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# FOREWORDS

# The Florida Green

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**ON THE COVER:** View from the 18th Tee, Plantation G&CC, Ft. Myers. Photo by Joel Jackson.

# Be a Team Player

I often talk with superintendents about their interactions with the other management personnel at their facilities. As you might imagine, the responses I receive are extremely varied. Whether an owner, general manager, golf professional or other department head, it is important to develop solid relationships with these individuals. Fortunately I hear many positive stories of relationships with other management professionals. However, it is not uncommon also to hear stories of power struggles, distrust and managers not working together towards a common goal.

First and foremost it is important to see your role as superintendent being twofold.

First, we are the protectors of the golf course. It is our job to speak on behalf of the grounds in order to do what is best for the health and playability of the golf course and facility. Perhaps it is declaring cart path only for the day, delaying tee times for frost or requesting money to replace a piece of equipment: we have to speak on behalf of what is best for the golf course.

The second aspect of being a golf course superintendent and a team player is keeping the business side of your facility in mind. It is your role to protect the golf course, but it is also in your best interest to help your facility be successful. Looking for solutions and compromises on your maintenance routines with the general manager or golf professional shows that you also have the best interest of the facility in mind.

Many departments at your facility contribute directly to revenue. They look for ways to increase revenue while managing expense. Superintendents on the other hand are often seen only as expense managers. It is important that we demonstrate our understanding of the operation as a whole and be seen as part of the team. If you are able to give in at times in order to increase revenue - like moving an aerification



Kevin Sunderman, President

date for example - then make sure you communicate your willingness to do so for the good of the operation. That way, when you need something in return for the good of the golf course, you are seen more as a teammate as opposed to someone who only takes.

As you develop your relationships with the other managers at your facility, it is important to speak with them about their respective industries. We have a lot going on in our industry when you think about fertilizer and water restrictions, new grass cultivars, loss of chemicals such as MSMA just to name a few. What is affecting their industries? What changes are on the horizon? Do we just assume that their jobs stay the same and never change? Take an interest and you may be surprised. Once you show an interest in their jobs and specialties they will be more likely to show an interest in yours. In turn it becomes easier for everyone to understand each other's point of view making it easier to work together and help each other be successful.

In the previous issue of The Florida Green I challenged you to accomplish four things. 1) Attend as many local chapter meetings as possible. 2) Complete the Golf BMP Certification. 3) Sign up to participate in EREF. 4) Support the businesses that support the FGCSA and local chapters. How are you doing? I encourage you to continue working towards these goals as I believe all of them will help you, your employer, and the industry.

## SPOTLIGHT



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# Wrapping Up 2013 in Fine Fashion

# CHAPTER REPORTERS

To help gather and submit news and photographs of chapter members and events, the following people have volunteered or agreed to serve as chapter reporters. If you have information or photos to share please contact the following chapter representatives: Calusa - Stuart Taylor; Central



From the left: FTGA Past President Mac Briley, Dr. Laurie Trenholm, UF/IFAS, Betsy McGill, Executive Director Turf Producers of Florida and current FTGA President Erin Wilder. Briley and Wilder presented Dr. Trenholm and Ms. McGill with 2013 Wreath of Grass Awards at the FTGA Conference & Show in Orlando in September. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Florida - Chris Flynn; Everglades - Kristen Conover and Jason Zimmerman; North Florida - Mike Stevens; Palm Beach - Brian Main; Ridge - Scott Scamerhorn; Seven Rivers - Andy Jorgensen; South Florida – Ricky Reeves; Suncoast - Nick Kearn; Treasure Coast -Gary Chaney; and West Coast - Christi Haley and Trent Inman.



Fourth spot on the FGCSA Golf Team nailed down. Stuart Bothe from the Vanderbilt CC shot a 71 to win the FTGA Golf Tournament at the Hawk's Nest GC at the Marriott World Center near Disney World. Photo by Joel Jackson

#### FTGA CONFERENCE AND SHOW

The 2013 Florida Turfgrass Association's conference was held in mid-September at the Caribe Royale Hotel in Lake Buena Vista just west of downtown Orlando. During the days of education and trade show activity, the FTGA's Wreath of Grass Awards were made at the annual meeting. This year two ladies were recognized for their tireless contributions to Florida turfgrass industry. They are: Dr. Laurie Trenholm, noted researcher and instructor at the University of Florida and Betsy McGill, executive director of the Florida Turf Producers. Both women have been spokespersons for the turf industry at numerous city and county commission meetings where fertilizer ordinances are being enacted. During the education sessions, the FGCSA conducted another Golf BMP Certification and examination program. At the FTGA golf tournament, Stuart Bothe, superintendent of the Vanderbilt Country Club in Bonita Beach shot a 71 on the Hawk's Nest Course at the Marriott World Center to win the event and the final spot on the FGCSA golf team.

## THE 50TH ANNUAL BUD QUANDT RESEARCH AND BENEFIT TOURNAMENT

The West Coast GCSA celebrated the Diamond Anniversary edition of the Annual Bud Quandt Tournament that benefits turfgrass research and Tampa Bay area charities. Quandt was one of the founders of the WCGCSA and this year's event was held fittingly at Bud's former course, the Pasadena Yacht & Country Club in St. Petersburg. During the business meeting, Quandt gave



Kevin Sunderman, Florida GCSA President (right) presents Bud Quandt, one of the chapter's founding members, with a framed tournament flag in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Bud Quandt Research and Benefit Tournament. Photo by Joel Jackson.



From the right Trent Inman, president of the WCGCSA and tournament honoree Bud Quandt present FGCSA President Kevin Sunderman with a \$2,500 check for the FGCSA Research Fund at the 50th Anniversary of the Bud Quandt Research and Benefit fundraiser. Photo by Joel Jackson

a history of the course and the chapter's growth over the years. The chapter also made a \$2,500 donation to the FGCSA's Turf Research Fund. The team of John Reilly, Bobby Gailliard, Kevin Baldwin, and Mike Kaiser won the golf tournament.

## CENTRAL FLORIDA MEMBER SESSIONS

The Central Florida GCSA held a couple of member-focused events with a Shop Talk Session on



The team of John Reilly, Bobby Gailliard, Kevin Baldwin, and Mike Kaiser won the Bud Quandt Tournament played at the Pasadena Yacht & CC in St. Petersburg. Photo by Joel Jackson.



