Squire course in St. Augustine and will graduate this May. Tim works at Marsh Landing and is a second-year student.

The NFGCSA also donated funds to the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program and to the First Tee Program of St. Johns County. First Tee Coordinator Elliot Levercombe and one of the First Tee participants, Andrew Taylor, were on hand to receive the donation. Young Andrew gave a poignant thank you speech highlighting what the First Tee has meant to him and the others in the program. He especially cited the mentoring and positive influence the program has had on his education and outlook on life.

Long-time NFGCSA member and super volunteer, Paul Hamrick, was presented with the Alan MacCurrrach Lifetime Achievement Award for his consistent and persistent service to the chapter, as he jumped in and helped to run so many of the association’s events.
This was probably the most idyllic setting the Conference and Show has ever had. The weather was perfect. The harbor views were spectacular. The location and transportation was flawless and there was even a PGA Tour event going on at the same time to visit if you could find a spare moment in the jam-packed week of activities.

The weeklong schedule of activities concluded with the presentation of the association’s highest honor, the Old Tom Morris Award, to highly regarded golf-course architect Rees Jones. But the real surprise was at the Opening Session as CBS Sports announcer Jim Nantz brought down the house with a pledge to do a better job of telling the story of golf maintenance during golf broadcasts. He promptly followed up that promise with praiseworthy comments during the Saturday and Sunday broadcasts of the Buick Invitational at Torrey Pines.

In addition, Mark J. Woodward, certified golf course superintendent at Dobson Ranch and Riverview golf courses in Mesa, Ariz., was elected GCSAA president. Overall attendance for the Conference and Show was 19,317, up 1,153 from last year’s total of 18,164 in Atlanta. There were approximately 6,200 qualified buyers (those who make purchase decisions at a golf facility), up from the 6,045 in Atlanta. Education seminar attendance reached 6,780, again surpassing the 6,295 figure of last year. A total of 684 exhibitors covered 240,000 square feet of floor space, down slightly from the 701 exhibitors and 245,200 square feet of floor space last year.
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84th among the top 200 tradeshows (there are more than 4,500 trade shows in the U.S. annually).

GCSAA’s 76th International Golf Course Conference and Show will take on a new format, appearing next year as the Golf Industry Show. It will combine the trade shows hosted by GCSAA and the National Golf Course Owners Association. Both associations will operate separate education conferences that will run concurrently with the trade show. The 2005 Golf Industry Show is set for Feb. 10-12 in Orlando, with the GCSAA education conference Feb. 7 - 12 and the NGCOA education conference Feb. 8 - 12. I think this union will help get owners more involved in the issues facing the golf business.

My good friend, Monroe S. Miller, golf course superintendent at Blackhawk Country Club in Madison, Wis., for the past 30 years, was presented the Green Section Award from the United States Golf Association at its education session. The award is given annually by a panel of experts in the turfgrass field and recognizes distinguished contributions to golf through work with turfgrass.

Gordon LaFontaine, Danny H. Quant, CGCS, and Gordon C. Witteveen were selected as recipients of the GCSAA’s Distinguished Service Award. LaFontaine, known for his leadership in Michigan turfgrass affairs has worked with the Florida Turfgrass Association during an independent review of the IFAS program at the University of Florida and Gordon Witteveen, a well known author, columnist and Canadian superintendent, is a member of the Florida West Coast GCSA. He winters in Tarpon Springs and visits area courses and

Kim Shine, Windsor Park GC in Jacksonville was checking out tee signs at the trade show.

I flagged down Steve Ciardullo, Mountain Lake CC, for a snapshot while he cruised the show.

A lot of us were away from home on Valentine’s Day. Hey, I got lonely.

This was the view from my room at the Bay Club Hotel and Marina

Scott Bell, Red Stick GC, left, and Gary Morgan of UHS agree on weed control.

From left: Jay McCord, John Foy and Greg Pheneger catch up with each other at the FGCSA Reception. Around 400 Floridians got together at the Wyndham Emerald Plaza to nosh on shrimp cocktail, see old friends and meet new ones.

From left: Jay McCord, John Foy and Greg Pheneger catch up with each other at the FGCSA Reception. Around 400 Floridians got together at the Wyndham Emerald Plaza to nosh on shrimp cocktail, see old friends and meet new ones.

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- 3 Tier Technologies (Dan Burdette)
A Course That Scores a Couple of Eagles

By Joel Jackson

Every course has a story to tell and Lemon Bay is a book with several chapters. In many ways it could be called a rags-to-riches story. There’s the course-history chapter that takes an 1890s lemon grove and transforms it into a public golf course in 1981 only to fall into disrepair and be rescued by the members in 1989. The member-owners became so successful that they had to expand and incorporate the Long Marsh Golf Club at Rotunda to serve the long waiting list for membership.

