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# The Florida Green

Summer 2015

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**ON THE COVER:** Number 9 hole, Gold Course., Wyndemere Country Club, Naples. Photo by Joel Jackson.

## FOREWORDS

# Changing Times and New Opportunities

Well, the member-guest tournaments are done, the car carriers are gone and the heat index says 100-plus; that must mean summer is here. I hope everyone had a successful season and is making headway with his or her summer cultural practices. It is amazing how much renovation work is happening on courses around the state. Just in my area alone, there are 12 clubs that are renovating to some degree. That's a great sign that the health of golf is strong! It's also a positive sign that clubs have the capital to invest back into their facilities and it's a great sign for the foreseeable future!

On the advocacy front, when your FGCSA leadership team went to Tallahassee for Florida Golf Day last spring, we met Beth Alvi who works with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and is a program administrator for the department's Water Quality Restoration Program.

Beth is reaching out to our association as FDEP takes on the Natural Springs Restoration and Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP). Additionally the FDEP is working with our Association to distribute a voluntary, anonymous survey for superintendents to fill out so that the FDEP can get a better handle on nitrogen use on golf courses.

Partly due to the FGCSA's proactive BMP Certification Program success and the natural position superintendents take as environmental stewards, the FGCSA has developed a good reputation with the FDEP. Partnerships like this are valuable to the industry and help to tell our story.

Changing subjects: Has anyone ever heard of a guy named Joel Jackson? He's been around for a while, done a few things, and been involved in the state association what seems like forever. I'm sad to say that "Uncle Joel," as I call him since he seems to know everyone and everyone knows him, is getting ready to pull the plug on work all together and fully retire.



Bill Davidson, CGCS

As many of you know, in recent years Joel has pulled back a little bit from the FGCSA's day-to-day stuff and has been working solely on the publication side of the association as The Florida Green editor. It was with a heavy heart that we accepted Joel's request to retire and head out West for good so he and his wife, Susie, can spend more time with their daughter, Jennifer, in California.

To take over Joel's position as editor of The Florida Green, the FGCSA's board of directors has decided to hire Trent Bouts. Trent is not a new name in the industry and many of you may already be familiar with his work. He is the current editor of the Carolinas Green (the Carolinas GCSA's publication), Through The Green (the Georgia GCSA's publication) and Palmetto Golfer (the South Carolina Golf Assoc.). Trent also writes regularly on broader golf industry topics and has a wealth of knowledge, experience and contacts, so we are excited for him to bring to our Association and The Florida Green.

Hopefully you are planning to attend our 24th Annual Golf Team Championship and Scramble Tournament at the Reunion Resort just west of Orlando and our Roundtable Discussion and Inaugural Opening Reception on Aug. 13-14. Trent will be facilitating the discussion session and this will be a great opportunity to welcome him to the association.

And finally, please take some time to send Joel an email, or a call, and thank him for all the years of service. He has helped so many of us countless times, without ever needing or getting credit. He has been to so many meetings defending the game of golf and done so much for us that I'm not sure a simple thank you is big enough. Yet, we would all be remiss if we didn't acknowledge him and say "THANK YOU, JOEL!"

## FROM THE FORWARD TEES

## My How Time Flies!



By: Jennifer Bryan, FGCSA Executive Director

Each year, I am more aware of how fast time travels! It is hard to believe that we are in the thick of summer, and Christmas will be here before

we know it. I remember hearing my parents remark on the fact "that time flies, the older you get." I had no idea how true those words were!

I am sure you have all received your membership renewal applications and your first thought was, "Didn't I just turn this in?" It might feel like it, but I can assure you it's just time playing its tricks and it really was a whole year ago! If you have not done so already, please

be sure to get those renewals in.

My goal each year is to produce a Membership Directory that lists "All" of our members. There is nothing more disappointing than getting a membership application the day after I have submitted my final member list to the printer.

I wish it were an easier process and I could submit names right up to press time, but production of the directory is anything but simple. It takes about two months once all the ads and data are submitted until it is mailed, so submitting your renewal forms in a timely manner really is important.

Here's another example of time moving quickly: our first Golf BMP Certified Class of 2012 has met the first milestone: re-certification time!

That's right! All of you, who received your Golf BMP Certification in 2012, are celebrating your four-year Certification Anniversary and will need to be recertified in 2016. Make a note of this on your calendar so you don't miss out on a class.

The Golf BMP Certification is good for four years. Once the four-year milestone is reached, you will need to do one of two things: either retake the certification test or attend the all-day education session. Your participation in the class will automatically renew your certification.

Golf BMP Certification classes will be held in the Naples area on August 31 (location to be announced later). Two half-day sessions will be offered during the FTGA Conference and Show on Sept. 14 and 15 in Orlando at the Caribe Royale Hotel in Lake Buena Vista.

You must attend both half-day sessions to complete the full-day re-certification requirement. Another full-day session will be offered in October (date to be determined later) at the UF/IFAS Research & Education Center in Citra.

To encourage more participation, the FGCSA is offering the following price breaks: (1) Any employee of an FGCSA member shall be entitled to pay the FGCSA member rate and (2) Any facility or company that sends more than one employee to attend a Golf BMP seminar in a single day will receive a 50 percent discount for each additional employee. This is a great incentive! Don't let time slip away! Sign up and get certified!

As you read this, we are getting ready to host our 24th Annual FGCSA Golf Team Championship and Scramble which will include a Roundtable Discussion and Inaugural Reception at Reunion Resort, Aug. 13-14. I hope you will participate.

This is a great way for superintendents from all over the state to get together in one location. We are excited about the new format and look forward to this event growing each year. If you don't make it this year, I promise, before you know it, it'll be here again. Time has a funny way of doing that. ■

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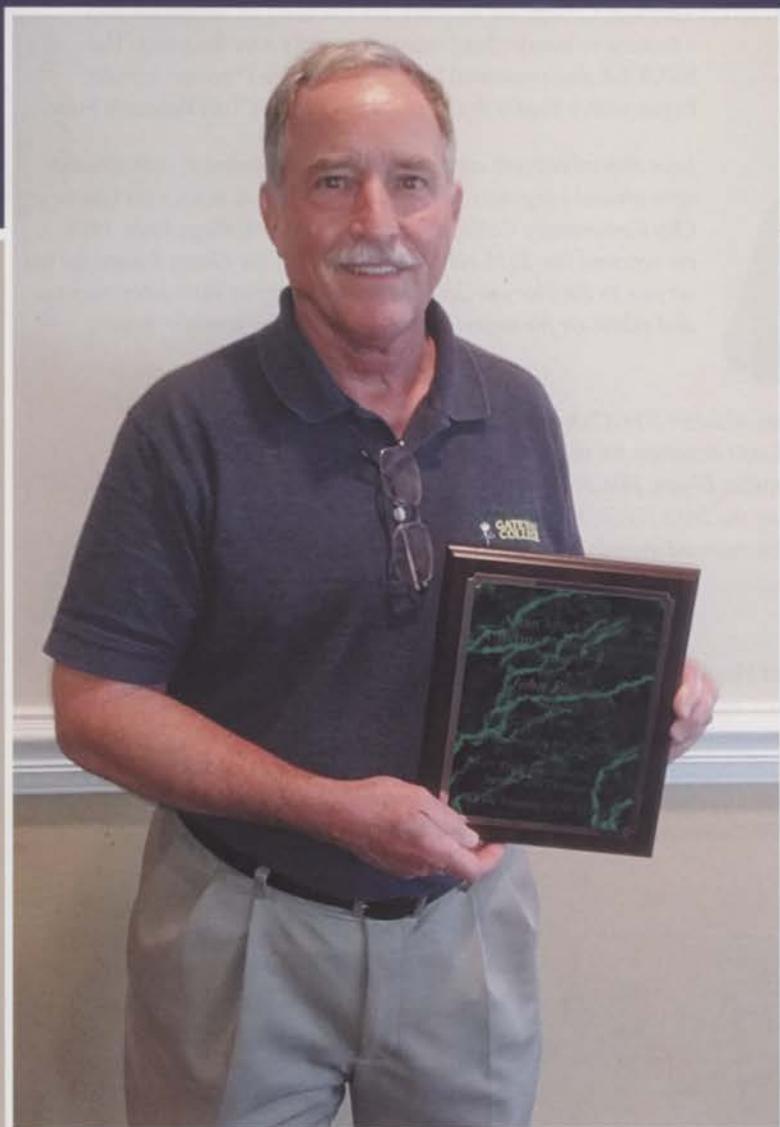
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# Chapter Round Up

## Spring Cleaning

Yes, the snowbirds have cleaned out their lockers and headed home for the summer. Meanwhile FGCSA chapters have been busy hosting a flurry of major fundraising events from March to June. Now the serious business of course cultivation and renovation projects begins in earnest. Here's a chronological recap of recent events.

## North Florida

In March, the 2015 NFGCSA Memorial Scholarship Tournament was held at the LPGA International GC in Daytona Beach. This year the chapter honored John Piersol of Florida Gateway College with their Keeper of the Green Award. Piersol has worked for the Lake City Community College/Florida Gateway College for 40 years. He has been an instructor and a mentor to hundreds of superintendents over the years. The NFGCSA also presented FGCSA Executive Director Jennifer Bryan with a \$5,000 donation to the FGCSA Turf Research Fund.