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# SPOTLIGHT





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749 NE 70th Street • Boca Raton, FL 33487 (561) 756-0068 Fax (561) 994-6861 countryclubsvcs@aol.com Superintendent and supplier members of the Central Florida GCSA at an informal business/social meeting at the Orange County Sportsman's Association on Lake Sheen in SW Orange County to thank the vendors for their support of the chapter. Photo by Joel Jackson.

greens renovation, hosted by Rob Torri at the Orange Tree CC in October and a vendor appreciation social at the Orange County Sportsman's Association's lakefront complex in the Dr. Phillips area in SW Orange County.

At the Shop Talk Sessions, the topic was the No-Till Grassing Method, including "Turf Selection, and Pre & Post Grow-In Programs" presented by Kasey Kauff, CC of Orlando; "No-Till Renovation with Champion" by Chris Flynn, CGCS, Marriott's Grande Vista: No-Till Renovation with TifEagle, and Rob Torri, Orange Tree GC: No-Till Renovation also with Champion.



Shoptalk on the Orange Tree putting green at the Central Florida chapter's October meeting. Kasey Kauff checking the turf with host Rob Torri (right) and other attendees looking on. Photo by Joshua Kelley.

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# 37TH ANNUAL LARRY KAMPHAUS CROWFOOT OPEN

Special Thanks to Lisa McDowell, Tom Alex and the Grand Cypress Resort for hosting our event.

# SPOTLIGHT



Crowfoot Chairman Tom Alex (right) presents Chris Cartin with the 2013 Larry Kamphaus Award during the Awards Reception at Grand Cypress. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Crowfoot Golf Chairman Joe Ondo, CGCS (left) presents the 2013 Crowfoot Trophy to Jason Regan, who is eligible to fill the last spot on the FGCSA Golf Team for the GCSAA Championship in Orlando in February. Photo by Joel Jackson.

At the Vendor Appreciation meeting the CFGCSA Board thanked the vendors for their continued support of chapter meetings and events, and Vice President Rickey Craig gave a state of the chapter report and invited attendees to discuss the progress and future plans of the chapter.

The 2013 Larry Kamphaus Crowfoot Open was hosted once again by the Grand Cypress Resort in Orlando on December 6th. Chris Cartin, former Central Florida superintendent and now a member of the Brandt sales team was presented the Larry Kamphaus award at the reception after golf. Jason Regan, superintendent of the Ocala GC won the Individual Crowfoot Championship with a score of 78 on the North-South Course.

# NORTH FLORIDA GCSA FALL CLASSIC EVENT

Bob Gruber, superintendent of the Amelia National GC hosted the FGCSA

board meeting on Thursday, Oct. 17. On Friday, the North Florida chapter presented turf management education sessions with speakers Dr. Bert McCarty from Clemson University and Dr. Derek Settle with the Bayer Corporation.

At the reception that evening Jack Harrell, Jr. presented the 2013 Butch Singo Award Presented to Tom Brennan, president of Brennan



At the North Florida Fall Classic reception, Jack Harrell, Jr. (right) presented Tom Brennan with the inaugural Dwight "Butch" Singo Award to recognize outstanding suppliers who excel in the selfless service and support of others.

Turf Sales. The award is based on Singo's professional and personal traits of sincerity and honesty. The inscription on the award reads: For the selfless, honest and humble support of your fellow man and contains this quote: Only a Life Lived in the Service of Others is Worth Living... - Albert Einstein The Fall Classic Tournament was played on Saturday on the Amelia Island Plantation's Oak Marsh



Bayer Environmental Sciences sponsored the Fall Classic Education Session. From the left: Mike Stevens, president of the NFGCSA, Dr. Derek Settle, Bayer Crop Sciences, Dr. Bert McCarty, Clemson University and Jay McCord, Fall Classic Education Chairman. Photo by Joel Jackson.

# THE NORTH FLORIDA GCSA THANKS THE SPONSORS OF THE 2018 Fall Hassie at American

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Special thanks to Superintendent Todd Six and the Amelia Island Plantation Golf Course for hosting our event.

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## SPOTLIGHT



The Amelia Island Plantation's Oak Marsh proved to be a tough test of golf for the NFGCSA Fall Classic Tournament. Ken Arsenault (left) carded a 79 to win the Crash Hall Cup presented by Mike Stevens, president of the NFGCSA. Photo by Joel Jackson.

course, and Ken Arsenault bested the field over a tough set up with a score of 79. By virtue of his win Arsenault is eligible to join the FGCSA Golf Team to compete in the GCSAA Golf Championship to be held in Orlando in February as part of the 2014 GCSAA Golf Industry Show.

## SOUTH FLORIDA MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN FUNDRAISER

The South Florida GCSA held its 29th annual M&E Tournament at the Ft. Lauderdale CC in September. This year's event raised \$25,000 for the charity, and Nancy McBride, director for the Florida section reported that over the life of this event the SFGCSA has donated over \$500,000 to the M&E. At the end of the day the team of John Swaner, Mike Shafer, Wes Mitchell and Dale Mitchell were victorious winners of the golf tournament.



The team from GASH won the M&E golf tournament. From left: John Swaner, Mike Shafer, Wes Mitchell and Dale Mitchell.



Nancy A. McBride, National Safety Director for the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children praised the SFGCSA for their 29 years of fundraising at the M&E Tournament and thanked this year's Tournament Chairman Joe Pantaleo, Indian Creek CC, for the \$25,000 donation from the 2013 event. Photo by Joel Jackson



Brian MacCurrach (left) conducted his traditional Bayer Power Pak auction at the M&E event and Steve Pearson from The Falls CC was high bidder for the bargain bundle of Bayer turf products. The auction proceeds are donated back to the host chapter. Photo by Joel Jackson.

# THE SEGCSA **MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN'S** 2013 BENEFIT TOURNAMENT

# THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN

Greatly Appreciates the Sponsors and Participants of this 29th Annual event



Special Thanks to the host club Ft. Lauderdale Country Club and to Todd Ingram the Superintendent for an outstanding job.

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# SPOTLIGHT

#### **SEVEN RIVERS**

Steve Keller and the Juliette Falls GC hosted the Seven Rivers GCSA annual Toys for Tots tournament in November. Attendees filled a couple of Santa's sacks with toys to brighten up Christmas for lots of kids in the Seven Rivers region. Hope everyone had a merry Christmas.

At the December chapter meeting

held at Golden Ocala Golf and Equestrian Club, the Seven Rivers chapter honored a longtime member with a lifetime membership. The award was presented to Joe Conoly, a retired Bayer representative, for his involvement with the chapter and industry. Throughout the years, Joe was an avid supporter of many local events, including the Jeff Hayden



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Memorial Envirotron Golf Classic presented by the Seven Rivers GCSA. Joe always offered friendly advice and was available to offer knowledge and guidance for any issue a Superintendent may have faced. We are pleased to honor Joe with this achievement and look forward to seeing him at chapter events for many years to come.

