## Audubon International



### 1. Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Update:

Congratulations to the Fernandina Beach GC, Fernandina Beach and The Mooring Club, Vero Beach for achieving Certified Sanctuary status in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses. The latest Florida courses to join the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program:

The Fairways Golf Club, Orlando  
Indiantown Golf Club, Indiantown  
The Villages of Country Creek Golf Club in Estero.

### 2. Marriott's Grande Lakes Resort in Orlando reports expansion of its environmental stewardship practices in this recent news release:

Orlando, April 22, 2014. In keeping with its dedication to employ environmentally sound practices at the 500-acre property, Grande Lakes Orlando announces a boost to its growing eco-positive actions at its

18-hole golf course, and surrounding natural preserve as well as a significant recycling and waste-reduction initiative in collaboration with Harvest Power.

The green practices carried out on the golf course and towards the protection of its natural surroundings have earned the course the designation of Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary as well as a certification from the Golf Environment Organization (GEO). Most recently, it received the International Association of Golf Tour Operators (IAGTO) Sustainability Award, one of the highest honors in the industry for its comprehensive high performance across all aspects of maintaining the course. This includes nature, water, energy, supply chain, pollution control and community. The course borders the Shingle Creek Basin, an Environmental Preserve that will never be subject to further development.

Guests now also have the opportunity to learn more about the resorts natural surroundings with the addition of six certified Florida Master Naturalists who are experts in the areas of the local

wildlife, ecosystem, and environmental stewardship. These naturalists conduct educational eco-tours at Grande Lakes providing guests with a unique glimpse into the pure surroundings of the resort including bird habitats, fishing experiences and nature trails. The protection of the habitat includes creation of a natural corridor for wildlife that makes the area home. This means 35 acres were left as a natural environment and totally untouched, a rare find amongst golf courses in the U.S. and one that creates a truly unique experience for golfers.

"We are one of the most sustainable golf courses in the U.S.," said Nathan Stith, director of golf. "Through the efforts of our dedicated team and their attention to the course as well as our solid conservation practices, we reduced water usage by over one million gallons from 2012 to 2013."

Other green practices on the golf course include a long-term commitment to reducing chemicals on the ground by using techniques that cut down chemical application by 90 percent.



Further extending the resort's sustainability program, Grande Lakes has joined forces with Harvest Power to recycle the food waste generated by the resort, diverting it from landfills. Through this initiative, the resort will shrink its carbon footprint and contribute clean, renewable energy back into the environment. Future plans include using the byproduct of Harvest Power's food waste in the soil at the resort's Whisper Creek Farm, which currently supplies many natural ingredients to the award-winning cuisine at the restaurants on property. "There is a lot of energy and support at all levels for this Harvest Power initiative," said Jim Burns, managing director, Grande Lakes Orlando. "We are 100 percent committed to sustainability across the resort, from the guest experience in room to the dining to the recreation services on property and we are excited about collaborating with Harvest Power, an organization that is providing a superior state-of-the-art, food waste processing solution."

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## FIELD OBSERVATIONS

### The First Green And You



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

Has anyone ever asked you, "How can superintendents help grow the game of golf?" I was asked that very question when I interviewed for my position with the GCSAA. I'd like to say I concisely stated that we could introduce young children to the number of positive environmental impacts that golf courses provide by bringing the students out to the facility. My real answer was more like "um, uh, you know, um, that's a good question!!" Eventually, I did manage a somewhat cohesive sentence that sounded like what I wrote above.

I know many superintendents work mostly behind the scenes, providing great playing conditions with the thought that people will return to their facilities,

bringing others and thus growing the game. In reality, there exists an even greater opportunity for outreach through programs like the First Green.

I was introduced to the First Green Program this past year in Orlando at the Golf Industry Show. Since 1997, the First Green has connected golf course superintendents with school classes to teach the positive environmental impacts that golf courses provide. "Links as Labs" is the trademarked name First Green uses for their local programs. The programs include classroom field trips and the environmental education

programs that take place on the golf course.