*John Piersol current executive director of business, industrial & agricultural programs at Florida College, has been with Lake City Community College/Florida Gateway College since 1974. He received the 2015 NFGCSA Keeper of the Green Award for his service to the Florida Golf Course Industry as instructor, mentor and advocate for superintendents. Photo by Jennifer Bryan.*

*From left: Nate Maurer, NFGCSA treasurer, presents a \$5,000 donation for turf research to Jennifer Bryan, FGCSA executive director during the 2015 NFGCA Memorial Scholarship Tournament awards ceremonies. Photo by Betty Hooten.*



## Seven Rivers

The 22nd Annual Jeff Hayden Memorial Envirotron Classic once again filled the Rolling Oaks and Pine Barrens courses at the World Woods Golf Club last April. This highly successful turfgrass research event helps bolster funding for projects at the University of Florida. The Champion Sponsors once again presented the chapter with a check for \$25,000 to keep research dollars available for UF/IFAS projects.



*Champion Sponsors present a \$25,000 check to the Seven Rivers Chapter. From left: Glenn Oberlander, tournament chairperson; Chad Nixon, Golf Ventures; Andy Jorgensen, Seven Rivers GCSA president; Mike Rowe, Golf Ventures; Glen Thompson, Golf Ventures. Photo by Dr. Jason Kruse.*

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Partnership Opportunities are available all year.

**Suncoast/West Coast**

The Suncoast and West Coast Chapters are entering their third year of joint meetings and events in a cooperative merger venture. They are rededicating their efforts to improve member communications. They are altering the monthly chapter meeting format to set up full-day "education only" sessions to make "time away from work" more valuable plus earn more CEU's per session. They will also schedule gatherings strictly for socializing and/or golf outings. They are currently working on an advance annual calendar so members can better plan their schedules.



*Networking is one of the main benefits of attending chapter events. These folks are doing just that at the Suncoast/West Coast Scramble last May. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

In the Suncoast Scramble golf event, two teams tied with winning scores of 58. In a match of cards, the team of Mike Strube, GCS at Feather Sound CC, John



*At the Suncoast Scramble meeting, local meteorologist Bob Harrigan on WWSB, Channel 7 in Sarasota gave an interesting talk on how forecasters use several prediction models to forecast probable hurricane paths. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

Peck, Lisa Peck and Chad Nixon, sales rep with Golf Ventures took first place. The second-place team was Denny Albert, director of agronomy with Pope Golf; Keith Pope, owner of Pope Golf; Dale Taylor, GCS at Misty Creek Country Club; and Lee Crosby, sales rep with Harrell's. The chapter continues their annual support of the Ronald McDonald House and the Food Bank with the tournament proceeds.

**Treasure Coast**

The 2015 Blue Pearl Tournament was held at the Bent Pine Golf Course in Vero Beach in May. Last year the chapter hit a "home run" with the proceeds of the 2014 event. Here's an account from TCGCSA President Mat Boyd, "With last year's Blue Pearl proceeds, the chapter donated five iPads to the Indian River County School District and ten iPads to St Lucie County School District in April. These iPads were to be used for students only and not for faculty.



*Winners of the Blue Pearl Low Gross Flight were from left: Patrick Munson, Patrick Frasca, Jay Gunning and (not pictured) Brett Purcell.*

"I was invited to the St Lucie Public Schools district office for a board meeting on April 15 to receive a recognition award on behalf of the TCGCSA," Boyd continued. "At the board meeting, a mother of one of the students said a few words thanking the association and telling of how the iPad has impacted her

## THE PALM BEACH GCSA'S

# 2015 FUTURE OF GOLF TOURNAMENT

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





Greg Pheneger, left, bid \$6,000 and won the first Bayer Power Pak auction of the year. Bayer rep Brian MacCurrach reminded the crowd that the auction proceeds go back to the chapter as part of the fundraising effort.

son, who had not spoken a word in the past couple of years.

“The iPads had ‘unlocked’ this child and brought out some small — but positive — verbal communication that had not been there in the past couple of years between the student and teachers. The mom was teary and crying because of the impact the donation had made to her child and she was extremely grateful. I believe her son had autism or a form of autism. The children who were benefiting from the iPads are in the ESE (Exceptional Student Education) program.”

The TCGCSA has been investing in community and school environmental stewardship education programs and projects from year one of this event. Congratulations on clearly having an impact on your communities.



From the left: Dr. George Snyder and Dr. Aaron Patton presented information at the Turf Symposium deserving of follow up by attendees to improve turf management performance. Photo by Joel Jackson.

### Everglades

More than 70 people attended the EGCSA’s Spring Turf Symposium April 23 at the Naples Beach Hotel. Another outstanding roster of speakers shared their research results and golf course maintenance tips with the audience from 7 am to 4 pm.

The roster of speakers and topics included:

- Aaron Patton, Ph.D., Purdue University: The Impact of Your Spray Tank Water on Pesticide Performance
- William (Billy) Crow, Ph.D., University of Florida: Nematode Management on Golf Course Turf, 2015
- Lane Tredway, Ph.D., Syngenta Company: New Approaches to Insect and Nematode Management
- George Snyder, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, University of Florida: Monitoring Root Zone Properties of Golf Course Greens Over Time
- J. Bryan Unruh, Ph.D., University of Florida: Light, Water and Nutrients: The Three “Must Haves” When Growing Turf

- John Foy, Regional Agronomist, United States Golf Association Green Section: Observations From Around The State. A Look Back at the Past Year and Decade of Golf Course Management in Florida.

*Ed note: Dr. Snyder made special reference to the negative effects of varying top dressing sand sizes versus the original greens mix. You might want to follow up with him at: ghsnyder@ufl.edu. Also, Dr. Patton’s presentation on spray tank water with regard to the negative effects of pH, hardness and additives and the products themselves is worth investigating. You can contact him at: ajpatton@purdue.edu.*

In May the EGCSA hosted the Annual Poa Golf Classic which is a three-day event consisting of the FGCSA Spring Board Meeting and Past President’s Dinner; a FGCSA half-day education seminar; the G.C. Horn Endowment Scholarship Tournament and wrapping up with the Poa Annua Golf Classic, which consists of a stroke-play tournament for golfers trying to qualify for the FGCSA’s national team and a scramble event for the rest of the field.

Deron Zendt from the Banyan Golf Club won the stroke play event held at the Hole-in-the-Wall GC and is the first person to qualify for the Florida State Team.



From left: Deron Zendt, superintendent from the Banyan Golf Club won the 2015 Poa Annua Classic Golf Championship and is the first FGCSA member to qualify for the 2016 GCSAA Golf Championship to be held in San Diego next February. Tournament host Nick Sabatino, GCS of the Hole-in-the-Wall Golf Club, presented the trophy to Zendt. Photo by Steve Wright.



From left: Immediate Past President Kevin Sunderman was given the FGCSA’s 2015 Distinguished Service Award by current president Bill Davidson, CGCS. Davidson also presented Nancy Miller, CGCS with her 2013 Past President’s Service Award, during the annual Past Presidents’ Dinner held at the Everglades GCSA Poa Annua Classic every May.

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**Palm Beach**

The 35th Annual Future of Golf Tournament event made it through 17 holes before the lightning siren sounded and forced everyone off the golf course on a cloudy day, which held off as long as it could. But the day wasn't a total loss as the chapter presented a \$10,000 check to the First Tee of the Palm Beaches.

This event was also an occasion to honor the career and contributions of former superintendent Mark Jarrell, CGCS with the 2015 FGCSA Presidents Award for Lifetime Service to the golf industry. Jarrell recently retired from the PGA National Golf Club in Lake Worth. He is also a past president of the Palm Beach chapter, the Florida GCSA, and the Florida Turfgrass Association. Jarrell was also a regular writer for the *Florida Green* magazine. Congratulations Mark!



*Palm Beach GCSA donates \$10,000 to the Palm Beach First Tee organization. From left: Kevin Downing CGCS, Carl Mistretta, executive director for the First Tee of the Palm Beaches; Mark Reid, The Breakers Golf Club and Deron Zendt, president of the Palm Beach GCSA. Photo by Joel Jackson*



*Palm Beach GCSA President Deron Zendt presents former superintendent Mark Jarrell, CGCS with a 2015 President's Award for Lifetime Service to the Florida GCSA and the golf industry. Jarrell is a Past President of the PBGCSA, the Florida GCSA and the Florida Turfgrass Association. He is also a former writer for the Florida Green magazine. Photo by Joel Jackson.*



*Steve Pearson, CGCS (left) host for the Future of Golf event won the bidding for the 2nd Bayer Power Pak Auction of the year with a bid of \$5,700. Once again, Brian MacCurrach (right) explained how that money would be returned to the chapter as proceeds for this event. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

**Florida GCSA**

Florida was well represented by Darren Davis, CGCS, Kevin Sunderman, and Ralph Dain in Washington D.C. for the annual National Golf Day visit coordinated by the GCSAA. This annual trip reminds members of Congress that the golf industry has valuable economic and social rewards for communities across America.

