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Pablo Creek No. 1
Photo by Joel Jackson

**WINTER
1999**

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Mike hopes a harrowing personal experience will teach everyone that when you have your health, you have it all.

SPOTLIGHT HIGH HONOR, HIGH ATTENDANCE, HIGH STAKES 6
Dan Jones, CGCS, will get the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award; attendance at this year's FTGA Conference doubled last year; the SFGCSA has raised more than \$100,000 to aid the Missing and Abused Children Foundation.

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Pablo Creek in Jacksonville has no tennis courts. No swimming pool. No elaborate dinner service. It's breakfast, lunch and golf. Breakfast is on weekends only. This place is built to play golf!

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Get your big rocks into the jar first, learn to juggle and deal with stress head on. Wetlands seminar played to a full house.

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Transition: the best way to get out of your overseeding in good shape is to have healthy turf before you go into it.

INDUSTRY NEWS FTGA SHOW, NATIVE PLANTS, ECONOMIC STUDY 62
Next year's FTGA Conference and Show will be in Gainesville, showcasing a new era of closer ties between the association and the University of Florida.

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STEWARDSHIP SAVING THE FOX SQUIRRELS 68
Not too many golf courses can provide the kind of habitat needed by the Big Cypress fox squirrels of Southwest Florida.

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A review of 33 research projects at the University of Florida directly related to turfgrass; UF/IFAS is conducting a field study at Palm Beach National.

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A little gift makes a big difference, 'Echo' Awards.

About the use of trade names: The use of trade names in this magazine is solely for the purpose of providing specific information and does not imply endorsement of the products named nor discrimination against similar unnamed products. It is the responsibility of the user to determine that product use is consistent with the directions on the label.

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When was the last time you scrutinized your health as closely as the turf we grow for a living? We all know that with proper care and nurturing, turfgrass will withstand a tremendous amount of abuse.

What about the human body? Your body in particular? Allow me to divert from our normal message in this column, and share with you my recent experience. There is a message for everyone. If one of you is reached by it, we are all better off.

I visited my family doctor in the spring of 1998 in an effort to appease my wife. No joking! The first time we went to the doctor and they asked me what was wrong, I pointed to Marcy and told them to ask her. She told them that at nighttime my breathing had become labored, and snoring was presenting a problem for her efforts to sleep.

I had experienced several serious lung infections in the last five years. X-rays revealed nothing serious, and another mild case of bronchitis was suspected. Antibiotics offered no relief to my symptoms. After further tests I was pronounced to have developed asthma.

By midsummer things were deteriorating to the stage, that not only was it impossible for Marcy to sleep at night, some nights I couldn't sleep either. At our insistence, we were referred to a pulmonary specialist. Initially attempting to change inhalers that I had been prescribed for usage at night, he followed a conservative yet methodical attempt to eliminate possible causes for my problem.

Allow me to interject a sidebar. At this stage of my story, it is mid-July, and I am still in denial. I honestly did not believe that there was anything wrong with me. Other people sometimes questioned the wheezing that occurred with each breath. However, the change was so subtle it was almost indiscernible to me. It would not be until mid-August that I

accepted the fact that possibly something was wrong.

Little improvement from the change in inhalers was noted by the pulmonary specialist. The next order of business was a Pulmonary Function Test that measures different parameters in your lung's ability to function properly. Within two days of taking the test, I received a call from the doctor. My performance on one portion of the test was extremely poor, and he suspected a problem with the machine. I was prescribed to take a massive amount of steroids over the weekend and retake that portion of the test on Monday morning. Later that week (it is now the end of August), my doctor announced with great conviction that I did not have asthma. Something was **WRONG!**

Within eight days and after three diagnostic procedures, I was diagnosed with a cancerous growth in my left main bronchus. The shocker was the discovery that the normal procedure for its removal also entailed the removal of the left lung. I was stunned by this pronouncement.

I was fortunate. After much researching, networking and consulting with different physicians, and fighting with our insurance company, I was afforded the opportunity to go to Boston and have surgery performed by a pioneer in airway reconstruction. My lung was saved, and in the words of my pulmonary specialist after repeating the Pulmonary Function Test and office visit, I am a new man. It was truly a humbling experience. Now the moral of the story.

Don't take your health for granted. As you can see from my experience, you can not afford to. Go to the doctor and have a physical. Start an exercise program. Eat healthily. Whatever you decide, just remember the next time your turf is ailing, take time to reflect about your own health. Utilize the same thought processes that you employ to diagnose your turf's problem and compare them with how you have been feeling lately. Finally, take it from someone who now appreciates the adage, "When you have your health, you have everything!"

