Remember when “drive” was something you had... not something you did.

Harrell’s hasn’t forgotten.

Harrell’s reps will go the distance for you. That’s because – for Harrell’s – providing you with efficient, high performance service is a top priority. In addition, Harrell’s world-class, custom-blended fertilizers are formulated to give you optimum turf growth and health; state-of-the-art technology and quality ingredients guarantee it. Together we are all part of a fine-tuned team that assures you’ll get what you need, when you need it. It’s a winning combination.

Get a jump on the competition. Call your Harrell’s rep or call toll-free at: 1-800-282-8007

Or visit our Web site: www.harrells.com
The economic “down-turn,” if that is the appropriate word to describe what the country has experienced for the past few years, has not hit Florida as hard as most of the other states. One big reason is because the agricultural and natural resource sectors - those industries served by IFAS research and extension, which includes turf management - performed better than any other major sector of Florida’s $484 billion economy during this period.

Between 2001 and 2003 personal income in Florida increased by 7.6 percent compared to 4.8 percent for the rest of the country. Of 22 major industry sectors of Florida’s economy surveyed during this period, only management of companies and enterprises (27 percent), exceeded farms (26.2 percent) in personal income growth. I don’t know quite what to think about these numbers that were generated by a recent University of Florida/IFAS economic impact study.

My long history of working through FTGA and FGCSA committees with IFAS has been continuous frustration that our legislature cuts the IFAS budget year after year, failing to recognize that agriculture and natural resources are the heart and soul of Florida and its economy. No matter what a governor or a group of legislators would like Florida to become, ignoring what it is just never made any sense to me.

Kudos go to all those working in the green industries, who have performed so well despite the lack of support by those who write legislation and set state budgets. My question is how long can this strong performance go on as IFAS continues to be hamstrung by dreamers and urban legislators who’ve never had dirt under their fingernails?

While trying to attract more high-tech industry, with its higher incomes, to our state is a worthwhile goal, it would seem to be an intelligent strategy to ensure that the industries that are currently serving the needs of the people of this state are protected and supported. Agriculture and natural resource industries - which include such diverse enterprises as citrus, forestry, seafood, sugarcane, vegetables, ornamentals, and turf - generate about $62 billion in output impacts ($31 billion in value-added impacts). About 650,000 people work in these industries, generating $19 billion in labor income and nearly $3 billion in indirect business taxes. Florida’s unemployment rate hovers around 5.1 percent, while California is at 6.6 percent, North Carolina is 6.1 percent, Oregon is 8.2 percent, Colorado is 5.8 percent, Massachusetts is 5.5 percent, and Washington is at 7.3 percent - states specifically pursuing economic development strategies based on high tech industries.

The diversity of Florida’s agriculture and natural resource industries is impressive - not only do we have more golf courses than any other state, but our citrus, seafood processing, and at least nine other crops are tops in the nation. While this diversity gives our economy a stability and balance that other states don’t have, it also makes it difficult to secure private research and development investment - 12 million acres of corn in Iowa will attract more investment than our 850,000 acres of citrus. One would think our legislators would recognize the value of this diversity to the stability of our economy and try to nurture and preserve it by increasing the investment in the kind of research and extension that IFAS does so well, rather than continuing year after year to decrease it.

As for tourism, am I just being simple-minded, or is it just common sense to think that people visit or move to Florida because of our great weather, water, beaches, fishing, golf courses, and green spaces? Yes, we have Disney World and other attractions, but so do other states. I love visiting San Francisco, but when I jump in the car I want to see Napa Valley, not Silicon Valley. Let’s hope that Mike Martin can find a way to make this message resonate with the powers in Tallahassee.

As it Lies

The Times They Are a’ Changing

By Jim Walker

A couple of years ago, players on the PGA Tour, European Tour and Senior PGA Tour were asked what was the single most important advancement which has led to the superior quality of play today. Most people expected the answer to be new and better clubs and balls or the conditioning of the players who are stronger and in much better shape, or a combination of those factors. To everyone’s surprise, the answer almost to a man was the condition of the turf being so much better today than it was in the 50’s, 60’s or even the 70’s.