On a more sentimental note, this will be Joel Jackson's last full issue as editor of the *Florida Green* magazine. See his farewell message in the Afterwords section. The Florida GCSA has hired a new editor, Trent Bouts, who also edits the superintendent magazines for the Georgia and Carolinas Associations. Both Jennifer Bryan and Joel know Trent from many Chapter Leaders and Editors Sessions at the GCSAA GIS.

*Darren Davis CGCS, Old Florida GC and GCSAA director; Kevin Sunderman, Isla Del Sol Y&CC, past president of the FGCSA and Ralph Dain, GCSAA's regional representative were part of the 2015 National Golf Day delegation. Photo posted by Darren Davis.*



# — THE 2015 — SUNCOAST SCRAMBLE

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## FLORIDA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION AWARDS KEVIN SUNDERMAN WITH THE 2015 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



*FGCSA Past President Kevin Sunderman received the 2015 FGCSA Distinguished Service Award at the Past President's Dinner last May in Naples. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

Jensen Beach, Fla. The Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association (FGCSA) awards Immediate Past President and current Superintendent at Isla Del Sol Yacht & Country Club, Kevin Sunderman, with the FGCSA's 2015 Distinguished Service Award.

This prestigious award was established in 1985 as a form of recognition to a deserving FGCSA Superintendent who has performed outstanding achievements as a golf course superintendent and who has given his time unselfishly in promoting golf course management and unification of the FGCSA.

Sunderman has given his time unselfishly on the FGCSA Board of Directors for the past eight years. He has been an active Commit-

tee Chairman, a Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) Voting Delegate and currently heads the FGCSA Long Range Planning, Nominating, and By-Laws/SOP Committees.

In addition to the FGCSA Committees, Sunderman has served on several GCSAA Committees and currently serves on the GCSAA Government Relations Committee, Nominating Committee, Communications Outreach Task Group, Board Policy Oversight Task Group and serves as a GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador. He also represents the FGCSA on the Environmental Research & Education Foundation Board of Directors, in which the FGCSA was a founding member.

## TIM HIERS APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF AGRONOMY AT THE CLUB AT MEDITERRA



*Tim Hiers, CGCS has been named the Director of Agronomy at The Club at Mediterra in Naples to lead the course renovations and installation of Platinum Paspalum turfgrass.*

The Club at Mediterra has named Tim Hiers as its director of agronomy, with responsibility for the club's landscaping and its two-award winning, Tom Fazio-designed championship golf courses.

Hiers has more than 30 years of experience in the field of agronomy and golf course maintenance, including positions at nationally ranked John's Island Club in Vero Beach, Quail Ridge Country Club in Boynton Beach, Collier's Reserve Country Club and most recently as golf course superintendent and builder for Old Collier Golf Club in Naples.

Hiers is widely regarded as one of the top agronomists in the U.S. In 2003, Golf Digest ranked him as the number-two superintendent in the country, and in 2010 he was listed among Golf Inc.'s annual 20 most admired operators. He has been active in the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America at both the regional and national levels.

"We are very pleased to welcome Tim to Mediterra," said Carmen Mauceri, general

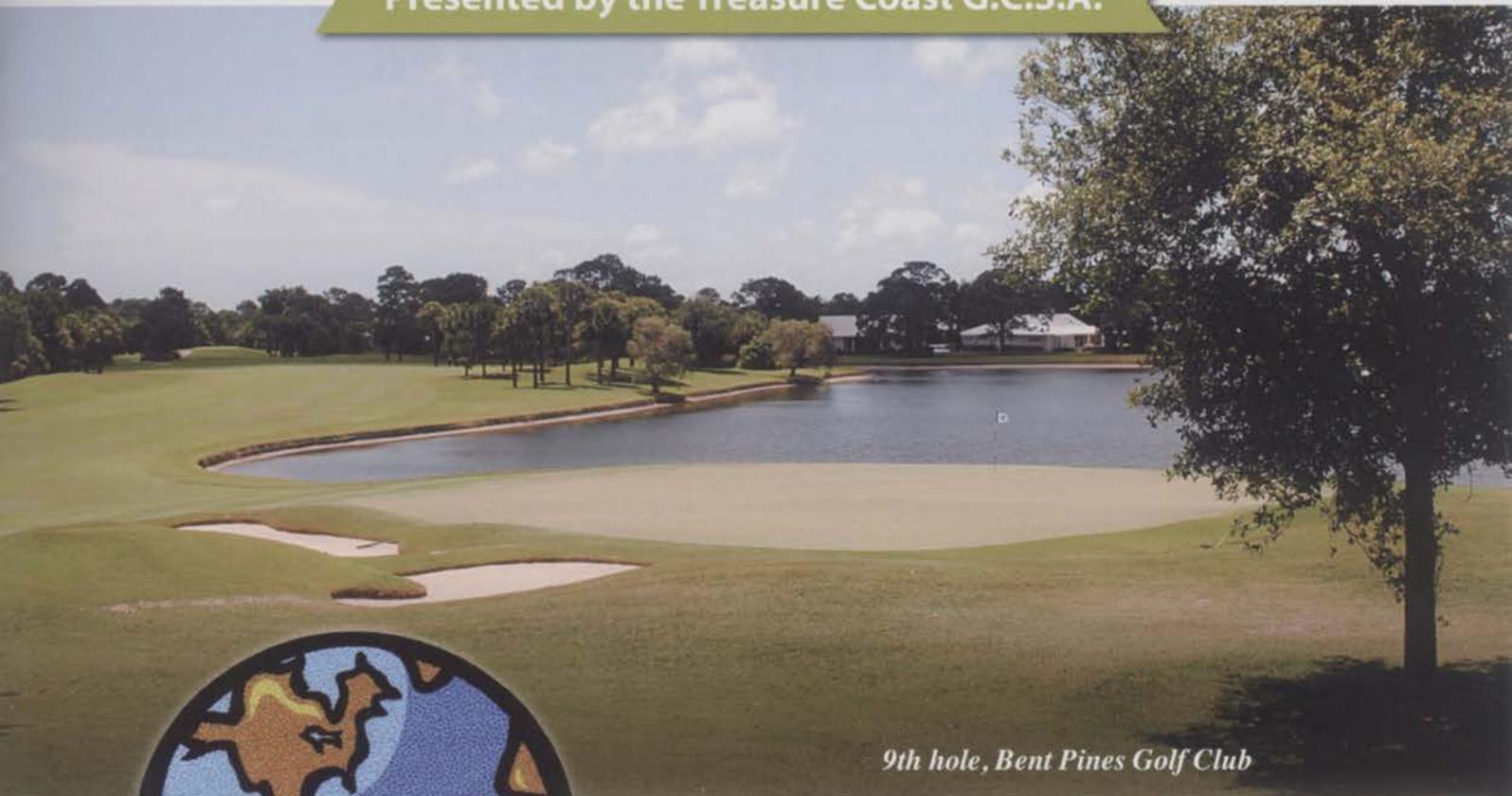
manager/COO of The Club at Mediterra. "Tim comes with a wealth of paspalum experience, a solid understanding of the unique aspects of the south Florida climate and water conditions, and a tremendous reputation for leadership and financial management. Our championship courses are the cornerstone of Mediterra, and in Hiers we have found a highly skilled agronomist for day-to-day and long-term management of these very valuable club assets."

"I am very excited for the opportunity to work with one of the top golf facilities in America," Hiers said. "Throughout my career, I have focused on environmentally friendly golf courses, and our focus will be on molding Mediterra into one of the top premier Platinum Paspalum facilities in the world."

The Club at Mediterra, recognized as one of the top private clubs in the world by Board Room magazine, is undergoing more than \$14 million in renovations of its North and South courses. Membership is limited to just 225 members per 18 holes.

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# THE WYNDEMERE COUNTRY CLUB: A 1980'S TREND SETTER

By Joel Jackson, CGCS Retired

In 1979 two Canadian businessmen, Gerald Livingston and Tom McIntyre, teamed up to build and develop Livingston's dream: creating a first-class golf community. But where would Livingston's dream come true? South Florida and the Caribbean were considered to be prime locations, and one day while flying over the cypress hammocks bordering the Golden Gate Parkway east of Naples they found their ideal site.

By 1981 the clubhouse was built and opened with golf available even as Arthur Hills and his team were finishing up the 27-hole layout. I said Wyndemere was a trendsetter, and indeed it was one of the new residential/golf communities that led the Florida Golf Boom in the 1980s. As the 1979-1981 recession ebbed, the real estate projects accelerated and Wyndemere was at the forefront of that growth.

As I toured the course in late May, those cypress trees and pine trees frame the entire layout and separate the holes, providing ample habitat for a large population of bird life. I saw many bluebird and purple martin nest boxes and birdhouses in these areas.