When You Have Your Health, You Have It All

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



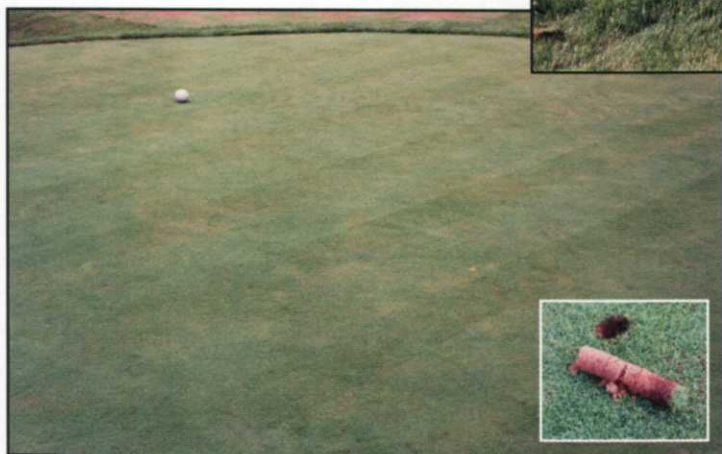
Michael Perham,
CGCS
President
FGCSA

PREVENT

SUMMER PROBLEMS CAUSED BY WATER REPELLENCY!

UNTREATED

Summer stress conditions can prompt a rapid reduction in turf quality in tees, greens and fairways. By mid-summer, effects of extensive wilt, Localized Dry Spot (LDS) and turf decline are evident on this untreated tee (ladies tee box). Soil cores from symptomatic areas (inset) were powder dry, even after irrigation.



TREATED

Monthly applications of Primer 604 (started in late spring) on the men's tee box (of the same hole), showed superior turf quality. Even under conditions of severe summer stress, no afternoon wilt or LDS was observed. Soil cores from treated tee (inset) were uniformly moist, indicating improved penetration, infiltration and distribution of applied water (rainfall or irrigation).



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Dan Jones, CGCS - Career and Service

- 1965-70. Began superintendent's career at the Fountain Valley Golf Club in St. Croix, Virgin Islands.
- 1970-75. Built two courses at Cerromar Beach Hotel in Puerto Rico. Superintendent over four courses.
- 1975-80. Superintendent of 36 holes at Turnberry Isles GC in South Florida.
- 1978. Recipient of GCSAA's Leo Feser Award.
- 1980-98. Superintendent Banyan Golf Club, West Palm Beach.
- 1981-82. President of the Florida Turfgrass Association.
- 1976-80. Became editor/publisher of *The South Florida Green Magazine* for the South Florida GCSA.
- 1980-89. Continued as editor/publisher of *The Florida Green* magazine, when *The South Florida Green* changed its name and became the official voice of the newly formed statewide Florida GCSA.
- 1987. Recipient of the Florida Turfgrass Association's Wreath of Grass Award.
- 1987. Recipient of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association's Distinguished Service Award.
- Recipient of numerous GCSAA Newsletter Editor awards during his tenure with *The Florida Green*.
- April 1998. Retired from Banyan Golf Club. Now serving as East Coast Sales Manager for Toro Liquid Ag, Inc.

Service With Distinction

Florida's Dan Jones, To Receive GCSAA Distinguished Service Award

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has selected Dan Jones, CGCS to receive the 1999 Distinguished Service Award. The award will be presented to Jones during the opening ceremonies of GCSAA's 70th International Conference and Show to be held in Orlando Feb. 8-14.

He is the first Florida superintendent to receive the award. The late Tom Mascaro, agronomist and inventor of many turfgrass maintenance devices, received the Distinguished Service Award in 1976.

Jones's contribution to his profession spans more than 33 years of dedicated, professional service. Throughout his entire career he has been an innovator and experimenter of management practices and products. He has been a champion of the superintendent's professional image long before it became a national objective.

Dan was instrumental in getting the white amur grass carp introduced into Florida. Back in 1976-78, Dan was extolling the virtues of this bio-control measure to reduce the use of chemicals in Florida's waterways. Again he was way ahead of the national environmental movement.

Dan has been actively

involved in testing and evaluating turfgrasses and turf management products on his own golf course and then sharing the results by networking and articles in the *Florida Green*.

When golfers were bent on bringing bentgrass greens to Florida in the late 1980s and early 90s, Dan partnered with Dr. Milt Engelke of Texas A&M to evaluate of heat-tolerant bentgrass selections on his course. He has tried, used, tested and evaluated every

88-96 page, four-color magazine. They shepherded each issue to completion, cajoling and inspiring superintendents to write articles to make it a publication by and for superintendents.