## WEST COAST/SUNCOAST JOINT EDUCATION SESSION

As part of the joint meeting strategy of the Suncoast, West Coast and Ridge chapters to help beef up participation numbers at meetings, a joint education session featuring Dr. Keith Karnok from the University of Georgia was hosted by FGCSA President Kevin Sunderman at the Isla Del Sol Y&CC in St. Petersburg. Dr. Karnok spoke on the use of wetting agents in turf and water management and the sometimes-controversial use of Biostimulants.



FGCSA President Kevin Sunderman (left) with Dr. Keith Karnok, University of Georgia. Sunderman hosted the West Coast/Suncoast joint chapter education meeting in November at the Isla Del Sol Y&CC in St. Petersburg. Dr. Karnok made presentations on the uses of wetting agents and Biostimulants. Photo by Joel Jackson.

## **RECERTIFIED CGCS**

Congratulations to Hal Atkins, CGCS, Bonita Bay Club and Allen Brissenden, Dunedin GC on recertifying their CGCS status.

# FWCGCSA'S BUD QUANDT TOURNAMENT

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Special thanks to Scott MacEwen and the Pasadena Yacht & Country Club for hosting this event.

# SPOTLIGHT

# LLOYD CLIFTON, ASGCA FELLOW, DIES AT 89



From the left: golf course architects Lloyd Clifton, Ken Ezell and George Clifton celebrate Lloyd's being named a Senior Fellow of the American Society of Golf Course Architects of America in 2000.

BROOKFIELD, Wis. – Lloyd M Clifton, Sr. a Fellow of the American Society of Golf Course Architects and a founding member of the design firm Clifton, Ezell, Clifton Golf Design Group (CEC Design Group), died Dec. 10, 2013. He was 89. Clifton worked with fellow ASGCA member Kenny Ezell, and



his son, ASGCA member George Clifton, at the firm, which has offices based in Deland and Wildwood.

Clifton and his firm are perhaps best known for their design work and master planning at The Villages – which has grown from a 9-hole golf course when it opened in the late 1970s to the largest golf community in the world — a retirement community in Central Florida on which CEC Golf Design has developed 603 of the 630 holes planned.

Cliftons's layouts included Grey Oaks, Naples: Hunters Creek, Orlando; Highland Creek, Charlotte, N.C.; Debary Plantation, Debary; and Plantation Bay, Ormond Beach.

A standout high school football and baseball player, Clifton played both sports at Stetson University, and advanced to playing semi-professional baseball in Florida. Knee injuries kept him from pursuing a career in sports, however, and he enrolled in the horticulture program at the University of Florida. He began his involvement in golf as the golf course superintendent with the City of Daytona Beach's municipal courses. A move to Orlando as a construction/golf superintendent at Rio Pinar Golf Club in 1957 opened the door to his start in golf design.

Clifton's background as an agronomy consultant led to his involvement in more than 150 golf course projects over the years. He was one of the first recipients of the Florida Turfgrass Association's "Wreath of Grass" award in 1961. His first course, West Orange CC, was completed in 1964 and he designed 16 others before forming Lloyd Clifton and Associates with George and Ken in 1987, which soon became Clifton Ezell Clifton (CEC).

Clifton was elected an Associate member of ASGCA in 1993, a Regular member in 1995 and became a Fellow in 2000. Clifton is survived by his wife of 65 years Bonnie Jean, his sons Lloyd Jr. (Clif), George, and Craig, their wives, six grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

# **GET CERTIFIED!**

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For more information contact Jennifer Bryan at 800-732-6053 or visit us on the web at www.FloridaGCSA.com/BMP

# PLANTATION GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB: **A SEASHORE PASPALUM COURSE**

The Plantation Golf & Country Club was built in 2006 and is located in Ft. Myers, east of Interstate 75 off Daniels Parkway. The course is owned by Pulte Homes, Inc. and runs through and around a residential community, providing a nice blend of homes and green space. Another environmentally friendly aspect is that the golf course doesn't use any potable water sources for irrigation.

Plantation's irrigation water comes from stormwater runoff retention lakes and a well that draws brackish water from the Lower Hawthorne Formation. With those water sources in mind the course was planted totally in Sea Dwarf Paspalum turfgrass, which can tolerate higher salinity conditions than bermudagrass.

The seashore paspalum grasses were released over a decade ago and are slowly but steadily being used on more golf courses, both new and old, where water quality and soil salinity are issues.

One of the cardinal rules in turf management is to select the best turf variety that is most adaptable to the local water, soil and seasonal climatic conditions. In this case Seashore Paspalum is the ideal grass to use. Quite a few courses along Florida's west coast have installed paspalum varieties over the past few years before the economic slowdown. Most recently, the Shell Point GC, also in the Ft. Myers area, is completing a total re-grassing project due to the highly saline soils that were taking their toll on the bermudagrass planted initially.

Superintendent Stuart Taylor has been at Plantation practically since construction and grow-in of the course and that goes for most of his crew as well. Taylor sought some turf management tips from the "Paspalum Guru" of Southwest Florida, Tim Hiers at the Old Collier Club in Naples. With the installation of any new variety there is always a learning curve until you get into a relative "comfort zone."

Stuart's programs are not all that much different from other good regimens for growing warm-season grasses in Florida, but paspalum has characteristics that need attention. While it is salt tolerant, the soil must be flushed periodically to make sure the salt build-up doesn't affect the root zone chemistry, and prevent the lock-up of nutrients.

Paspalums are a little more disease sensitive, so good preventive programs are a must. Taylor says his biggest disease

The par 3, 12th hole as seen from the 13th fairway. Photo by Joel Jackson

challenges are "Take All Patch" (*Gaeumannomyces graminis*) and brown patch (*Rhizoctonia zeae*). He applies Cleary's 3366\* and Torque\* to combat disease pressure.

Localized dry spots are also a challenge and are not necessarily a trait of the seashore paspalum grasses. The catch comes in that paspalum grasses don't recover quite as quickly as bermudagrass once they are significantly stressed out. Taylor says he has also discovered some Fusarium fungal activity associated with the dry spots. To minimize the dry spots Taylor will spike and slice those areas and apply Milorganite<sup>\*</sup> sparged with Cascade<sup>\*</sup> wetting agent to improve the soil's moisture-retention ability.

Another challenge Taylor faces in management of the SeaDwarf is the eradication of bermudagrass intrusion. There was enough native common bermudagrass in the landscape prior to construction to emerge from the buried stems and stolons to create noticeable patches of differenttextured grass around the course. Taylor uses an ongoing program – Roundup\* and Fusilade\* – to knock out these off-type patches. Then he harvests some sod from a outof-play area used as a turf nursery and sods those areas.