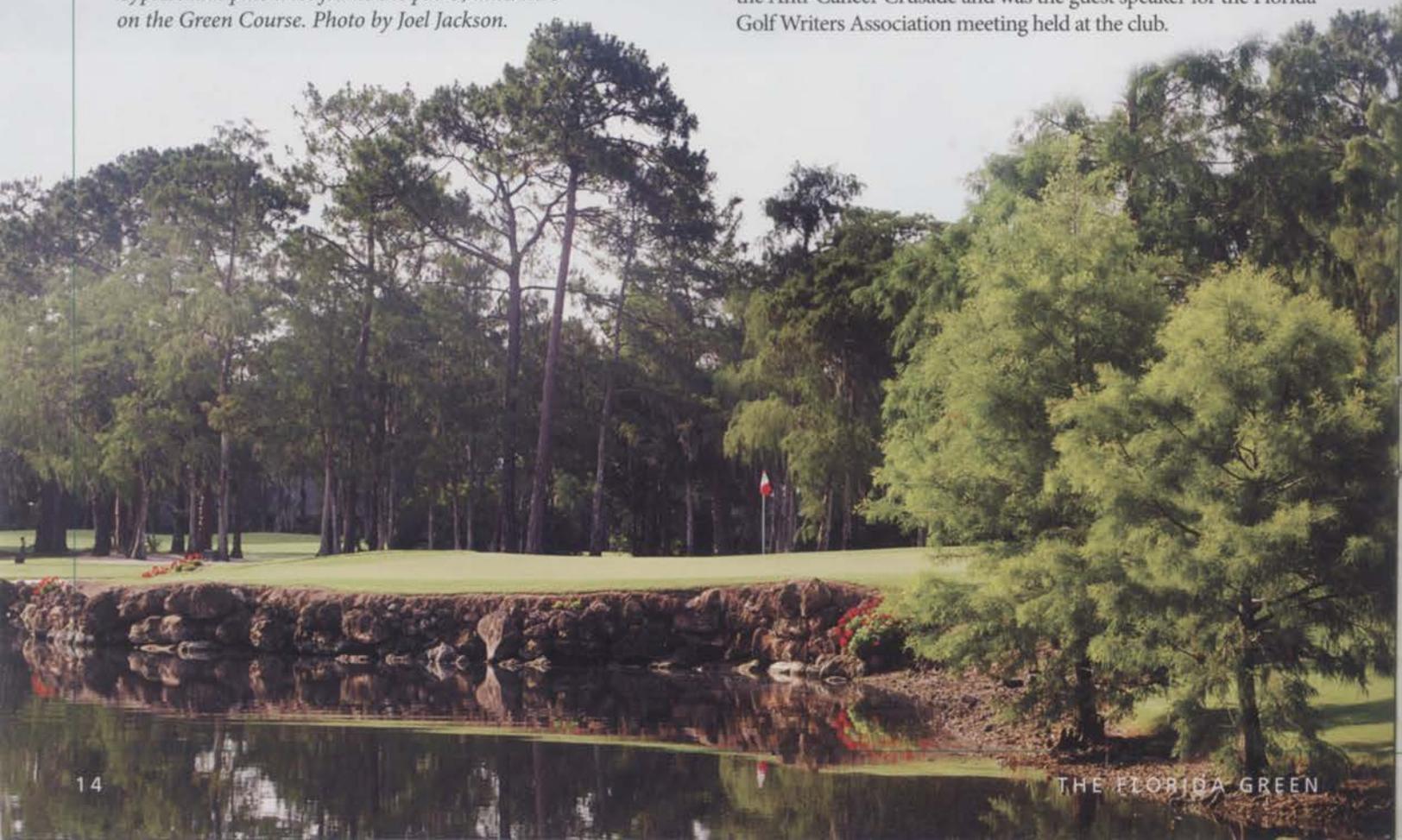
Wyndemere recently hired Brian Beckner (former superintendent

*Cypress and pine trees frame the par-3, third hole on the Green Course. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

and now principal of Native Bird Boxes, Inc.) to do bird counts and track the avian activity going forward. The club also plans to provide members with birding tours beginning this fall as an additional activity they can enjoy away from golf. Wyndemere is a certified member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program.

As Livingston sought to generate interest in his project he hired a close friend, Frank Musiello, to be the first general manager. Musiello and his wife, Janet had worked with television icon Arthur Godfrey and have many connections with other famous entertainers and sports figures. Around this time, the PGA Senior Golf Tour was starting up and soon Chi Chi Rodriguez and his friends Fuzzy Zoeller, Gary Player, Lee Trevino, John Cook, Sam Snead, Doug Sanders, Ken Venturi, and Doug Ford were spending time at Wyndemere and it became a regular tour stop. Other sports figures also became regulars, including Chicago Bears head coach Mike Ditka, who bought a home there. George Brett and the Kansas City Royals came down from Ft. Myers during spring training to play golf at Wyndemere.

Wyndemere also hosted many charity functions like Chi Chi's Youth Haven Tournament for underprivileged kids. Patti Berg, one of the founders of the LPGA, often played Wyndemere. She started the Anti-Cancer Crusade and was the guest speaker for the Florida Golf Writers Association meeting held at the club.



## SUPERINTENDENT FACTS

### Meet Aaron Ohloff

**Originally from:** Postville, Iowa

**Family:** My wife Stephanie and my two sons: Jackson (5) and Preston (2)

**Education:** 2003, B.S. Horticulture, Iowa State University

**Employment history:** 2004 IPM Specialist, The Club at Mediterra; 2004-2005 assistant golf course superintendent, The Club at Mediterra; 2005-2011 golf course superintendent, The Club at Mediterra; 2011-2014 golf course superintendent, Gateway Golf & Country Club. 2014-present golf course superintendent, Wyndemere Country Club.

**Professional affiliations:** Groups, offices held, honors and awards: GCSAA Class A Member. FGCSA Class A Member of the Everglades GCSA. Served on the board of directors from 2013 to the present.

**How did you get into the business?** My parents had me playing golf ever since I can remember. I grew up on a small 9-hole course called the Tri-City Golf Club in NE Iowa. No tee times. No dress code. No golf pro. I didn't know such a job existed. At some point when I was in high school they switched from the old pull-behind type fairway mower to the hydraulic riding mower. I took notice of the neat striping they produced and my serious interest began. A good friend got a job on this course and I'd watch him and talk to him about his various tasks. I learned there was more to it than just mowing grass. What sealed the deal was a conversation with my ag teacher in high school, who told me about his college roommate at Iowa State getting a degree in turfgrass management. I had no idea you could go to school for that type of thing., and so during my junior year in high school I knew what I wanted to pursue.

While at Iowa State, I worked for two superintendents: Randy Olson at Oneota CC in Decora, IA, and Phil Zeinert at Elgin Country Club in Elgin, IL. I owe both of these gentlemen a debt of gratitude to get me started in the business.

**Goals and Accomplishments:** Completed the Certified Golf Course Superintendent program through the GCSAA. I'd also love to experience hosting a PGA Tour, Champions Tour or LPGA Tour event. I want to feel that kind of pressure or challenge at least once in my career. I'd also like to be involved with a golf course construction project from day one!

**Personal philosophy of work:** Advice to prospective or new superintendents: Find site-specific methods needed to best utilize club resources. More importantly, learn how to work with people; they are your most important asset.

**Personal memorable moments – Good, bad, humorous:** Most recently: Winning the 2012 North Florida Fall Classic and a spot on the FGCSA Golf Team to play in the 2013 GCSAA Golf Championship in San Diego, while playing alongside a good friend. Back in late 1990s, when I worked at the Lost Key Club in Pensacola, I aced a par-three hole during the weekly Skins Game Day and golf pro Heath Slocum was in my group.

**Hobbies, interests, community:** I enjoy all sports. I grew up playing golf, basketball, baseball, football, and bowling. Growing up I collected everything that had Michael Jordan on it. That collection is still under my bed at my parent's house in Iowa. I spend a lot of time at work, so my free time right now is spent with family. We'll attend various local festivals, go to the beach and other family oriented events when I'm not working.



Aaron Ohloff, Golf Course Superintendent.  
Photo by Joel Jackson

I always find a club's history to be fascinating, and no less intriguing are the stories of the superintendents we find currently in charge of maintaining the best playing conditions possible for the enjoyment of the players of this grand old game.

Aaron Ohloff came on board last year; in fact he was listed as the superintendent at the Golden Gate G&CC in the FGCSA 2014 Directory. He came to Wyndemere just in time to oversee the renovation of the Green and Gold nines. This summer they are renovating the White nine. And next year begins a three-summer renovation of the irrigation system.

Actually, Ohloff likes the change of pace and challenge of building something. In fact he told me, "I would love to be on board from day one of a golf course construction project." A true competitor in sports, he also said he would enjoy experiencing the challenge and pressure of hosting a professional golf tour event someday.

Ohloff came to Florida from the Midwest, having grown up and gone to school in northeast Iowa. He grew up playing golf at a small municipal course and over the years began noticing the subtle changes in course conditions such as mowing patterns. One of his close friends got a job on the course and Ohloff would talk to him and learn about the complex world of turf maintenance. When he discovered that he could go to college and major in turfgrass management, he was hooked.