Each decade has brought new and better varieties of grass, safer and more effective pesticides and sophisticated mowers and supporting equipment.

A visit from the state DEP inspector several weeks ago made me think of the strides our industry has made in the last 30-odd years that I have been in the business. Not only have we made giant steps forward with our mowing and cultural practice equipment, and grass types, but more importantly, we have made even bigger steps in the use and application of pesticides. Superintendents have become environmental stewards and, as such, the players, workers and applicators are safer because of it. The environment, the non-golfing public, and our wildlife are in much less peril than back in the good old days.

I am most pleased that future generations of golf course workers will be less at risk because of some of the pesticides which were removed from the market. Furthermore, I am pleased that all the aforementioned non-golfers, wildlife, and the environment in general are also less at risk.

Don’t get me wrong, I’m not saying everything we did back then was unsafe or wrong, but there is no doubt that where we are now is much better than where we were then.

Just think of how much more effective it is to spot-spray Sencor or Revolver for goose grass than to boom spray MSMA. How much better we are now that we apply pre-emergent herbicides for grassy and broadleaf weeds than to have to make all those post-emergent applications?

What a wonderful day it was when we could apply one fungicide to address all our fungal problems than to spray this for that and that for this, and on and on it went!

How much better off are we with grasses that tolerate 1/2-inch to 3/8-inch mowing heights...
CONSISTENT CONTROL IN THE MOST INCONSISTENT CLIMATES.

Consistent performance, consistent results. When the humidity is up and the temperature is rising ConSyst® fungicide gives you turf disease control you can count on time after time, every time. ConSyst works on contact and it works systemically to prevent and cure even resistant diseases, so no product rotation is needed. Used in a regular program, ConSyst is even fungistatic to pythium diseases. ConSyst is one fungicide with such a broad spectrum of disease control, it's become the “all-purpose fungicide” for turf and ornamentals. If you want consistent protection, you want ConSyst from Regal Chemical Company.

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on fairways and dwarf varieties of putting green grasses being mowed at .150-inch or less on a regular basis with minimal damage?

How much easier is it now to aerify greens and pick up the debris with a core processor rather than a crew with shovels and trap rakes turned upside down?

What did we do before trap rakes that groomed bunkers with one man in just a few hours in most cases?

Isn’t it wonderful to verticut or groom during the growing season with ease, and then to dust the greens with our rotary top dressers?

How difficult is it to keep level tees now? Dude, just call the contractor and have him laser level them every couple of years!

How about fertigation?

Fertilize every night when you water!

One Adam Twelve, see the man on the two-ton truck broadcasting 5 tons of fertilizer an hour! I watched with amazement as that same device - and one like it - put out 650 tons of top dressing on four soccer fields in less than four hours. How long would have that taken with a couple of walking Turfco top dressers?

I could go on for a while longer now that I’m on a roll but no need beating a dead tree or a dead tree hugger or a young superintendent who doesn’t know where this industry has come from.

Trust me. We’ve come a long way, baby, and hopefully still have a long way to go.

Who knows, maybe someday we will see a grass that needs no water, food, mowing or other tending to. I guess that’s not really likely since grass is a living organism and all living things need a little TLC from folks like us.

Leadership - A Learned Behavior

By Bruce R. Williams, CGCS

Early in my career I learned from some great mentors.

continued on page 56 ...

Show and Tell

Put More ‘Grin’ Than ‘Grip’ into Award Presentation Photos

From time to time in future issues, we will provide some writing and picture-taking tips to help you improve your communications skills whether it’s for your club newsletter or for articles for other publications.

Photos are a great way to capture memories and the history of your department at the club or your chapter, whether they’re the good old 35mm prints or slides or digital images. Maybe these pictures will go into an album or onto a CD for the archives, but then again they might be used in the Green Sheet, The Florida Green or even a national publication like GCM or Golfdom.