# SUPERINTENDENT FACTS

# Meet Stuart Taylor

**Originally from:** Manchester, England.

Family: My parents and sister in England and my wife Jennie and three sons: Devon (20), Brett (17), and Christian (15).

**Education:** 1998 received a Degree in Sports Turf management and



Stuart Taylor

Commercial Horticulture from Reasheath College of Horticulture and Agriculture in Cheshire, England. It is now called Cheshire College of Horticulture and Agriculture. Cheshire is where they used to build Rolls Royce cars.

**Employment history:** 1980-85 Crew member, Ringway GC, UK; 1985-89 Crew member and Assistant Head Greenskeeper for a crew of six. Bramall Park GC, UK; 1990-93 Assistant Superintendent, Silver Springs Shores, Ocala; 1993-95 Superintendent, Citrus Springs GC, Citrus Springs; 1995 Bella Vista GC, Howey-in-the-Hills; 1995-98 Assistant Superintendent, TPC Prestancia, Sarasota; 1998-2006 Superintendent, Riverwood GC, Port Charlotte; 2006 – Present Superintendent, Plantation G&CC, Ft. Myers.

**Professional affiliations/awards:** 2011-2013 Past President of the Calusa GCSA. Currently serving as the Calusa External Vice President on the FGCSA Board of Directors.

**Personal philosophy of work:** Lead by example and treat employees the same way you want to be treated. Always conduct yourself in a professional manner.

**Personal/Memorable Moments:** My wedding day and the births of my children. Playing a "soccer friendly" match against Manchester United when I was a semi-pro goalie.

Hobbies and Interests: Golf. Watching English Premiere League Football (soccer). Fishing (even though I'm not very good at it. I like being in boats on the water.)

# COVER STORY

Some herbicides normally used on bermudagrass are not "friendly" to seashore paspalum, so Taylor has learned that using Solar Salt<sup>\*</sup>, a product often used to "soften" hard water, works well to combat weeds on his salt-tolerant turf. He also uses Solitaire<sup>\*</sup> and Echelon<sup>\*</sup> in a continuing preventive weedcontrol program.

Every course has unique challenges, but since the course lies between two large, preserved natural areas, it also has some unique wildlife-viewing opportunities. Taylor's wildlife inventory includes bald eagles, Cooper's hawks, ospreys, white-tailed deer, wild turkey, several species of woodpeckers and songbirds, squirrels, bobcats and Florida panthers. One wildlife downside is the presence of armadillos, which have a habit of digging up the turf while searching for insects. Taylor applies Chipco Choice<sup>®</sup> and Talstar<sup>®</sup> to control insects on the course.

Another important element of course conditioning that falls under golfer etiquette, according to the U. S. Golf Association, is ball-mark repair on the putting surfaces. As Taylor so eloquently put it, "a ball mark repaired in a few minutes will heal in a day. If left unrepaired for an hour or more, it can take up to two weeks to heal."

To foster communication at Plantation, Taylor checks in with his general manager every day, keeping him aware of what's



*The 15th Hole. Close up shot of the firm and fast SeaDwarf greens at Plantation G&CC. Photo by Joel Jackson.* 

happening on the course. He also takes a vigorous proactive approach with the members by riding the course backwards every day to talk with as many golfers as possible to hear their comments and let them know about daily conditions and upcoming projects, and what golf course maintenance is doing to address any concerns.

So, who is Stuart Taylor and how did he get into this business and find his way to the Plantation G&CC? Taylor is from





Plantation G&CC Maintenance Staff. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Location: Ft. Myers; 18 holes; 7,200 yards; Par: 71; Slope & Rating: 140/74.1 Playing Policy: Private and Semi-Private

**Ownership:** Pulte Homes Designed by Hurdzan – Fry Golf Designs. Opened: 2007

Constructed by Titan Golf

Management Team: Hampton Golf Management; Club Manager Doug Brown; Head Golf Professional Charles Bisiano; Golf Course Superintendent Stuart Taylor

**Projects:** Re-grading No. 4 lake bank. Ongoing projects: Removal of bermudagrass and zoysiagrass patches from the paspalum turf. Treatment of localized dry spots.

Total property acres: 200. Acreage under maintenance: 110 Turf Type: All the greens, tees, fairways and roughs are Sea Dwarf Paspalum. The course is not overseeded. Greens: Average size (sq.ft): 6,000. Acres: 4.0. Height of Cut: .110 - .140 inches. Tees: Acres: 4.0; HOC: .300. Fairways: Acres: 36. HOC: .400 inches. Roughs: Acres: 56. HOC: 1.5 inches. Bunkers: 72. Sand type: G-Angle. The bunkers are machine- and hand-raked.

#### Landscaped and naturalized areas/

**beds:** 50 acres of naturalized areas with Spartina cordgrass, Gulf Muhlygrass, Fountaingrass and Fakahatcheegrass and flowering perennials like Canna lilies, Mexican petunia and a variety of native wildflowers. There are also 10 acres of crushed rock cart path and waste areas.

Waterways/Lakes/Ponds: Total number: 12. Acres: 80. The homeowners association contracts the lake maintenance.

**Irrigation:** Water Source: Runoff and brackish water from the Lower Hawthorne Formation. Equipment: Flowtronex pump station. Controller: Rainbird Nimbus II. Heads: 1,100/75-80' spacing. Fertigation system: Yes.

Water Restrictions: Since we are not pumping any fresh water we currently do not have any restrictions.

Water Management/Conservation practices: We use moisture meters and

soil probes to monitor soil moisture to minimize localized dry spots. The paspalum does not recover rapidly from drought stress. We apply wetting agents to chronic dry spots and try to improve moisture retention in these areas.

**Staff:** Total including superintendent: 18 with 1 part-time employee. Schedule: 40 hours straight time. Part-time employee works 21 hours per week.

Key Staff: Assistant Rich Mulikin; Equipment Technician Val Valdez; Pest Control Tech Ryan Dillinger; Irrigation Techs Paul Perez and Eriberto Ramerez. We have a great crew. Most have been here 7-8 years through the construction and grow-in.

Meetings/Communication: Daily crew meeting and meeting with club manager and monthly committee meetings. I write articles for the club newsletter. Most importantly I ride the course backwards daily and visit with as many members as possible to keep them informed.

Top: Long afternoon shadows on the fairway and approach of the 14th hole. Photo by Joel Jackson

# COVER STORY

Manchester, England. When he was a teenager, his father took him to work at his job in a factory. From that day forward Taylor was determined to find work outdoors. At age 16 he landed a job as a crewmember on a local golf course.