Beyond the textbook agronomics, Ohloff said he owes much of his success as a superintendent to two gentlemen he worked for during his student internships: Randy Olson at Oncota CC in Decora, IA and Phil Zeinert at the Elgin CC in Elgin, IL. They taught Ohloff "real world" turf management and gave him the opportunity to take on many areas of turf management besides course grooming, including pest control and irrigation responsibilities.

When Ohloff and his crew aren't involved in projects and can concentrate on routine course maintenance to create excellent playing conditions, he likes to verticut the greens weekly to biweekly, based on growing conditions during the winter golf season. In the summer months they will do more conventional verticutting with carbide-tipped blades and will aerify the greens four to five times during the summer. Tees, fairways and approaches will be verticut, aerified and topdressed four times each summer.



View from behind the Gold Course 7th green. The Knock-out roses (left) and red geraniums provide colorful accents throughout the golf course. Photo by Joel Jackson.



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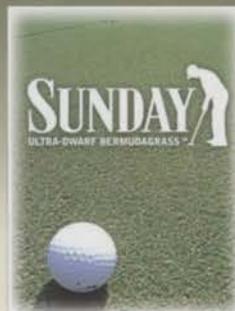
Regarding nutritional and pest-control programs, Ohloff said, "We spray greens weekly using Redox® products and growth regulators. We apply and rotate fungicides and insecticides only as needed. Since we now have new, USGA spec greens, we will apply two applications of Nordica® in the fall and spring and we have also applied Multigard® to help keep nematodes in check.

"The tees, approaches and fairways are sprayed biweekly and growth regulators are used on these areas during the summer months to control clipping yields. We also apply Chipco Choice® wall-to-wall in the spring to help control mole crickets and also Merit® for grub control. Ronstar® and Specticle® are used throughout the year to control weed grow in both turf and ornamental beds."

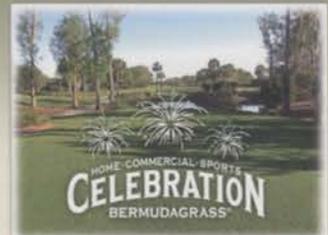
One of those intriguing facts I mentioned earlier regarding courses and superintendents came to light when discussing Ohloff's nutritional program for the course. He told me he doesn't buy stock blends from vendors; he formulates a custom blend based on the soil-sample analysis conducted prior to feeding the turf. His goal is to give the turf exactly what it needs based on the analysis. He consults with his primary fertilizer suppliers (Harrell's and Howard) on nutrient sources and formulas that they can custom blend for him.

Ohloff had some sage advice for those seeking an occupation as a golf course superintendent, "You must stay level-headed and believe in your

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talents. You also have to stay humble in this business. You are going to have good and bad days of the course's appearance, so you can't get too high or too low. Create a good plan and put it into motion. Continue to learn every day, and don't be afraid to reach out to other successful peers in your region. The best part of this industry is how open other superintendents are to sharing their knowledge."

Ohloff walks the talk. He approached Darren Davis, CGCS when Davis was president of the Everglades GCSA and Ohloff volunteered to serve as the first chairman of the Assistant Superintendents Committee. He followed up that service with two years of regular board service when he was the superintendent at the Gateway G&CC. He's taking a break from board service while he oversees the multi-year projects on the Wyndemere course.

"I still enjoy getting out on the golf course each day and working with my assistants and the crew members to get the course set up for our members. No matter how long they have worked for you or how good an assistant they may be, I still like to see the course daily with my own eyes. It helps me plan or tweak what we do on a daily basis."

I was impressed with Wyndemere's commitment to investing in upgrading and modernizing their golf facility, and with Ohloff's commitment to excellence in his personal approach to his profession. Just as Wyndemere was a trendsetter in the Florida golf boom of the 1980s, I think Aaron Ohloff is a fine example of a trend we'd like to see in the upcoming generation of golf course superintendents.

*Flora and fauna come together in the rough separating the fairways on the 9th holes of the Green and Gold courses. Look closely and find the purple martin and bluebird nest boxes under the royal poinciana and between the sable palms. Photo by Joel Jackson.*



## AARON OHLOFF FUN FACTS

**Vehicle:** Ford F150

**I stay home to watch:** College football

**Favorite meal:** Good steak and a baked potato

**Nobody knows that I:** Played college basketball for one year

**If I could do it over:** I'd have played college basketball for another year

**I'd give anything to meet:** Michael Jordan

**My fantasy is:** Building a championship golf course in northeast Iowa

**The one thing I can't stand:** People who only present problems, but never solutions

**Most humbling experience:** The births of my two sons.

**If I could change one thing about myself:** I'd be better organized.

**My dream foursome would be:** My father, Dean, and my sons Jackson and Preston at Augusta National

**My most memorable golf shot:** Back in high school, I made an albatross (three under) on a par 5 on the Tri-City Golf Club.



*Busy Purple Martin nest box on hole #2.*

*Photo by Joel Jackson.*

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## WYNDEMERE COUNTRY CLUB



The Wyndemere CC Golf Course Maintenance Staff. Submitted by Aaron Ohloff.

**Course Name:** Wyndemere Country Club; number of holes: 27 - Gold, Green and White nines. Slope & Rating: Green/Gold Course (139/72.1); White/Gold Course (142/73.3) and Green/White Course (142/72.8)

**Location:** Naples. Established in 1979 by Gerald Livingston and Tom McIntyre.

**Ownership:** Member owned

**Playing Policy:** Private. Avg. # of rounds per year: 42,000

**Designed by:** Arthur Hills Opened: 1981

**Management Team:** Club Manager Jimmy Lynn; Club President William McDonough; Green Chairman Dennis Kacy; Head Golf Professional Tim Miller; Golf Course Superintendent Aaron Ohloff; Matt Malloy, Clubhouse Manager; Michael Orlandi, Controller; Joe Szlachetka Executive Chef; Larry Freese, Building Superintendent; Alice Roda, Human Resources; Kevin Long, Tennis Director; Cheri Martin, Membership Director

**Major Renovation Projects:** Renovating the White Course 9 this summer. The Gold and Green Courses were renovated last summer. These projects included: regrassing each nine wall-to-wall with Celebration bermudagrass; rebuilding the greens to USGA specifications and installing TifEagle ultradwarf bermudagrass. In 2016 we begin a three-year irrigation project, which will involve upgrading our current hydraulic control system to a Toro Decoder two-wire system. We will do nine holes each summer. We will also be replacing our current asphalt cart paths with concrete paths. We will also be converting a significant amount of out-of-play turf acreage into naturalized

conservation areas.

**Acreage under maintenance:** 150 acres  
Total property acres: 215 acres

**Greens:** Turf Type: TifEagle; Average size: 5,360 sq. ft.; Acres: 4; Height of Cut: .135 - .165 inches. Green speed goals: 10-11 daily. Overseeding: None

**Tees:** Turf Type: Celebration Bermudagrass; Acres: 5; HOC: .250 - .400 inches. Overseeding: None

**Fairways:** Turf Type: Celebration Bermudagrass; Total acres: 40

HOC: .450 - .650 Overseeding: None

**Roughs:** Turf Type: Celebration Bermudagrass; Total acres: 100; HOC: 1.0 - 1.75 inches. Overseeding: None

**Bunkers:** Number of bunkers: 53; Sand type: Angular; Hand or machine raking: both, with a Toro Sand Pro and leaf rakes

**Non-turf Conservation Areas:** Our native areas are a crushed rock gravel material called 131 screenings. We rake them 1-2 times per week and edge and weed them as needed.

**Waterways/Lakes/Ponds:** Total number: 16; Acres: 20 How maintained? We use the Advanced Aquatics Company to maintain our lakes throughout the entire property.

**Irrigation:** Water Source: Surface water recharge and back-up wells as needed. Equipment: Flowtronex pumping system; Toro Lynx control system. Head spacing: Greens 60 feet; Fairways & roughs - 75 feet. Watering restrictions: Quarterly reports of our water usage to the South Florida Water Management District and only pump the amount water allowed in our Consumptive Use Permit.

#### Environmental Stewardship and

**Conservation practices:** The Wyndemere CC is a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. In our upcoming irrigation system upgrade project, we will be installing part-circle heads in the roughs to keep from watering any non-turf areas. We will also be installing a network of quick-coupler valves so we can do more efficient hand watering of hot spots. As mentioned in the renovation section, we also will be converting a large amount of out-of-play areas from turfgrass to naturalized landscaped areas requiring less water and maintenance inputs.

**Staff:** Total staff including superintendent: 30. Full Time: 29; Part Time: 1. Weekly budgeted hours: Straight time: 40 per man; Overtime: 4 per person

**Key Staff:** Assistant Superintendents: David Ferrin (White Course), J.B. Marty (Green Course) and Derek Knapp (Gold Course). The assistants also perform spray tech duties as needed.

