Florida Turfgrass Association invites you to join us in celebrating our 50th Annual Conference & Trade Show!

Returning to Tampa for our 50th promises to be not only Nostalgic, but beneficial to attendees as we spend three days networking and sharing with other Turf Professionals.

September 16-18
Downtown Hyatt Hotel, Tampa FL

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> Golf Course Superintendents
> Landscape Maintenance Managers
> Lawn Care Operators
> Sod Producers
> Parks & Recreation Personnel
> Nursery Professionals
> Sports and Athletic Specialists
> Golf Course Designers
> Turf Architects
> Pesticide Operators & Managers
> Turf Management Students
> Researchers, Extension Directors
> Equipment Techs
> And Lots More!

Call Jane at 1-800-882-6721 for more info.

Monday September 16
• Show Set-up • Golf Tournament
Tuesday September 17
• Grand Opening • Prayer Breakfast
• Awards Luncheon • Tradeshow • Pres. Reception
Wednesday September 18
• Tradeshow w/ Breakfast • Tradeshow Open
• Keynote Speaker
DOLPHIN COURSE

Location: Key Largo
Total acreage: 105 acres. No overseeding.
Greens: 5,250 sq. ft. TifEagle. HOC: .120 in. summer; .110 in. winter. Green speeds: 8-8.5 summer, 9-10 winter.
Tees: 4 acres Tifway 419, HOC: .350 in.
Fairways: 22 acres Tifway 419. HOC: .500 in. summer; .450 in. winter.
Roughs: 65 acres each of mixed 419, Ormond and common bermudagrass. HOC: 1.25 in.
Bunkers: 72 bunkers FS100 sand and 10 acres of naturalized links areas (coral screenings). Greens bunkers hand raked. Fairway bunkers machine raked with Toro Sand Pros with spring-rake attachments.
Waterways/Lakes: 13 acres, 3 lakes.

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and plant certified Tifway 419, so we leased a sod harvester and cut out the existing sod on the fairways,” VanValkenburg said. The contractor scraped and hauled off the loose sod. Then we encouraged the remaining sprigs and stolons to regenerate and when they produced new growth we treated with a combination of RoundUp and Fusilade.

"After that died off we encouraged it to grow again and sprayed it again.

"Then we added 2-3 inches of sand, some starter fertilizer and ran a heavy-duty tiller generally used to tear up roads (Rototarian) over the surface to mix the sand and organic layers together. All that was graded out and then we grassed the fairways with rolled sod."

The bedrock also presented VanValkenburg with the experience of watching new lakes being built by harvesting the bedrock in 3x4x10-foot stone columns.

Blasting is not allowed.

The columns were plucked out of the lake one at a time after a huge trenching machine crosshatched the lake site with 10-foot-deep trenches creating a checkerboard effect. A large track-hoe then broke off the stone pillars at the base and scooped them out. The cost of the lake excavations was offset by selling the stone to a company called Keystone Products which milled the columns into benches, tables and other rock products.

The course looked flawless in our ride-through and VanValkenburg showed me specimens of the native hardwood hammock environment including some surviving mahogany trees, gumbo limbo, lignum vitae, Jamaica dogwood, green buttonwood, ironwood, torchwood and under story plants common to the Keys.

I didn’t unlock any real deep, dark golf maintenance secrets on this island trip, but it sure made me appreciate the differences in turf-management techniques that come into play depending on the location - from an old citrus grove in Lake County to a tropical paradise down in Key Largo.

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*Do not apply TranXit directly to bentgrass or to putting greens.*