With support from his family Taylor pursued his interest in sports. He played semi-pro soccer for six years. He played Minor County cricket as a catcher and cleanup hitter. He eventually worked on the Ringway GC and from 1980-85 and at the Bramall Park GC in England where he was the assistant greenskeeper and eventually head greenskeeper with a crew of six.

In 1990, Taylor arrived in the U.S. and landed an assistant superintendent position at the Silver Springs Shores GC in Ocala. He moved to the Citrus Springs GC as superintendent from 1993-95. After a short stay at the Bella Vista GC in Howey-in-the Hills, Taylor moved south to Sarasota as the assistant superintendent at the new TPC Prestancia Club from 1995-98.



Tee shots must carry a colorful native area on the par 3, second hole. Photo by Joel Jackson.

He moved to nearby Riverwood GC as superintendent from 1998-2006 and joined the Pulte Homes team. In 2006 he relocated to Ft. Myers to take over the construction and grow-in of the Plantation course. Taylor credits John Lowry, his first head greenskeeper in England, for sharing his knowledge and demonstrating how to run a tight ship – lessons that have served him well throughout his career. When he first came over to the States,





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# COVER STORY



Looking back at the 16th hole from the 17th tee area. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Paul Wargo gave him a chance to start as an assistant superintendent at Silver Springs Shores. Then Harry Bono gave him his first head superintendent gig at the Citrus Springs GC. Taylor also cites Tim Perez for taking him on as his assistant at TPC Prestancia, which gave Taylor the chance to be involved with two PGA Senior Tour events. Perez then helped Taylor land the head super job at Riverwood, which led to his 10-year tenure with the Centex-Pulte Homes organization.

Meanwhile, during this career progression, the Taylor family faced an even more daunting challenge. Both of their sons survived critical illnesses. Their youngest, Christian was diagnosed with brain cancer, which he battled and won. Now 15, Christian is a 1-handicap golfer. Over the past five years, their eldest son Brett was diagnosed with a rare form of bone cancer, which he has overcome and is expected to make a full recovery.

The Taylors have organized and run an annual golf tournament to raise money to benefit the Ronald McDonald House of Charities for the past 13 years and raised over \$130,000 to help others who face the same challenges the Taylors experience.

On that positive note we say, "God bless and goodbye" to the Taylors and the Plantation G&CC.

# TAYLOR FUN FACTS

Vehicle: Ford F-150 The last good movie I saw: Marley and Me on an international flight and watching people around me crying.

I stay home to watch: Sports with my boys – soccer, baseball and golf

What I've been reading: Golf maintenance and golf magazines

Favorite meal: Indian curry



After solid-tine aerifying and topdressing, comes the drag brush and roller, all ahead of summertime play. Photo by Joel Jackson.

**Favorite performer(s):** The Zak Brown Band, George Strait and Randy Travis

**Prized possessions:** An old watch my grandfather gave me

Personal heroes: Anyone who is in the military

Nobody knows that I: Was a long distance runner in school and that I drank beer with Troy Aikman in the Florida Keys.

If I could do it over: I would have studied harder in school

My fantasy is: To visit Australia

I'd give anything to meet: Nick Faldo

The one thing I can't stand: Cigar and cigarette butts on my golf course

If I could change one thing about myself: Be more patient with the ones I love

Most humbling experience: My first spring overseeding transition of greens as a superintendent.

My most irrational act: Swimming in the Thames River.

**My most humbling experience:** When my son Christian was in the hospital and seeing some of the other children that might not make it home.

The words that best describe me: Hard working

My dream foursome would be: My boys and my Dad.

My most amazing/lucky/important golf shot: I've had two holes-in-one and made a par on a par three hole by holing out my third shot after the penalty for hitting it in the water.

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#### **BOTTOM LINE THINKING**

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# HANDS ON

# Equipment Innovations and Modifications

(Editor's Note: In this edition of Hands On we will explore some creative inventions and/or modifications of equipment to address special needs on some of our golf courses.)

# **Positive Airflow Below**

By Brian Beckner, La Playa GC

Do you have a good airflow in your greens' root zones? The extensive drainage system is there, but when was the last time you checked it to be sure it also had proper water flow? Have you flushed the drainage system recently or at least annually to see that your drain lines are positively moving water and air?

There is a very simple method to check for the water movement inside the piping of the main drains. First of all, do you know where your high side flush-outs are? Are they open in a valve box so you can use them? Once open, merely stick a hose (either a 3/4 or 1 inch) in the drain pipe and turn it on. I recommend sticking it in just past the 90 degree fitting that holds the riser pipe that is near the surface. Be sure to secure the hose so that when the water is turned on the hose does not work itself back out of the pipe from the pressure.

Once the water is flowing, find where the outfall is located. Sometimes when this is done for the first time, a lot of sediment and excess dirt will flow out of the pipes. Running the hose until the sediment is flushed out and pure water is rushing through the pipe, you will know the "main" drain line is clear. This unfortunately does not take care of lateral drain lines!



This picture shows the modification of a turbine blower snout to fit into the piping at the greens drain flush out box on the high side of a green. Photo by Brian Beckner.

Backpack blower delivering positive airflow to the rootzone through the internal drainage lines. Note the ping-pong ball floating on a column of air coming through a hole made by a soil probe down to the gravel layer. The wristwatch is for scale. Photo by Brian Beckner.

If the pipe is under water inside of a basin or in a lake, you may want to consider finding a higher location in the drain line where you can cut in a "T." This will help the drain line to have positive air flow.

The accompanying pictures show methods easily used to blow air into your drain system. This will help evacuate bad gases that can sometimes get trapped in your drainage system, especially at high or far points of the drain tile where end caps are located.

Did you ever have a strange area of a green or collar that looks funky and is not recovering? Check these obvious areas as described below, but also consider if these are partially shaded areas. In this particular situation the greens do not have SubAir systems or fans.

One picture shows a backpack blower hooked up to the topside flush-out drain line. The low side, or flush-out side, of the drain line is plugged before the blower is started. This will ensure that the airflow is being forced into the green through the perforated drains pipe and will escape to the greens' surface, not through the outfalls. If the air is escaping through the outfalls, it does not have the ability to force air from drain tile system into the soil, then maybe you need to aerify.

Once the backpack blower is turned on, run it at an idle speed at the beginning. Even take a soil probe and penetrate a few holes to the gravel layer in the green. You should start to feel the air flowing out of the hole. Which in turn is blowing throughout your drain tile. You will see in the picture a ping-pong ball floating on a column of air to demonstrate airflow and velocity.