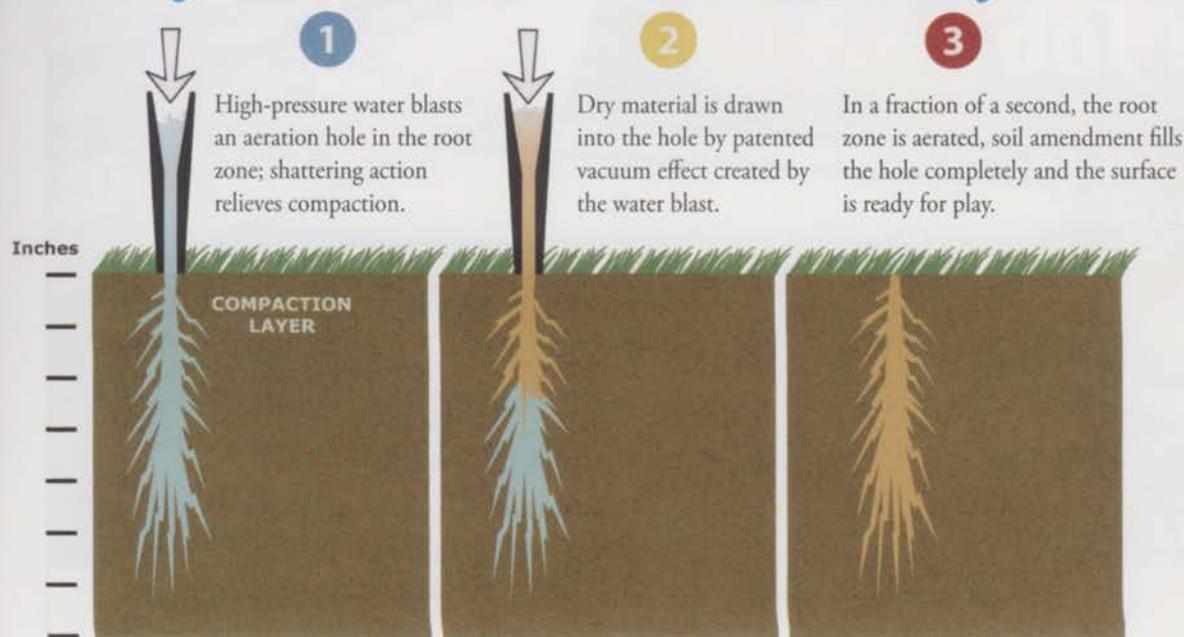
**Equipment Manager:** Chris Kramer; Irrigation Technician: Mario Moya

**Communications/meetings:** Daily crew meetings to review goals for the day and go over any safety issues and any operational changes or improvements we need to make. Official Safety Training Meetings are held once a month. Department Head and Greens Committee meetings are conducted as needed throughout the year. Member communication is accomplished through monthly newsletters, email blasts and we also utilize a blog to communicate various topics relating to the maintenance of the golf course.

Top: The Gold No. 5 hole is a long 454-yard, par 4. Notice the roses accenting the bridge crossing and further to the left you can see a splash of bright red from a Royal Poinciana tree. There are several of these trees throughout the course. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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# Beyond the Job with Photography on the Job

By Kyle D. Sweet, CGCS, Sanctuary Golf Club

Examples of Kyle Sweet's wildlife photography on display at his golf club. Photo by Kyle Sweet.

As we all know, being a superintendent in today's industry is more than a job; it's a lifestyle. It's difficult to get beyond the job, but looking to the job for a special interest can bring great rewards to you and more value to your position.

Playing golf and gardening would be obvious choices and I'm sure that many of you enjoy both. I do love golf, but on the course, photography has been the escape for me.

I was exposed to photography in high school in a graphic arts class and chose it as an elective in my A.A. program prior to attending Lake City Community College. My mom is an artist and is excellent in many media, but mine was definitely just photography.

My career began in Southwest Florida in the early 1990s, and I can promise you that a camera was always close by as I documented projects and procedures on the course. It's a cliché I know, but a photo is worth a thousand words and the communication that I had with both members and staff was so much more effective with a photograph to illustrate a point.

In 2003, The Sanctuary became Audubon Certified, and at the



Photographer Kyle Sweet on the job beyond his normal superintendent duties. Photo by Ken Trudell.

same time digital photography became commonplace. Documentation of course tours, wildlife on the course, scenic golf course photos and more became easier and a real interest was born.

A true passion beyond golf came with our involvement in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program and working alongside several groups on the island such as the City of Sanibel Natural Resources Department, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge, The Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation and, of course, Audubon International. I was introduced to wildlife photography while working with these groups. Additionally, I gained several friends who were wildlife experts, and I learned that a good camera was with them all of the time.

A few years went by and I finally made a \$1,000 investment in a good SLR and some starter lenses. This wasn't anything too

fancy, but it was a big investment for just a hobby. However, once I realized the quality of the images that I could create with the new camera, and after becoming proficient with Photoshop, the hobby turned into much more.



Participants of The Sanctuary GC 2015 Spring Bird Count. From the left: Carroll Wetzel, Jane Sharpe, Rachel Frieze (biologist with the Ecostudies Institute), David Sharpe, Sandra Danussi, Wendy Kindig, Roberta Washlow, Kyle Sweet and Bonnie Dale. Frieze co-hosted the morning activity with Kyle Sweet. Photo by Ken Trudell.

The Sanctuary — with the encouragement of our membership and marketing director and executive staff — began to use my photos for the newsletter and many other outlets. A promotional 16-page wildlife brochure was proposed and I knew local photography would be much better than stock images. I was on a mission and within six months, my son, Josh, and I took hundreds of photos that were boiled down to about 40 that were used for a beautiful wildlife

**Go beyond your daily job and look to enhancing your job with that special interest you may have. — Kyle Sweet**

brochure that highlights Sanibel and the Sanctuary Golf Course wildlife. This took my photography — and the club's use of it — to a new level.

In the past few years my photography has been used for the annual club calendar, club directory, Facebook page, newsletter, canvas prints in on-course restrooms and helped to decorate the walls of the Green and Grounds Department as well as the club's executive offices.

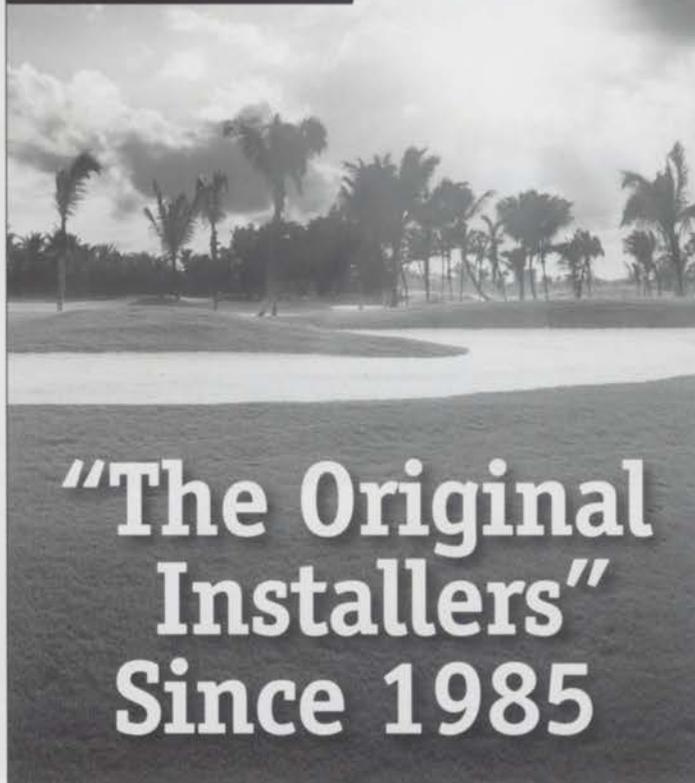
In the past year, the images of the golf course and wildlife that I have captured caught the interest of members and guests and custom photo cards are now for sale in the golf shop. Beyond the club, I have been able to create and sell the custom photo cards as well as have canvases and prints made for order to friends, family and club members.

I encourage you to go beyond your daily job and look to enhancing your job with that special interest you may have. If you come visit us at The Sanctuary (which I hope you do) there's a good chance that you'll be sharing the seat of my cart with a camera case. There's no doubt that any trip on the course is worth carrying the camera along!

#### **Just a few tips!**

- Easy! Always carry a camera with you on the course. Why not???
  - An SLR is not hard to use and is worth the investment!
  - The real expense is in a good lens but it's worth it!
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# FIVE TECHNIQUES TO IMPROVE IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY

USGA GREEN SECTION REPORT:  
SOUTHEAST REGION | MAY 20, 2015

By Todd Lowe, senior agronomist, Florida Region

*Part circle heads definitely help to conserve water use. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

Water is an important issue on golf courses and all facilities can do their part to make the most efficient use of their resources, as it improves turf health and creates firmer playing conditions. I recently sat down with Dave Ragan, irrigation consultant at Ragan Technical Solutions, to discuss techniques for improving golf course irrigation efficiency. Older irrigation systems with poor designs and outdated technology can improve their water-use efficiency by upgrading the irrigation system (see “When is it Time to Replace an Irrigation System?”). However, it may not be time for a new system at your golf course and these common-sense tips can help improve irrigation efficiency at any facility. The procedures offered in this article are technical and are intended for golf course superintendents and irrigation technicians.