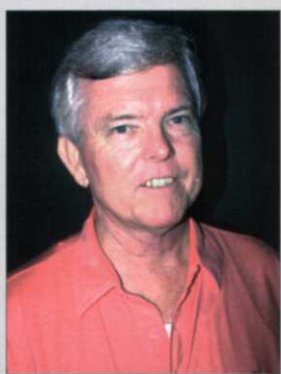
One of the unique features of the magazine is that it did not have an ad sales department. As the magazine grew in stature and prestige, advertisers sought to be included in the most widely read golf course management publication in the state.

Setting standards for quality in photography, Dan and Irene nurtured the publication that now reaches across the nation to golf course superintendents, researchers, educators and professionals in all the allied associations and businesses on the golf industry.

Because of the high quality of the magazine, it also became a public relations tool for superintendents to proudly display in pro shops and locker rooms. It has become a vehicle for educating golfers as well as superintendents about turf management and the value of professional superintendents.

Dan's leadership and modeling of the prototype behaviors of a true professional in his field has been a shining example for three decades of superintendents.

Because of Dan's exemplary record of service and sacrifice of time and effort for the advancement of our



Dan Jones, CGCS

new product he felt might have merit and shared his successes and/or failures with his peers to help them find better ways to manage turf.

But perhaps one of Dan's greatest legacies is the growth and development of the *Florida Green* magazine into a unique trade publication.

For 13 years Dan and his wife, Irene, gathered information, cut, pasted, and assembled each issue in their own home, taking it from an eight-page, black-and-white newsletter to an

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TEAM ^c	■	●	●	●	●	●	NR	NR
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“...His work with the *Florida Green* magazine created the foundation for what has become the premier magazine of its kind. The *Florida Green* proved that an interesting and high quality “newsletter” could be used as an extremely effective vehicle for educating superintendents and elevating our profession. Dan has been a progressive leader and innovator. His ideas have helped make the Florida superintendents one of the most respected groups in the country...”

*Don Hearn, CGCS
GCSAA Past President
1987.*

“...Dan is truly a person of values, integrity and solid principles within the greenkeeping world. If our association has ever had a person that projects an image of what our profession is, Dan has portrayed that on a daily basis with dignity and a touch of class. He has worked tireless hours for his association’s benefit. I have known Dan for many years, he has always helped many of us during our years in office. I would be remiss to say that he has helped so many golf course superintendents to get into the business, to become active members of GCSAA and their own local chapter, that we all owe him this award and more.”

*Melvin B. Lucas, Jr,
CGCS, GCSAA Past
President, 1980.*

profession and his unwavering dedication to the art and science of turf management, the Florida GCSA nominated and now congratulates Daniel Jones, CGCS for receiving the GCSAA’s 1999 Distinguished Service Award.

FTGA CONFERENCE & SHOW

Attendance Up, Superintendent Participation High

The 1998 Florida Turfgrass Association Conference and Show, “Turf Web ‘98” was a success in a many ways. The overall attendance doubled from the 1997 show, which pleased the exhibitors. There were more opportunities for superintendent-specific education and CEUs. More superintendents got involved. The FTGA named Tim Hiers, CGCS as the 1998 Wreath of Grass Award Winner.

While a lot more people in the turf industry could have shown up at the conference and trade show, exhibitors were pleased with the improvement over the ‘97 show. They recognized the hard work by the FTGA to make the ‘98 show a success.

In addition to traditional education sessions on insects, weeds and disease, there were plenty of opportunities for superintendents to get some inside information. The FGCSA coordinated three half-day GCSAA Etonic Seminars for those seeking certification credits. Those topics included Personnel Performance Management, Communications, and

FGCSA Presenters at FTGA Conference & Show



Superintendents Matt Taylor and Rick Tatum and USGA’s John Foy at the ultradwarf forum.



Fred Klauk, left, and Tom Alex discussed preparation for major events.



Darren Davis made two presentations.



Cary Lewis, CGCS, left, Prentis Knotts, CGCS, and Steve Pearson, CGCS, talked about managing people and flamingos.

Managing Hispanic Work Forces. The FGCSA also coordinated a workshop on poisonous snakes and organized two Innovative superintendent concurrent sessions and a forum on ultradwarf grasses.

In the forum, superintendents Rick Tatum and Matt Taylor teamed with USGA Green Section Florida Region Director John Foy to discuss the

characteristics and management practices observed in the new ultradwarf grasses for putting surfaces. That forum drew a packed house, and gave attendees a glimpse into the future.

In the concurrent sessions, Fred Klauk and Tom Alex took the audience through the paces of preparing golf courses for major professional golf events. In the second