The Grip and Grin Photo Op

One of most-often taken photos is the golf trophy, service award, or donation check presentation. They are often called “grip and grin” after the handshake and broad smile that go with the handing over of the hard cash or hardware. The most common mistake in this photo-op is the position of the subjects. Ninety-nine percent of the time, the subjects stand at arms length shaking hands and holding onto the plaque or whatever.

The other big mistake is keeping the camera too far away from the subjects. We don’t need to see their feet. We want to show their smiling faces. And since some of us are maturing nicely, we also don’t want our bellies prominently displayed either.

And whether indoors or outdoors, always use a flash to take the picture unless you know how to eliminate shadows from overhead lighting or bright sunlight in the darkroom or with your computer.

The key to these photos is to get the subjects close together, shoulders touching and plaque held high. Also get the subjects, especially if there are more than two, to stand angled toward the camera (45 degrees instead of square to the lens. It helps to minimize the girth of the person and saves column space in the magazine.

And if at all possible, try to create a different pose entirely. Of course it’s a good idea to take a “safe” pose as well, in case the bright idea doesn’t look so hot when you edit your photos.

One caution - especially for framed awards - is to be aware of reflections of lights and flash on any shiny, polished or glass surfaces. You may have to tilt the award down slightly to avoid reflections.

Typically subjects stand too far apart. Also watch for background objects “sticking” out of people’s heads. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Better composition. Subjects are closer. Blank wall space is minimal. This photo can be easily cropped to fit into the column space in a magazine. Photo by Joel Jackson.

A good suggestion is to eliminate the presenter altogether from the photo, unless it is someone famous or someone who rarely ever appears in chapter photos. The focus of the story is the recipient. Keep it dignified, but have fun with it too.

Remember, when you have the camera, you’re the boss of the photo shoot. Above are examples of poor and better composition of the Grip & Grin photo.
2003 Photo Contest Results

This is part three of presenting the four category winners of the 2003 photo contest.

First Place - “Lake Bank Plantings” by Trevor Brinkmeyer, Shadow Wood CC, Naples

Second Place - “Fountain Grass along No. 4 Tee” by Tom Biggy, Bent Tree CC, Sarasota

Category 3 - Native Areas

2004 Photo Contest Categories

Category 1 - Wildlife on the course: includes any critter on the course that walks, flies, swims, slithers or crawls.

Category 2 - Formal Landscaping: includes annuals and ornamental shrubs and trees planted in formal beds on the course or club entrance.

Category 3 - Native Areas: includes beds of native plants including trees, shrubs and grasses used in naturalized areas to reduce turf inputs and aquatic vegetation plantings used to create habitat and protect water quality.

Category 4 - Scenic Hole: includes any view of a golf hole (panoramic or close up) that demonstrates the scenic beauty of a golf course.

Easy Rules

1. Color prints or slides. Prefer prints. Only one entry per category. Digital images: Digital image entries must be taken at a resolution setting of 300 dpi or higher and saved as Jpeg or Tif format images. Images taken, saved and sent at lower resolutions will not qualify for the contest. If you’re not sure. Send a print instead.

2. Photo must be taken on an FGCSA member’s course. Photo must be taken by an FGCSA member or a member of his staff.

3. Attach a label on the back of the print or slide which identifies the category, course and photographer. DO NOT WRITE DIRECTLY ON THE BACK OF THE PRINT. Each print shall be attached to an 8.5” x 11” sheet of paper using a loop of masking tape on the back of the print. Slides should be in plastic sleeves for easy access for viewing. Digital images must be accompanied by the same information in an email or document on a CD.

4. A caption identifying the category, course and photographer should be typed or printed on the sheet of paper below the mounted print.

5. Judging will be done by a panel of FGCSA members not participating in the contest.

6. Mail entries in a bend-proof package marked “PHOTOS DO NOT BEND” to Joel Jackson, 6780 Tamarind Circle, Orlando, 32819. Entries postmarked after August 1, 2003 will be automatically entered in the 2004 Photo Contest.
event in La Costa. They showed pictures of the flood which inundated the holes on the course, but the only mention I heard of the crew’s efforts was the typical “the superintendent and his staff did a nice job this week” uttered by Tim Finchem. Meanwhile, one doofus was praising the PGA Tour officials acting as referees for the matches as the nuts and bolts that make this thing happen. Say what?