**1** It is important to understand the precipitation rate, or how much water is being applied to a given area. This can be calculated theoretically based on how many gallons/minute that a head applies, head spacing, design (square vs. triangular) and arc rotation (see Landscape Irrigation Formulas). This will give you a ballpark value but an additional step would be to verify actual precipitation rates by performing a catch-can test. Understanding the precipitation rate for any given irrigation run time is especially important when scheduling irrigation based on replenishing water loss through evapotranspiration (ET).

**2** Consider irrigation head arc rotation when determining run times for full-circle vs. part-circle heads. If 20 minutes is appropriate for a full circle (360-degree) head, then only 10 minutes are needed for a 180-degree arc and 5 minutes for a 90-degree arc. Irrigation software generally does not utilize an arc column/table in the station database for manual run-time calculation, so this will need to be determined for each location.

**3** Understand that there is greater water pressure nearest the pump station and that pressure reduces as you move further away. With hydraulic rotors, your precipitation rate will be highest nearest the pumping station. If all rotors run at the same time, there can be a considerable pressure loss furthest away from the pumping station. This can be verified with pressure gauges attached to quick couplers - one near the pump station and another further away. Return with a flashlight after the system has started and is under maximum load, and record pressure averages over a ten-minute period. Irrigation run times of heads closer to the pump station can be adjusted downwards, depending on the pressure differences recorded.

**4** Maintain the most efficient distribution uniformity as possible. Unfortunately, there are no irrigation systems that operate with 100 percent uniform distribution and most irrigation auditors feel that a good number to shoot for is about 80 percent. This means that in order to adequately irrigate drier areas, some areas will be overwatered by 20 percent. Therefore, make certain to improve distribution uniformity as much as possible, to reduce water overuse. Ragan mentions that the most common means to improve distribution uniformity on golf courses include maintaining level irrigation heads, having a properly constructed flow management tree, using appropriate nozzles, properly matching nozzles to stators and making sure that nozzles are not excessively worn or clogged. The Center for Irrigation Technology is an excellent resource for testing irrigation heads and selecting the right nozzle for your heads.

**5** Invest in a good moisture probe that measures volumetric water content. Portable moisture probes take the guesswork out of the irrigation equation by accurately reporting soil moisture at the root level. Develop threshold levels for soil moisture that are

specific to your location, soil type and time of year for each playing surface. Moisture probes can help fine-tune irrigation scheduling by measuring soil moisture, as it relates to turf health, under differing irrigation run times. Also, moisture thresholds can be adjusted upwards or downwards as ET changes throughout the year.

Make every drop of water count at your facility. Understanding precipitation rate, reducing run times based on irrigation head arc and pressure, raising/leveling heads, using proper nozzles and measuring soil moisture all help improve irrigation efficiency considerably. Also, keep records of irrigation reduction to evaluate how effective these strategies are over time.

**Southeast Region Agronomists:**

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 Patrick M O'Brien, agronomist – patobrien@usga.org  
 Todd Lowe, agronomist – tlowe@usga.org

*\*(Ed Note: You can find "When is it time to replace an irrigation system" by Patrick Gross, USGA Green Section at either the USGA Green Section website or at (gsr.lib.msu.edu/articles/gross-when-3-16-15.pdf) and do a Web search for "Landscape Irrigation Formulas" and by clicking on "Tips for Saving Water" and "List of Tutorials" links.)*



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# Headed for new turf.

## Dr. John Cisar Retires from the University of Florida



John Cisar

Dr. John Cisar grew-up in Passaic, New Jersey, the youngest of six sons of Michael and Paulina Cisar. His mother, Paulina, was born in Czechoslovakia and at the age of 7 immigrated alone

to the USA after World War I to reunite with her parents who arrived just before the war. His father was orphaned shortly after birth. His parents dedicated their lives to helping their children get ahead, and John has shared that philosophy with his family and many others throughout his career. He received a B.A. (Honors) in Botany from Rutgers University, an M.S. in Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture from Cornell University, and earned his Ph.D. in Biological Sciences at the University of Rhode Island.

Dr. Cisar began his academic career at the University of Florida – Ft. Lauderdale Research and Education Center (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) in December 1986 as an assistant professor of Environmental Horticulture. His academic appointment was 70% extension / 30% research, but he has assembled an impressive record of research and outreach in the following areas: water quality, effluent irrigation on nutrient leaching, nitrogen and pesticide fate, turfgrass nutrition, irrigation efficiency, soil water repellency, soil amendments, evaluation of wetting agents, evaluation of plant

health products, turfgrass physiology, bermudagrass and St. Augustinegrass evaluation and management, and much more. His work has been supported by the United States Golf Association Green Section, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), Florida Turfgrass Association, FL Dept. of Environmental Protection, Soil Science Society of America, and many other segments of the green industry.

After 28 years, Dr. Cisar retired from the University of Florida in December, 2014, at the rank of full professor. During his tenure in academia, he served many posts including coordinator of the University of Florida's undergraduate turfgrass program. He has mentored and served on the committees of many MS and Ph.D graduate students. His graduate students have been successfully employed in academic positions in universities, director of an agriculture and environmental testing laboratory, research and development positions with global agrichemical companies, and consultants in the green industry. Dr. Cisar has many publications in scientific journals, and also extension and trade journal articles. He has 398 publication entries listed at the Turfgrass Information Center ([www.tic.msu.edu](http://www.tic.msu.edu)).

Dr. Cisar has been a frequent lecturer at the GCSAA's Golf Industry Show, delivering seminars and workshops on warm-season turfgrass management, irrigation efficiency, and soil and water quality. Since arriving in Florida, he has conducted the South Florida Turf

Exposition typically in March every year, which has become a premier event for Florida's turfgrass industry. As noted previously, "Dr. Cisar's influence and willingness to interact with industry in south Florida was unlimited, but more importantly he carried the University of Florida name around the world during sabbatical in New Zealand and many other places where his knowledge, expertise and passion for the industry were gratefully accepted. He produced a research field day on his own along with his assistant, Karen Williams, which rivaled any turfgrass field day program around the USA with over 400 attendees on a regular basis."

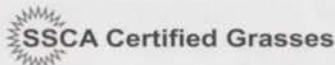
In addition to supporting turfgrass science in Florida and the USA, Dr. Cisar has made international contributions as well. He has been treasurer for the International Turfgrass Society since 1990 and was the co-organizer of the organization's 1993 conference in Florida. He has lectured at Mendel University (Czech Republic), and was co-organizer of the first Bouyoucos Conference on Constructed Rootzones, sponsored in-part by the Soil Science Society of America. He recently was involved in developing bermudagrass establishment and maintenance programs for green roofs.

Dr. Cisar has been recognized for his achievements in academia and support of the turfgrass industry: Wreath of Grass Award (Florida Turfgrass Association's highest honor that pays tribute to individuals who

have shown outstanding service to the Association and to the turfgrass industry); Marie Roberts Lifetime Service Award (to honor those persons who through their participation, support and achievements have made significant contributions to the Florida GCSA and Florida golf industry); and an unprecedented Fellow in both the American Society of Agronomy and the Crop Science Society of America.

Dr. Ed Nangle, Chicago District Golf Association, stated "His approachable persona and gregarious charisma infected all around him and he will leave a huge void not just in South Florida but all around the world in the turfgrass industry." Although Dr. Cisar is retired from the University of Florida, he remains active in the green industry as a consultant, lecturer, researcher and advisor. Dr. John Cisar and his wife, Terry, reside in Broward County with their son, Joey. He can be reached at [cisarturfdoc@gmail.com](mailto:cisarturfdoc@gmail.com).

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# BioBlitz 2015

*(Editor's Note: Used by permission from the Spring 2015 Issue of Audubon International's Stewardship News.)*

The first ever-Global Golf Course BioBlitz was a great success. During the week of Earth Day, April 19-25, golf courses from around the country celebrated the week by taking part in an event organized by Audubon International and sponsored in part by the United States Golf Association. The event was open to any golf course worldwide—including those unaffiliated with Audubon International.

## What is a BioBlitz?

BioBlitz is a species-counting competition designed to create awareness among participants (in our case, golfers and the golfing community) about habitats and species that live on golf courses. The program was flexible enough to include anyone interested in spending time outside on a course learning about natural history.

It also allowed a facility to invite the various constituents that interact with a golf course, including members, staff, families, and community participants or in some cases, students from a nearby school. We created a tool that golf course staff used to educate and demonstrate participants; some courses had a single Blitzer, while others had dozens. All of them had fun! The flexibility made it successful, as we saw a range of participants, hours, and depth of investigation.

The idea of a BioBlitz is not new. Many BioBlitz events have occurred to rapidly count species on a property (usually a park or preserve) as a way to develop a species inventory while having fun in a slightly competitive, citizen-friendly event. Audubon International organized a bird blitz several years ago, but this year we decided that counting all species can be even more revealing about golf course habitat.