In the second picture, a turbine blower is used in the same method. The directional snout of the blower was removed and a flat plate was cut to fit the brackets where the snout would originally fit. Then a 4-inch flexible hose with a camlock fitting was cut into the center of the plate. Once fit into the hole, it was caulked to be sure a solid seal was made. Then clamping a 3-inch male adapter to the other end of the pipe, it was ready for use. The male adapter fits snugly into a 4-nch ADS-style drainpipe. Once set up, turn on the blower and





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# HANDS ON

run it at a very low idle. Be very careful that blowers do not run at high throttle, or you will see immediate negative results!

These blowers have been used in half-hour increments providing temporary sub-surface airflow. For each instance, duration and frequency of use is predicated by positive results in the turf. This is just one of the tricks of the trade that a superintendent has up his or her sleeve, and is just another tool for success.

Editor's Note: Brian Beckner is former superintendent of the La Playa Golf Club. Beckner now heads up his own company constructing and installing native bird boxes.

### **Quick Tips**

• Stuart Bothe has connected his Buffalo Blowers to his fairway mowers for a onestep, mow-and-blow operation. He also topdresses his fairways and uses a Terra Rake and metal drag mat in tandem to work the topdressing sand into the canopy.



Tips from Stuart Bothe at the Vanderbilt G&CC: Connecting a blower to the fairway mower make mowing and clipping clean-up a one step process. Photo by Stuart Bothe.

A Terra Rake and metal drag mat work the fairway topdressing sand into the turf canopy. Photo by Stuart Bothe.





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• On the Copperhead GC, David Dore-Smith eliminates tire marks on the greens after aerification by using an old bunker machine pulling a greens brush to work the topdressing into the holes. He also uses a power grader to groom the coquina waste areas on the course. Many waste areas are used as cart paths and his members prefer the softer lie rather than the hard surfaces compacted by the cart traffic.





No tire marks on the greens when using an old sand rake machine to pull a drag brush to work topdressing material into the aerification holes. Photo by David Dore-Smith.

A power grader reworks compacted crushed coquina rock waste areas. Photo by David Dore-Smith.



# Flanding a Solution to weedy, worn thirf on the back tee of the Sth hole, The Sanctuary GC. Photo by Kyle Sweet, Shady Situation

*By Kyle Sweet, Superintendent The Sanctuary GC* 

Many times, the back tees on a hole are tucked away into areas where it's nearly impossible to grow grass. These tees may be part of the original design, but existing or planted trees and shrubs keep growing and may shade a once-sunny location. Or a club may have added the tees at a later date to lengthen the yardage of a hole and placed the tee in a more restrictive location.

The lack of sunlight and air movement is all it takes.

Sometimes the flat surface of the tee top

can cope as it may get direct overhead sunlight many months of the year, but the slopes around the tee typically suffer the most. They often get weedy and worn because angled slopes might miss those short periods of midday sun and the turf can get stressed from the equipment traffic that is required to mow it.

To eliminate that eyesore and provide consistent, attractive surrounds, get rid of that shaded tee-slope turf and convert the area into ground covering and plants that can handle the shady conditions.

If erosion is a factor, a geo-textile fabric can be installed first and then install your plants right into it. The edge of the tee-height grass can be managed with an edger, and carefully mowing around the perimeter can create a very neat look.

A turf walkup can be used that also can be mowed at the same height as the tee top. If that's not a good option, gravel, washed shell, aggregate screenings, paver stones or other walkup options can work well for you.

Course designs in recent years are trending to have less out-of-play turf acreage and have tee complexes using this concept. If it works for you after the fact, and gets rid of an unsightly area where growing turf is impossible, go for it!

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# Fair advantage: Career portfolios

## By Angela Nitz, GCSAA Corporate Communications Manager

Editor's note: This article first appeared in **Golf Course Maintenance** magazine in September 2011 as the first of a series on career development tips. The host superintendent for our cover story, Steve Keller, loaned me his personal profile for background information. It seemed like a good time to remind everyone of ways to document your skills and accomplishments for the record and your resume. Reprinted with permission from GCSAA.

Whether you are looking for a new job or hoping to increase your profile in your current position, finding a way to stand out from the crowd is vital in the current economy. Creating a career portfolio is one way you can stay ahead of the competition.

A career profile is a marketing tool that displays a collection of photos, files and documents organized in a digital format such as a website, CD or PowerPoint presentation that shows a comprehensive view of your career. "It's to give context to your career," says Carol Rau, PHR, GCSAA's career service consultant. "You can only put so much in one- to two-page cover letter and resume. A portfolio gives you the opportunity to provide a visual and detailed way to convey and communicate what you can do."

While it may seem like a daunting task, getting started is easy. Begin by simply compiling and organizing information and photos that you already have. Examples of items to put into your portfolio include:

- Work philosophy
- Career goals
- Resume
- Tournament experience
- Career highlights
- References, letters of recommendation
- Community leadership and involvement

• Photos, including before-and-after shots of projects Rau says having this basic "library" of information is a start, and then you can choose which information to provide to others depending on the audience it is intended for. For example, the information highlighted by a superintendent who is looking for a job at a public facility would be different from that featured by a superintendent who wanted to use the portfolio to inform club members about recent projects. But what is specifically included in your portfolio is not as important as having one in the first place.

"You have to be competitive in this market, whether internally by showing how you add value or when you are conducting a job search and need to show how you will provide better results than the other candidates." Says Rau. "All superintendents perform the same basic job duties, so any tool you can use to show that you perform them better gives you a huge advantage."

Once you have collected your data, decide how you are going to distribute the information. You can provide a link to a personal website or blog containing the information, develop a PowerPoint presentation or create a CD that contains all the information in an easy-access format. For job seekers, that information can be included with your résumé (either by including a link to the information or including the CD or by offering it to a prospective

# WHAT IS SPECIFICALLY INCLUDED IN YOUR PORTFOLIO IS NOT AS IMPORTANT AS HAVING ONE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

employer when an interview has been scheduled). Whenever you choose to present it, make sure it is well organized and concise. And never underestimate the value of pictures.

"Photos, even if they are taken out on the course with your smart phone, really validate what you have accomplished. Before-and-after pictures can be very powerful," says Rau. For more information visit the Jobs section of gcsaa.org and click on "career resources" or visit www.gcsaa.tv and watch Rau's quick presentation, "Tips for Resumes and Career Portfolios."



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## INDUSTRY NEWS

HITE GRUB

# WHITE GRUBS ON GREENS

SIGNS OF WHITE GRUB DAMAGE ON THE PUTTING GREEN SURFACE.

