

Tools of the Trade...at Rob Markut's PGA Golf Club

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — As the head superintendent at the PGA Golf Club for more than two years, Rob Markut stays busy maintaining four courses and a 40-acre learning center. Markut's career started 12 years ago, working for the construction company Landscapes Unlimited, building an 18-hole championship course and an 18-hole executive course in Rotonda, Fla.

"My goal was to experience not only the daily-routine practices on a golf course, but the construction and growth of a course," said Markut, a 1994 graduate of Lake City Community College. "After the project was completed, I joined the maintenance crew at the course until my education at Lake City began." Following graduation, Markut spent over three years as the superintendent at the private, 36-hole Harbour Ridge Yacht and Country Club in Palm City, Fla.

The PGA Golf Club here consists of four courses that require constant maintenance, especially during tournament play. The five-year-old North and South courses were designed by Tom Fazio. The Dye Course and learning center were designed by Pete Dye and opened for play in last December. The PGA Country Club is a private course designed by Jim Fazio and opened in 1988.

Winter is not a vacation. "The fall season is detailing for peak winter play," said Markut. "During the PGA Winter Series tournament, my staff will prepare for 7:45 tee starts on two courses the same day."

On the public/resort golf club, Markut's biggest challenge is schedul-



Rob Markut



Verti-cutting the tees on the South Course

ing maintenance around the busy event schedule. With the National Assistant Pro Championship arriving this month and the PGA Winter Series tournaments taking place from January to March, Markut must meet the challenges of overseeding a total of 250 acres on 72 holes and performing the bulk of his mowing and cultural practices in front of play.

"We're gearing toward the busy season of play," said Markut. "I owe a lot of credit to my course superintendents — Craig Wylie [South Course], Juan Larralde [North Course], Tom Abbott [Dye Course] and Mike Cotman [PGA Country Club]. My shop manager, Brian Layle, also does an outstanding job taking care of our equipment fleet."

Greens mowers: 21 Toro GM 1000
Tee mowers: 15 Toro GM 3100
Fairway mowers: 9 Toro 6500

Rough mowers: 4 Toro 3100-D, 3 Toro 5 gang
Riding bunker rakes: 5 Toro SP 5020, 2 SP 14
Turf utility vehicles: 41 Club Car Carry All, 5 Toro Workman
Verti-cut reels: 9 Toro 3100, 1 Verti-King
Aerifiers: 3 Toro greens, 3 Toro 687, 1 deep-tine soil reliever
Topdressers: 1 Toro 2500, 2 Terra Topper, 1 Workman Topdresser
Grooming reels: 12 Toro 3100, 7 Toro GM 1000
Tournament speed roller: 2 Salsco Green Rollers
Irrigation pump stations: 1 Syncroflo VFD 4000 gpm max, 1 Syncroflo VFD 2325 gpm max, 1 Syncroflo VFD 960 gpm max, 1 PSI 2000 gpm max

Irrigation system: 1 Toro network 8000 Site Pro, 1 Toro LTC Site Pro, 1 Toro VT II

Flagsticks: Standard white 7'

Computer and accessories: Windows 95 pentium

Primary herbicide: Basagran

Primary pesticide: Orthene

Primary fungicide: Daconil

Primary slow-release fertilizer: SCU (fairways)

Cannot live without: My wife Lori and sons, Robert and Ryan

Oldest piece of equipment: 12 year-old John Deere Tractor

Total square footage of maintenance building(s): 38,000 sq. ft.

Annual rounds of golf: 147,000 at PGA Golf Club (North, South, and Dye courses), 60,000 at PGA Country Club

Normal green speed: 9'-10'

AMANDA PALMER JOINS UNCLE ARNOLD'S DESIGN FIRM

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. — Amanda Palmer, niece of Arnold Palmer, has joined the staff of Palmer Course Design Co. A recent graduate of Penn State University, with a degree in turf management, she will become part of the design team. "We're very pleased with her insight and knowledge of turf grass, as well as her abilities as a designer," said Ed Seay, executive vice president and COO.



Amanda Palmer

ITPF to distribute free book on water

ROLLING MEADOWS, Ill. — The International Turf Producers Foundation (ITPF) will distribute free copies of its 50-plus page book, *Water Right, Conserving of Water, Preserving of Environment*, starting in February. The book is designed to help water-policy decision makers, golf courses and landscape businesses deal with water issues.

The book, intended for individuals and firms in the water and green industries, addresses water availability and quality as "the greatest challenge facing the earth's growing population."

As water shortages affect more and more nations and the world's water supply becomes increasingly contaminated or very expensive, the book calls for "forward-thinking approaches to water use, conservation and quality." Social and environmental scientists have documented that "when landscapes are properly designed and maintained, relatively small amounts of water are required to achieve substantial benefits."

To receive a copy, fax your name, company or organization, mailing address and phone number to 847-705-8347.

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