After registering for the program, we sent everyone the 2015 BioBlitz toolkit, including rules, instructions, posters that announced the event, sign-up sheets, a certificate to recognize winners, and a press release to distribute to local media.

This year, golf courses invited a number of participants such as golfers and their families, local environmental organizations, youth groups, community members, and local experts to count plant and animal species located on the property. Courses were vying for three awards: the course that counts the most species, the course with most participants, and the course that submits the best photo. Over the past few weeks, our staff has received submissions from all the participants and compiled the lists of plant and animal species recorded.



*BioBlitz Best Photo Finalist: Red-bellied woodpecker. Photo by Superintendent Mark Metzger, Stonebridge CC in Naples.*

## BY THE NUMBERS

**28** golf courses from Quebec to Nevada and Hawaii to Florida represented biomes from all around North America.

**227** people took part in recording species during the week

**2,230** unique species recorded that call these golf courses home

**3,560** total species encounters

**1,592** plant and fungi species

**638** wildlife species

### Award for Most Species Recorded:

Venice Golf & Country Club, Venice with 588 unique Species.

Superintendent Carlos Arraya.

BioBlitz Coordinators: Kate Bourduas and Jim Schell.

### Award for Most Participants:

Southwinds Golf Course in Boca Raton.

Superintendent Peter Aravantis.

BioBlitz Coordinator: Stephanie Klotzer.

### Award for Best Photo:

It was a tie between (1) Red-bellied woodpecker at Stonebridge Country Club in Naples, Superintendent Mark Metzger, and (2) Bullfrog at Mohegan Sun Golf Club in Baltic, CT.

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# Aquatrols Donates \$10G to Environmental Institute for Golf

Donation given in honor of Aquatrols late founder and GCSAA member Robert Moore

Lawrence, Kan. (May 26, 2015) - Aquatrols continued its support of the Aquatrols Robert A. Moore Endowment Fund with a \$10,000 donation in honor of its late founder to the Environmental Institute for Golf, the philanthropic organization of the GCSAA.

Moore, who was a strong advocate for GCSAA until his death in 2010, founded Aquatrols in 1955. He was a GCSAA member for more than 50 years and had articles published in the association's flagship publication, *Golf Course Management*, beginning in 1957. The endowment in his name funds research specifically aimed at optimizing the growing environment for golf course turf, with specific goals for increasing the effectiveness of applied water, fertilizers and pesticides, thereby reducing total requirements.

Moore's daughters, Tracy Jarman and Demie Moore, and son Andy Moore, all with Aquatrols, made the donation during the 2015 Golf Industry Show in San Antonio.

In 2015, the Moore endowment is helping fund the work of Joseph Young, Ph.D., and Theophilus Udeigwe, Ph.D., at Texas Tech University. Their research, which is also receiving matching funds from Texas Tech, is studying the



incorporation of cultivation practices and products to reduce salinity parameters from poor quality irrigation water on golf course fairways.

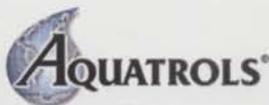
"Robert Moore was a visionary, so it is only fitting that his legacy continue to fund research that will shape the future of the game," said Rhett Evans, GCSAA chief executive officer. "We thank Aquatrols for their continued support of the EIFG's mission."



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Aquatrols is a supporter of the EIFG at the Platinum Tee Club level, which designates donors who contribute \$5,000 or more annually. Aquatrols is also recognized at the Presidential Club level in the EIFG cumulative giving program for donating between \$100,000 and \$249,999 since 1987.

#### About EIFG

The Environmental Institute for Golf is the philanthropic organization of the GCSAA. Its mission is to foster sustainability through research, awareness, education, programs and scholarships for the benefit of golf course management professionals, golf facilities and the game. Visit EIFG at [www.eifg.org](http://www.eifg.org) or find us on Facebook or Twitter.

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## FIELD OBSERVATIONS

### Stay on Top Through Education



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

I like starting these columns with a tie-in to my personal life. In that spirit, I have been researching doctors to help me with an ongoing issue with my neck. Actually, my wife has been doing the research, and I have been listening to her recommendations. She has relayed to me where

the various doctors studied, any issues in their past, and most importantly any ongoing, continuing education in which they have participated.

We feel pretty comfortable with the direction we are headed due to the amount of research she has put into the process. We have decided that we want a doctor who has kept his skills finely tuned and has stayed current with advances in the field.

Similarly, as superintendents there are constantly advances in the way you maintain golf courses and it is imperative for the successful superintendent to stay apprised of these developments. There are so many opportunities for education today that it is hard to comprehend someone not taking advantage of at least one of the multitude of ways to enrich themselves.

The traditional chapter meeting education is still a wonderful opportunity to learn from industry leaders as well as from your peers. There is so much information exchanged at a chapter meeting that can be brought back to your facility and implemented immediately that this educational venue still is extremely valuable.

The education at chapter meetings is not only in the form of the official presentations, but the networking that occurs as well. I know that time constraints sometimes make getting

away difficult but the value is still there to be had, and many successful superintendents realize this and make the time to attend chapter meetings. Budget-wise they are the most efficient form of education.

In addition to the chapter meetings, we have our annual GCSAA Golf Industry Show and Educational Conference, as well as a number of GCSAA webinars and webcasts on demand that can be delivered right to your office. Again, these opportunities are provided in support of our mission statement to advance the profession. Education is a cornerstone of what GCSAA and our affiliated chapters are about.

Educational seminars such as the Florida GCSA's BMP certification program also provide an opportunity for superintendents to distinguish themselves. The individual who participates in this program receives a great day of education while at the same time helping the industry establish itself as the true environmental stewards. The Palm Beach Chapter has been very good about promoting the quality of the education for the day and if you haven't already participated in a BMP session, I strongly urge you to do so. Through your participation in any of the educational formats available, you have the opportunity to make yourself more valuable at your current facility as well as more attractive to a facility that is looking to hire a new superintendent.

In the same fashion that we have established criteria for selecting a doctor; golf course owners, boards or greens committees are going to look for those individuals who have stayed abreast of the latest trends and continued to pursue opportunities to advance themselves.

Why not have that person be you? Take advantage of the plethora of educational offerings to stay on top of your profession and make yourself a valuable asset to any facility.

Until next time,

Ralph Dain  
GCSAA Regional Representative (FL)  
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**GREEN SIDE UP  
By JOEL JACKSON**

Maybe I'm a slow learner, but I'm finally ready to follow Horace Greely's advice back in the 1830's, "Go west young man!" Back then as eastern U.S. cities began filling up with immigrants, Greely (publisher of the *New York Times*), suggested that to solve their unemployment issues they go west to help build the fledgling western American cities.

Well, Los Angeles is pretty well built-out by now, but our daughter just happens to live there, and while I have thoroughly enjoyed my golf superintendent and association executive careers there is a time for

everything, a time to work, a time to write, and a time to retire!

That time is here. I told Jennifer Bryan that 2015 would be my last year with the FGCSA as the editor. Most of you know I have been driving in the slow lane for the last few years looking for the right exit. For the good of the association and for the good of the Jackson family, the decision is made and the clock is counting down to lift off.

Change is inevitable, and so it is with the Florida Green and the FGCSA. Executive Director Jennifer Bryan is a versatile dynamic person with lots of experience in association/business administration and communications. With the support and leadership of the officers and board of directors and their desire to improve operations and membership benefits, I see a bright future for the association.

It's definitely time for me to relax more and do some serious travel with my wife and be closer to our daughter as we enjoy the golden years ahead. We celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary in June. Let me

put it this way: after playing the front nine in Florida, we're going to play the back nine in California!

Recently, I had to go through a box of back issues of the Florida Green and that process brought back a ton of memories about the superintendents and courses I wrote about and all those meetings and events I attended. Then there are the friends for life that I made and the honor and satisfaction of representing FGCSA members on issues facing our industry.

While still a superintendent, I became the editor of the Florida Green, succeeding Dan and Irene Jones in 1990. So, I've been doing this job for 25 years. I worked in golf course maintenance from 1973 to 1997. From 1998 to 2013, I served the FGCSA as either communication director or executive director. You can do the math. I'm ready for some serious R&R! The journey was great, but we have come to a fork in the trail, and we have decided to take the road less traveled to discover new wonders before the sun sets.

Writing is in my blood, so I might still do an occasional

column for Golfdom. But I also hope to spend some time writing short stories, perhaps a novel and maybe even a screenplay! Our daughter Jennifer knows something about that!

There are many parts of California we have never seen and there's Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, the Dakotas and much of Colorado waiting for us to explore. We'd like to visit all 50 states, so now is the time while we can!

Thanks to the current GCSAA conference schedule rotation, the 2016 GIS will be in San Diego and I will likely drive down from L.A and I look forward to seeing many of you at the FGCSA Reception at some fantastic venue that Jennifer has picked out!

I hope to make another round to many of the chapter events this year to say some personal goodbyes, and I wanted to write to all of you in these pages to tell you how much I appreciated your one-on-one "thank yous" and encouragement over these many years.

Well, it's time to go and I think Bob Hope said it best, "Thanks for the Memories!"

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