There's only one grass:

- That truly performs beautifully from tee to green.
- That can be mowed for greens at 0.10" or less and for roughs at 2.50" or more.
- That eliminates contamination risks and related costs.
- That streamlines irrigation and nutrient management programs.
- That is the most salt tolerant of all commercially grown paspalums.
- That can even be irrigated with sea water with proper management.
- That stands up to salt spray, water logging and periodic flooding.
- That tolerates soil pH from 4.0 to 9.8.
- That actually helps clean up contaminated soils and water.
- That thrives on gray and effluent water.
- That roots equally well in sandy, clay or muck-type soils.
- That needs minimal fertilization and pesticide requirements.
- That keeps growing in 40 to 55 degree F soil temperatures.
- That stripes beautifully, with a deep, dark, rich green color.

The one and only grass you'll need for your golf course is Sea Isle Supreme.

Sea Isle Supreme
Paspalum
SealsIsleSupreme.com
There was Jack of all trades, a Jack who drove PT109 and moved to the White House, Jack the Knife, Action Jackson, Jack Webb who got all the facts, and many people and cars who get jacked up. Jack is a great name.

Who can forget the immortal words which echoed through the fabled Boston Garden: “At forward, six-foot-nine, from Indiana State, La Harry Birrrdddd.” When asked about his Hall of Fame career he responded, “I’m just a hick from French Lick.” There’s a Larry, who was a King, started in radio in Miami in the 50’s and went on to have a big time nightly interview show on CNN. He was married 7 times.

Larry Flint sold magazines which I bought only to read the articles. He got shot.

There was a guy named Larry who used to play football in Miami. If he broke through the line of scrimmage and into the secondary, he would look for defensive backs to run into and they got “Zonked.” One of my faves, Larry the Cable Guy is looking to “git er done, Lord, I apologize.” How about Larry Hagman. He lived with and dreamed of a Genie, and later ran Dallas.

Ben Franklin got the shock of his life when he invented the stove. Now ain’t that hot?

Speaking of hot, there was a James who invented the Flames, always felt good, and was called the “hardest working man in show business.” There was an actor named James who was a Yankee Doodle Dandy, and coined the phrase “You dirty rat.” “Sweet Baby James” has been recording and staying on top of the charts since the late 60’s despite battling the drug demons and other addictive habits and is always found “Up on the roof.” Ian Fleming created a fictional James who has been saving the world from evil doers since the early 60’s. The name is Bond, James Bond. A great lover of ladies, his martini was shaken, not stirred. James
Earl Jones aka “the voice” had such a problem stuttering as a child he was basically mute until a teacher helped him overcome the problem by reciting poetry in class.

Robert Trent Jones Sr. designed golf courses – some of the most famous in the world. Robert De Niro drove a taxi and became a famous actor. Robert Fulton was always steaming until he built a boat to go up and down the Hudson. Robert E. Lee lost a war, rode a horse named Traveler, and surrendered at Appomattox. Robert Nesta Marley put Reggae on the map and lifted the genre from Jamaica and gave it to the world. Jah rastafari. Robert Shaw was a brilliant actor who got eaten in Jaws. Robert the Bruce was the most famous King of Scotland. He ruled from 1315 to 1329.

Johnny was always on the spot. When he was overseas during World War II, he got “Dear John” letters. John was a movie star who went on to be a Rooster with “True Grit,” and was a “Duke” to his friends. There was a John who was the second president of the United States, and then his son John Quincy became a president too.

John was part of this English rock group called “The Beatles.” They named a plaza in New York after a guy named John who made a lot of money. John Denver thanked God he was a country boy and later went to Colorado to get “high.” I heard tell of a man named John Henry who was a steel driving man and died with a hammer in his hand. Another famous John played tennis with some success despite his terrible temper. Another killed a President named Lincoln. A John named Belushi burst on the scene of Saturday Night Live, made a movie called Animal House, and went on to be a famous “Blues Brother.”

But the most famous name of all is Family. Love yours every day. They are your most precious possession.