By Todd Lowe, USGA Senior Agronomist Florida Region

White grubs feed on turfgrass roots and create small, distinct patterns of damage on greens. A cup cutter was used to reveal the culprit.

The warm, subtropical climate of South Florida supports the growth of many turfgrass pests. Mole crickets and nematodes are, by far, among the most damaging pests on Florida golf courses, but occasionally we see other critters on our visits.

While on a visit to a golf facility this past week, small semi-circular-tocrescent-shaped brown spots were observed on several putting greens. These scuffmarks were two to three inches long and, if there weren't multiple spots in each location, they might have gone unnoticed. A soap flush was unsuccessful at bringing anything to the surface so a cup cutter was used to pinpoint the cause of the problem: a white grub.

There are a number of types of beetles that lay their eggs in turf at different times of the year. These eggs hatch and their larvae (grubs) feed on turfgrass roots. Oftentimes, these pests go unnoticed but can create a drought-like appearance if their populations become large enough. Additional damage can be caused by predators like birds, skunks and Photos by Todd Lowe

armadillos that dig for white grubs, one of their favorite food sources.

Unfortunately, we killed the pest before a more in-depth diagnosis of its raster pattern and anal slit (yes, we actually identify grubs by looking at their rear ends) was made. However, this particular grub was most likely from a green June beetle or a sugarcane beetle, as they are more active later in the year.

To learn more about the life cycles and control of white grubs in Florida, see the article, *White Grub Management in Turf* from University of Florida entomologist, Dr. Eileen Buss.



# **NEW SPECIAL** LOCAL NEEDS REGISTERED NEMATICIDE

From the UF/IFAS publication, "Chemically Speaking," October 2013 issue:

On October 15, the Florida Department of Agriculture (FDACS) issued the special local needs registration for the insecticide/ nematicide abamectin (Avid®) for management of ring and sting nematodes in golf course greens. The EPA registration number and SLN number for the product are 100-986 and SLN FL-130004, respectively. (FDACS letter, 10/15/13).

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# Highlights from the University of Florida's North Central Florida Turfgrass Field Day

#### By John Foy, USGA Director, Florida Region

On Oct. 9, the University of Florida and Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences held its annual North Central Florida Turfgrass Field Day at the IFAS turfgrass research center in Citra. Attendees enjoyed field tours of research plots to learn about results of research projects under way. Following are a few highlights from presentations on turfgrass disease and nematode management given by the University of Florida's Drs. Phil Harmon and Billy Crow.

Dr. Harmon reported that, year to date, the Rapid Turfgrass Diagnostic Service already had received and processed more than 600 samples from around the state, already more than what was received during 2012. This confirms field observations that disease activity has been higher this year and is at least partially due to most areas receiving greater than normal rainfall.

It was reported that over the past two to three months, leaf and sheath blight (caused by *Rhizoctonia zeae*) had been the most common disease diagnosis in the samples received from golf course putting greens. For fall and early winter, Dr. Harmon expects a shift to an increased incidence of leaf spot disease (caused by *Bipolaris firmus*) on putting greens.

This has been the pattern over the past two to three years. Given the negative impact on turf health and quality from leaf spot disease being experienced recently, a more proactive or preventive fungicide treatment program is being suggested this year.



With no single sure-fire nematicide in the marketplace, Dr. Billy Crow has been evaluating an integrated management program to control nematodes. Photo by Joel Jackson.



With more than 600 samples sent to the UF/IFAS Rapid Disease Diagnosis Service this year, pathologist Dr. Phil Harmon reported that this has been a very active year with Rhizoctonia zeae (Brown Patch) as the most common diagnosis. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Plant parasitic nematodes also continue to be a primary pest concern on courses throughout Florida. Landscape nematologist Dr. Billy Crow has been evaluating a variety of products for managing/suppressing these worm-like organisms that feed on and damage the root system of the turf.

Unfortunately, no single product has been identified that provides comparable control to fenamiphos (Nemacur\*), the longtime industry standard which is no longer available for

use on golf courses. With funding being provided by the USGA, Dr. Crow has been evaluating an integrated management program using a combination of products. Both calendar- and monitoring-based treatment schedules have provided satisfactory results when a rotation is used with treatments of a biological product containing the bacteria *Bacillus firmus* (Nortica), furfural (Multi-Guard Protect\*) and abamectin (Avid\*).

At this time, abamectin is still not available for use in Florida, but the process of getting a 24(c) Special Local Need label from the EPA is under way and hopefully will be available in the near future. It was also reported that positive results were being achieved with other compounds and we are all hopeful that there will soon be additional options available to help battle nematodes.

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## STEWARDSHIP

# The Florida Master Naturalist Program Craig Weyandt



UF FLORIDA IFAS A belted kingfisher got Craig Weyandt started down the path to Master Naturalist.

As a golf course superintendent, I have always looked at the profession as more than the person who prepares the field of play for golfers on a daily basis. I consider myself a land manager and a people manager.

Recently, though, I have even begun to think of myself as a wildlife manager, too. A few years back, a bird (belted kingfisher to be exact) flew into a window here at the club. Soon thereafter I received a call that the bird was injured and what was I going to do about it? Mind you, I have taken classes in agronomy, horticulture, plant sciences, etc. but never in ornithology, zoology or animal care of any kind.

So what makes me qualified to take care of an injured bird? Nothing does! Kind of like saying, you work at an airport... they have planes there... you know how to fly, right? Silly when you think of it; and, I must admit, at first I was not happy with the thought that every time wildlife showed its head around the

property I was going to get a call. Most of the time those calls are for a dead squirrel in the road or my favorite: someone saw a snake on No. 5. OK, is the snake still there? What did it look like? The typical response is, "I don't know; it slithered away!"

I have been just as frustrated as my colleagues at some of the nature calls I have received but... after thinking about it, who else could receive the call? What's wrong with being seen as the wildlife expert? Answer: nothing is wrong with it; it's a good thing. I would much rather be seen as the nature guy than the fertilizer or pesticide guy.

So if you are going to be referred to as the Nature Guy or Gal, and

you want to learn more about Florida's unique ecosystems and habitats, have I got just the program for you: The Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP) is a 120-hour educational program designed to teach students about Florida's coastal, upland and wetland natural systems.

This is a University of Florida extension-based program that

is offered at various sites throughout Florida. The objectives of the FMNP are to prepare participants to share

their knowledge with others, to act in a positive manner, to help others feel a greater connection to the land, and to help others to develop their own personal land ethic. Through classroom, field trip, and practical experience, the FMNP provides instruction on the general ecology, habitats, vegetation types, wildlife, and conservation issues in Florida. The program also addresses society's role in the environment, discusses environmental ethics, and develops naturalist interpretation skills.