Birdies to the Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association and the Cactus and Pines GCAS in Arizona for getting their golf course owners associations, club managers associations and state golf associations together to work on the issues facing golf. Awesome.

Bogeys and Double Bogeys to the golf course owners in Florida who can’t even support their own Chapter of the NGCOA. Maybe when the GCSSA and NGCOA get together in Orlando in February 2005 for the new Golf Industry Conference and Show they will get the hint.

Birdies to the North Carolina Legislature. It took the Turf Council of North Carolina and their supporters like the Carolinas GCSA awhile, but they got $650,000 budgeted to go to the turf-grass center at North Carolina State University annually. If they can respond to a $2.5 billion dollar turf industry like that, just think what Florida should get at $4.4 billion.

Triple bogeys to the governor of South Carolina. Word is that his state budget proposal cuts out all funding to Clemson University’s turf and ornamental programs including extension. Has this guy ever heard of Myrtle Beach? Got to give a bogey to our Florida legislature with their annual budget cuts to IFAS. Agriculture has helped pull Florida through the slow economy, and for that they get sucker punched.

Birdies to all certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary courses. Thanks for being proactive and a good example of golf’s environmental stewardship, and an eagle to the superintendents paying the ACSP dues out of their own pocket.

Triple bogey to the club that won’t cough up the $150 annual dues. I’m embarrassed for you.

But I have to throw a bogey on your score card if you aren’t also making the case for your value to the club. If you aren’t following a business plan or communicating frequently with the movers and shakers then you are risking disqualification.

In the real game of golf there are no mulligans.

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In the real game of golf there are no mulligans.
It's hard to beat the performance of TMI turfgrass varieties!

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Compare test results of proven overseeding grasses and you'll notice similarities. V.I.P. 3 Turf Type Perennial Blend is a combination of quality and performance...and at an amazingly affordable price. Contains #1 ranked varieties. Available in specific overseeding formulations. Varieties chosen for outstanding ease of transitioning, and genetic dark green color. Contains endophytes.

PIZZAZZ promises to set the standard for the next decade. Its dark green color and dense turf make it an attractive choice for parks, home lawns and golf courses. Clonal selections contain high levels of endophytes, and this synthetic variety is lower growing than many older varieties.

Paragon is in a class all of its own. In fact, we are so certain that you will want Paragon in your turf program because of its superior turf qualities, we have taken measures to ensure that you can see Paragon for yourselves that you will be able to readily get seed for this coming fall season. It's that good. Better color, finer texture, improved disease resistance. Paragon - the professionals choice.

Private and university trials have shown Cypress to be a premier overseeding grass. Cypress Poa trivialis establishes fast and can be cut close immediately, even after overseeding. As your Bermuda grass goes dormant, Cypress will provide the finest dark green putting surface with no interruption in play. Cypress is tolerant to shade and damp soils. This unique prostrate growing variety thrives in cool weather and will survive cold weather that will damage Turf Type Ryegrasses. But most important, Cypress will maintain its dark green color all winter long. As the weather turns hot in the spring, Cypress will die out naturally as your Bermuda grass begins to grow. Cypress will not choke out your Bermuda grass in the spring as some heat tolerant Perennial Ryegrasses do.

TMI has spent years developing StarDust to be more disease resistant and is one of the darkest commercial Poa trivialis for better color matches with some of today's darkest green ryegrasses. University overseeding trials in Florida and Arizona have shown StarDust is setting the next standard that other Poa trivis can only hope to achieve.

Created to meet the specific needs for seeding athletic fields, lawns, and golf courses. Establishes quickly and performs well under moderate to low fertility. Barracuda will grow under a greater variety of conditions than other grass seed, even on soils very poor in lime. Barracuda is a perennial grass with a creeping habit of growth, darker green than its common redtop. Drought tolerant, dense turf with excellent mowing qualities.

Perfecting Turfgrass Performance.