I’m tired of preaching to the choir. This is for the club managers, owners, golf professionals and influential golfers at all Florida golf courses. You folks must deal with marketing,
revenue, customer satisfaction, lessons, social gatherings and events, taxes, insurance, etc. These are all important facets of the golf course business. I’m sure your associations deal with these topics at your meetings and conferences.

Are you also dealing with the “Green Movement” and how it affects your course?

I’m asking because I haven’t heard too many questions coming to our group, the superintendents. We’ve been tackling the issues to come with the solutions, but this is bigger than our group can handle alone. We need everyone in golf to come together and leverage our numbers, influence and contacts to stand up for the Florida golf industry.

If you use reclaimed water, you haven’t been overly concerned about water restrictions, yet the cost for this water is rising, sometimes doubling, and in some cases, the permitted amount is being reduced. That affects the bottom line, even if you don’t have brown spots on the course.

If you have a permit to use ground and/or surface water for irrigation, it allows you to pump about 40 percent of what your property needs. The rest must come from Mother Nature. When it doesn’t rain, that 40 percent gets whacked another 30 - 45 percent by water restrictions.

Superintendents talk with the various districts about equitable allocations to keep their (your) business thriving, but talk is cheap and action sometimes comes very slowly. The wheels of government grind slowly while your grass burns up. Maybe a little more organized heat to create a louder squeaky wheel would get better results.

Currently there is also a wave of local fertilizer ordinances being drafted, discussed and enacted under the guise of protecting the local coastal water quality. Protecting the water quality is a good cause. Most of us like to recreate on our state waters and we want them as clean and safe as possible. But the focus of these local governments is on turf fertilizer use. While they have mainly said golf courses should follow the new 2007 Golf BMP Manual when applying nutrients, it only takes one commissioner from one city or county to include all turf including golf under more stringent rules.

I could go into a long list of nutrient sources impacting the state’s waters from agriculture, to wastewater treatment plants, septic tanks, ill-designed storm water systems that discharge directly into these waters, animal waste (migrating and indigenous waterfowl are prolific poopers of nitrogen and phosphorus), grass clippings blown into the gutters and storm drains, falling leaves, pollen, and blossoms along with the nitrogen in the air deposited by rainfall. But fertilizer used on turfgrass is the main bulls eye when it comes to regulations.

Golf courses are said to be easy targets because they are so visible. Because they are visible they are also a leading tourism and resident recreation venue which has around a $5 billion impact to the state’s economy. This includes local property tax rates, and consider the tens of millions of dollars raised for local charities by outings on our courses. Don’t forget the jobs and careers among the 72,000 in the state.

Golf courses are great green spaces and wildlife habitats in urban and rural areas.

There are a lot of things about the golf industry worth fighting for. They will best be served if we all sing long and loud together and to a new audience of legislators and regulators. The time for choir practice is over.

Our place on the circle of life isn’t a guarantee of longevity, it is only our opportunity to maximize the quality of our lives and enjoy the company of others.

ripe old age, but it is always a shock when a peer or one much younger is taken from us too soon.

Obie was one of the first suppliers I met once I became a superintendent in Central Florida. Obie was a sales rep for Woodbury Chemical and also did some work for Butch Gill and Innovative Turf Supply.

Obie went about his business with all the charm and demeanor of a southern gentleman always putting customer service first. He supported his clients individually, but he also was a steadfast supporter of the local chapters and the industry overall.

Rick had a very successful 20-year career in the Naples – Ft. Myers area. He was very competitive, but also very professional. He was outspoken and not shy at all about sharing or giving his opinion on any issue. But he was also not shy about helping others... from subordinates to his peers in the industry. As they say, he walked the talk. He helped me on several occasions by contributing to Hands On articles in The Florida Green.

Rick’s personality was described by many at his recent memorial service as “unique.” He could be stubborn and demanding, and he gave no quarter in a debate. But he stepped up. He showed up. He rolled up his sleeves and got the job done, whatever it took. He didn’t always win, but he was always going for the brass ring.

Our place on the circle of life isn’t a guarantee of longevity, it is only our opportunity to maximize the quality of our lives and enjoy the company of others. Obie and Rick did just that and I am the better for knowing both of them. So long old friends til we meet again.
It’s hard to beat the performance of TMI turfgrass varieties!

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