That's a mouthful. So, why did I take the course and what does it mean to me? First I joined the program because it sounded intriguing and I share a love of nature. It kind of goes back to that belted kingfisher flying into the window and being seen as the "go-to person" about birds and nature.

What I didn't know is that the FMNP would change me.



It has made me a better public speaker. I continue to learn more about Florida's plants and animals, the unique habitat we all share and, most importantly, the art of interpretation.

I didn't even know what interpretation was before taking the class. The art of interpretation is sharing your enthusiasm and information with others in a thought-provoking manner. After all, what's the point of learning about all these things if you can't share it with others?

I can honestly say that the FMNP changed me, made me more aware, changed my buying

practices, the way I use water, the way I live. They say asking a Florida Master Naturalist a question is like trying to get a drink out of a fire hydrant. Just ask me a question about a bird or a plant and you will find out.

To learn more about the Florida Master Naturalist Program go to www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu



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# AFTERWORDS

# FIELD OBSERVATIONS

# Keeping the Appropriate Life Balance



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

I have something that I wanted to address and I hope it's not too personal. I writing this with the desire that it may help at least one person to pause and think about the things that are most important in life. Throughout my career I have run around like my hair is on fire and tried to be everything to everybody, especially at work. As a superintendent, I know how easy it is to focus primarily on the job at hand and lose touch with the other aspects of your life. I did this on a regular basis and it was a contributing factor in the failure of my first marriage. One of my biggest regrets is that I did not get to see my three oldest boys grow up. They relocated to Ohio, as I continued to work in Florida.

I know a number of my colleagues who have endured similar circumstances. Through the years, summertime visits and holidays were not enough to replace what should have been a father's everyday experience.

Last August I was driving to a strategic planning session with the North Florida GCSA. I thought about my sons and was going to call but thought better of it because it was raining during my drive and I needed to pay attention to the road. The rain continued on the drive home so I never placed the call. The next day I completed my notes and sent them back to the board of the North Florida GCSA and conducted my typical day. I got so invested in work that I forgot all about the call I had not made the previous day. That evening the phone rang at 8:04 and I answered to hear my oldest son

# Remember that your family needs you with them more than the job does.

on the phone. I heard his mother asking if I had picked up. My son handed the phone to her and she immediately blurted out that our son Hunter had been found dead in his bedroom. The words hit me like a gunshot, and I fell to the floor. I could not move as the words ricocheted in my head. I was going to call him yesterday and I did not!! Over the next several days, weeks, and even months I was pretty numb and could not get a handle on everything that had happened. My 15 year-old son, Hunter, had passed away from an accidental drug overdose. I still ask myself - "if I had called that day, would things be different. "I don't have the answer to that question, but I ask it to myself very frequently!!

I know this is an extreme example and I hope that no one else ever experiences anything like this. I wanted to share my story so that if you are reading this article, you will take the time and examine your own situation to determine if you have the appropriate life balance. There will always be greens that need attention or irrigation repairs that need to be made and reports to be filed, but remember that your family needs you with them more than the job does.

In the year and two months that have gone by since my son passed away, I believe I have found a better life balance. God is first, my family is second, and I am third. I have those words written inside my notebook

in case I let my priorities get confused. With the business of the golf season upon us, I just wanted to remind you to take time to spend with your family, the issues on the golf course, or on any job for that matter, will be there to be tackled tomorrow. Until next time, Ralph Dain GCSAA Regional Representative (FL)



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# AFTERWORDS

# SUMMING UP THE SUMMIT



# GREEN SIDE UP By Joel Jackson

Recently *Golfdom Magazine* held its 3rd Annual Summit at the Reunion Resort in west Orange County. The Summit invites 50-60 superintendents from around the country to network with fellow superintendents and have 15-minute, one-onone sessions with product manufacturers.

The setting allows for quality two-way conversations without any distractions. The evening receptions, meals and golf outing give everyone interesting networking opportunities by meeting and swapping war stories with superintendents from the four corners of the country.

Six Florida superintendents were in attendance. I managed to chat with four of them toward the end of the conference to get their impressions of the event:

Kasey Kauff, Country Club of Orlando; Jason Kubel, TPC Tampa Bay; Erik Pinkham, Riverwood GC and Steve Moffitt, Bobcat Trail GC were unanimous in one comment: The networking was indeed interesting and informative. The nature of the Summit

was to create an intimate and friendly setting for peer networking as well as scheduling 15-minute, one-on-one meetings with manufacturers' representatives to discuss new equipment and products, technology and chemistry. Golfdom also succeeded on that score as well. The Florida superintendents I spoke with definitely liked the organized, focused sessions in a quieter atmosphere, rather than on a hustling, bustling trade show floor.

Kasey Kauff said the new, larger-capacity, rotary rough mower from Jacobsen interested him. He could envision productivity increasing with this mower.

Jason Kubel was impressed with the GPS features and controls on the Smithco spray rig. He said, "I get that it gives precise spray applications and avoids wasting chemicals on over-spraying. It would be a money-saver over the long haul. I also liked the Hurricane X3, Stand-On Riding Blower. It is great for cart path blowing and for those hard-to-reach spots in roughs with lots of trees. And another plus is that I don't have to tie up a tractor to pull it. They have smooth tires for use on greens and tees as well.

Erik Pinkham said some of the FMC herbicide products and their technology was new to him. He said he would be following up on those products to help his weed-control program.

Steve Moffitt said, "The oneon-one time with the vendors was ideal. Sometimes at work it's tough to break away and visit with the local sales rep. This format provided an ideal time to ask questions and get the latest and greatest in product information. Overall, it was a nice atmosphere to gather my thoughts and focus on the learning experience." Mark Woodward, Steve Mona and Annika Sorenstam were powerful speakers at the Summit. They tackled meaningful topics arising from the current state of the industry including increasing job losses, necessary united efforts to grow the game and life and career goal-setting.

Sorenstam gave an inspirational presentation on how she prepared herself to achieve the goals she set for herself in life. She talked us through the history-making 59 she shot and the reasoning and reactions to her decision to play in a PGA Tour men's event.

You couldn't come away from the Summit without being energized to do better in your life and work. I came across a quote in the Peaks and Prairies GCSA newsletter vesterday that hits the nail on the head and fits with what FGCSA President Kevin Sunderman has been telling us in his latest President's Messages. The quote comes from Edward Everett Hale: "I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And what I can do, I ought to do. And what I ought to do, by the grace of God, I shall do."



The 15th hole, Plantation G&CC. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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