The First Green provides the educational information and the tools needed to conduct what is known as the "Pondwater Tour" and the "Topsoil Tour". The students work with the local superintendent to gain a greater understanding of how the features of the golf course enhance the local environment.

My counterpart in the North West Region, David Phipps, has been involved in a number of these interactions and has frequently commented on how rewarding these sessions are for the students as well as the superintendent and volunteers. Just listening to him talk about his experiences makes me want to have the same type of experiences down here in Florida.

I have promoted the program at several

chapter functions and am looking for opportunities around the state to conduct these laboratory sessions. I am more than willing to volunteer my time and assist with the programming. I have the lesson plans and the tool kits necessary to conduct the sessions. I just need the superintendents and the facilities that are willing to work with a local classroom to step up. With summer upon us, perhaps a relationship with an organized summer program would fit nicely with this type of curriculum.

Once the students are made aware of the positive impacts that golf courses provide, the hope is they will share this with

their parents. This is a real grassroots opportunity for our industry to stem the negative perceptions of golf and showcase our environmental stewardship. Please join me in my efforts to pursue these First Green "Links as Labs" opportunities and play your role in growing the game. If we don't grow the game, our means of providing for our families may look much different in the future from what they do today!!

Until next time,  
Ralph Dain  
GCSAA Regional Representative (FL)  
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## ROAD WARRIOR REWARDS



### GREEN SIDE UP By JOEL JACKSON

Springtime is one of my intense Road Warrior periods, where I wander from Jacksonville to Palm Beach and Gainesville to Naples and points in between covering chapter events. Then after the heat and renovations of summer are over in the fall, I make my way from the Tampa Bay area back up to Jacksonville, then down to Miami and finish up in Orlando.

Well, there is one exception, which is the FGCSA Golf Championship traditionally held at the Southern Dunes GC in Haines City in August when there is very little chance of golf courses being crowded with golfers. That's only 30 miles from my house, so what happens in Haines City doesn't stay in Haines City. Be on your best behavior.

In all my years of serving as the editor and making these rounds, I never really totaled up the annual mileage of the trips. I am doing so now since I have semi-retired into a mutually agreed "contract employee" role as editor and need to document my expenses to offset my 1099 income report to the IRS at tax time.

Besides the event coverage, there are the four cover story visits for photo shoots and interviews each year. I do try to piggyback some of those visits with the special events to save some driving time and miles.

But there are definite rewards for the time spent

on the road. They include the camaraderie of seeing old friends and meeting new ones, playing a little golf and hearing about the programs and charities that these events raise money for. On the occasion of the recent "We Are Golf" visit to Washington, DC in May, the golf industry touted its nearly \$4 billion annual contribution to charities across the nation.

What we sometimes don't remember is that these local events are part of those contributions. The Pro tournaments get most of the press, but over the lifespan of most of our FGCSA chapter events, ranging from a minimum 20 to a staggering 50 years in age, significant amounts of money has been raised and donated. We should all be proud of those efforts that help our industry and people in need.

There are the obvious turf programs, projects and research stations at UF/IFAS that we support along with national EIFG projects. Most every chapter has local

affiliations with a charity that they help each year. Some that come to mind are the Missing and Exploited Children's Foundation, First Tee, Children's Home Society, Chi Chi Rodriguez School, Abused Women, Ronald McDonald House, Food Bank, Regional environmental improvement programs in communities along with Audubon Sanctuary programs for schools. Chapters also award monies for scholarship funding to schools for turf students and legacy scholarships for members' children attending any school of their choice.

I can't list every group we touch, and the dollar amount per chapter isn't the point. The point is by virtue of our/your involvement, we help our neighbors and show once again that the sport of golf and golf courses are good neighbors in our local communities. Keep up the good work everyone and I'll see you down the road.

*The 18th green complex on the Palmer III Course.  
Photo by Joel Jackson.*



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