There’s a chapter on the superintendent Chip Copeman, who guided the transformation of the golf course from a weed-infested wreck to a beautifully manicured gem of a golf course. Copeman graduated from the school of hard knocks and is a throwback to the days of the apprentice learning his trade at the side of a master craftsman. Now he’s the vice president of the Suncoast Chapter and is a firm supporter of continuing education. His annual trips to the Masters Tournament in Augusta were part of his inspiration to excel in his profession.

Lemon Bay is a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. Certainly another tale worth telling, filled with creative ideas on how to accomplish that goal and be a better steward of the area’s natural resources. When there’s a pair of bald eagles living in an eight-acre preserve in the middle of your golf course, it pays to be a good environmental steward because first, it’s the right...
Chip Copeman

Originally from: Orlando
Family: Married to wife Lisa for 11 years. Son Kevin, daughter Lindsay
Education: Practical experience in the early years. Accredited turf management seminars and continuing education at GCSAA, FTGA and FGCSA events.
Professional affiliations and awards: Member of GCSAA and FTGA. Currently vice president of the Suncoast GCSA chapter. Served on the board since 2000.
Goals: Maintain the natural integrity of the golf course and continue my education and the crew’s education on environmental issues. Create and maintain a close relationship with the surrounding community, with regard to their environmental concerns.
Accomplishments: Getting Lemon Bay and Long Marsh certified in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. Lemon Bay was the 25th course in the state and 115th in the world to be certified. In May 2003, Long Marsh became the 60th in Florida and 438th in the world to attain certification.
Work philosophy: Choose goals. Prepare plans to achieve those goals. Have the discipline to follow your plan and your goals will be met. Always remember, there’s more than one way to get downtown. Some roads just take a little longer to get there.
Advice: Be involved in your local, state and GCSAA associations. Stay informed and have the right answers. Never guess or pretend to know the answer.
Memorable moments: (1) My wedding day, 12-12-92, beautiful blue sky and cool weather on Boca Grande Island. (2) The death of my good friend Tom Crawford. (3) When I started at Lemon Bay we didn’t have power in the maintenance building. We had to run a small generator, but it was so small we would first brew a pot of coffee and then turn on the lights to check the fuel and oil levels on the equipment after the coffee was made.
Hobbies/Interests, community, church involvement: (1) Golf, hunting, fishing, and wood working; (2) Consult and help with Lemon Bay High School sports fields; (3) Christian faith believer.
Lemon Bay
Wildlife Inventory

MAMMALS
- Armadillo
- Bobcat
- Gray fox
- Red fox
- Skunk
- Rabbit
- Raccoon
- Palmetto rat

REPTILES
- Alligator
- Chameleons
- Coral Snakes
- Indigo Snakes
- Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnakes
- Gopher Tortoise
- Leatherback turtles

FISH
- Bream
- Catfish
- Largemouth bass

BIRDS
- Anhinga
- Bald Eagle
- Blue Heron
- Blue Jay
- Cardinal
- Coots
- Crow
- Dove
- Gallinules
- Grackles
- Glossy Ibis
- Great Blue Heron
- Great White Egret
- Green Heron
- Hawks (several varieties)
- Kingfisher
- Limkin
- Louisiana Heron
- Moorhens
- Night Heron
- Owls (several varieties)
- Roseate Spoonbill
- Sandhill Crane
- Scrub Jay
- Snowy Egret
- Terns
- Tri-colored Heron
- White Ibis
- Woodpeckers
- Wood Stork

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Lemon Bay Golf Club

Location: Englewood
Ownership: Members
Playing policy: Private (October-April); Semi-Private (May-September)
Number of holes: 18; 6,180 yards; Par 71; Course Rating 69.9/Slope 126.

Chapter One: History

The Lemon Bay Golf Club is located just off State Road 775, which snakes its way south on the mainland from Englewood to Placida on Florida’s southwest coast. West of the course lie mangroves, Lemon Bay and Don Pedro Island. To the east lie the Rotunda and Port Charlotte communities and the pine and palmetto scrubland flats of southwest Florida.

In 1981 the course rose from the overgrown acres of a pioneer lemon grove. It was designed by Jim Petrides, who had also designed the nearby Rotunda community golf course. It opened and operated as a public golf course for many years but, for whatever reason, the course conditions declined and it became an eyesore. The irrigation system was in a shambles. Smutgrass grew everywhere and nematodes devoured the turf, creating large bare areas on the course. In 1989 a group of members bought the course and began to turn it around.

It took man working with nature and some good agronomy from three to five years to get the course looking respectable, but at the end of the five years they had been so successful they had to cap the membership. A seven-to-ten-year waiting list ensued. The nearby Long Marsh Golf Club, located two miles away in Rotunda, came on the market and the Lemon Bay members group bought it to serve the waiting list.

Chapter Two: The Superintendent

Born in Orlando, Chip Copeman was around golf courses and landscaping for most of his childhood and early adult life. His mother Pat worked around golf courses and landscaping for most of his childhood and early adult life. His mother Pat worked...