Purchases of TranXit GTA support the GCSAA’s ‘Investing in the Beauty of Golf’ endowment campaign.
Location: Key Largo  
Ownership: Member owned  
Playing policy: Private  
36 Holes: Dolphin Course - 6,467 yards, par: 71. Harbor Course - 6,090 yards, par 71/70.  
Management: Paul Astbury, club president; Jim Johnson, green chairman; Hank Henrich, golf chairman and director; Tom Hilliard, director of golf; Jim DeMallie, golf professional; Lee Van Valkenburg, director of golf course maintenance.  
Communications: Bi-weekly department meetings; weekly staff meetings; monthly meetings with green committee, golf committee and department managers.  
Cultural/Fertility/IPM programs: We scout pest activity and life cycles for proper timing of pesticide applications. By hitting the correct window, we have had great success using Merit for mole cricket and grub control.  
Environmental management: Schaus Swallowtail butterfly. Florida tree snail, both sensitive to the timing of mosquito control and tree trimming. Working with an environmental consultant for master planning the anticipated renovation of the Harbor Course.  
Waterways/Lakes: All water hazards are tidal with an average TDS of 15,000 ppm. Water quality is enhanced by using aeration bubblers and oxygen diffusers. No display fountains used due to salt spray effects.  
Leadership: Tod Evans, superintendent; Michael Davies, first assistant; Robert Loria and Brian Flowers, second assistants; Miguel Diaz, head mechanic; David McFarling, first assistant mechanic; Santos Cua, second assistant mechanic; Reynaldo Ramirez and Confessor Torres, pest control technicians; Abelino Garcia, irrigation technician; Elizabeth Palma, administrative assistant. Walter Thompson, landscape supervisor.  
Total staff: 43 full time. Avg. weekly hours 40 ST with 4 OT. Total acreage: 105 acres. No overseeding.  
Greens: 5,250 sq. ft. TifEagle. HOC: .120 in. summer; .110 in. winter. Green speeds: 8-8.5 summer, 9-10 winter.  
Tees: 4 acres Tifway 419. HOC: .350 in.  
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Bunkers: 72 bunkers FS100 sand and 10 acres of naturalized links areas (coral screenings). Greens bunkers hand raked. Fairway bunkers machine raked with Toro Sand Pros with spring-rake attachments.  
Waterways/Lakes: 13 acres, 3 lakes.  
Total acreage: 97 acres  
Greens: 4,800 sq. ft. Tifdwarf. HOC: .175 in. summer. .150 in. winter. Off-type mutations in greens need higher cut. Green speed goals: 7.0 summer, 8.0-plus winter.  
Tees: 2.5 acres Tifway 419 & Tifgreen 328 HOC: .450 in.  
Fairways: 25 acres 60% Ormond and 40% common bermudagrass. HOC: .625 in.  
Roughs: 65 acres each of mixed 419, Ormond and common bermudagrass. HOC: 1.25 in.  
Bunkers: 51 bunkers FS100 sand and 2 acres of naturalized links areas (coral screenings).  
Waterways/Lakes: 20 acres, 8 lakes.
Lee VanValkenburg, CGCS

Originally from: Attica, New York
Family: Single. Mother Ardyth VanValkenbuig, brother Peter and sister Beth Mullen
Education: AS Business Administration, Genesee Community College; 1988 GCSAA Certified Golf Course Superintendent
Professional affiliation and awards: CGCS; Class A member of the GCSAA, FGCSA, and South Florida GCSA; Member of the FTGA and USGA. Certified pesticide applicator with State of Florida.
Getting into the Business: I grew up next door to the Attica Golf Club. My grandfather, father and uncle all worked there and so did I. My mother would send Lady, our collie, over to the course to find me for dinner.
Mentors: My father Irving VanValkenburg - his love and dedication to the game instilled in me a desire to become involved in the golf industry. Robert Simmons, my first boss. Working with Bob with his down to earth approach made me love the profession. Adam Yurigan - Adam is the man who taught me the profession. He gave me the chance to learn by making me make decisions and some mistakes and being man enough to face the heat. How many guys are willing to do that? J.J. Curran and Lou Wozak, - they were both good friends and mentors here at Ocean Reef.
Philosophy/Accomplishments: Refuse to lose. You can always find a way to get it done. My greatest accomplishment or satisfaction is seeing guys who have worked for me go out and be successful - Bryan Singleton, Mike Oasley and Chuck Calhoun and most recently Tod Evans moving up to La Gorce CC in Miami.
Advice to new superintendents: Identify the talent on your team, explain exactly what is expected of them and give them the means to accomplish what’s expected. Coach and guide them so they can begin making decisions on their own. This only works if you’re a good judge of talent.
Memorable moments: After Hurricane Andrew, we housed and fed many of our associates, who had basically lost everything. We were cut off from the mainland and most communications for a week. People got on edge. One day two guys almost came to blows over what day it was. I defused the situation by tossing a newspaper on the table and said, “You might be wrong today, but you’ll be right tomorrow!”
Hobbies and interests: Fishing. Still dating. Reading. That’s all I have time for.

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HARBOR COURSE

Harbor Course crew.

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Greens: 4,800 sq. ft. Tifdwarf. HOC: 0.175 in. summer, 0.150 in. winter. Off-type mutations in greens need higher cut. Green speed goals: 7.0 summer, 8.0-plus winter.

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Waterways/Lakes: 20 acres, 8 lakes.

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Here are some things you might not know about our cover story superintendent:

2. The last good movie I saw: As Good As It Gets.
3. I stay home to watch: Sports and nature shows.
4. The book I've been reading: "First, Break All the Rules."
5. Favorite meal: Mom's homemade spaghetti.
7. Prized possession: All my fishing tackle.
8. Personal heroes: Joe Torre, Colin Powell.
9. Nobody knows that I: Wanted to become a paleontologist. Working in this fossilized coral bedrock, I guess I am one.
10. I'm better than anyone else when it comes to: Anticipation, thinking and planning ahead.
11. If I could do it over: Maybe I would have married a woman instead of a golf course.
12. I'd give anything to meet: Our President.
14. The one thing I can't stand: Lack of planning ahead.
15. If I could change one thing about myself: I'd try to be more relaxed.
17. My most humbling experience: Early in my career, driving a tractor into a tree in front of everyone at the clubhouse and getting exiled back to the push-type rotary mower detail for the season.
18. The words that best describe me: Humorous but intense.