Several corporate outings and local tournaments, so one of my main challenges is just keeping the course in consistently good shape," said Fake.

"An ongoing bunker installation and renovation project will keep Fake busy this season as well as the start of a tree planting program at the facility. "Last season we added two new bunkers on the 18th hole," he said. "This season we'll probably renovate two greenside bunkers, one each on holes one and three."

"Hurricanes form links look.

The course was originally designed as a more traditional tree-lined layout. "Hurricane Camille [1969] came through here the year after the course opened and took down several hundred trees," said Fake.

"Hurricane Frederick [1979] also destroyed some of the plant life on the course. Then Hurricane George came through in 1998 and knocked down some of the pine trees on the property. The layout almost plays like a links-style course now."

The club has an unique arrangement with one of its members who owns and operates a nursery. "It's like a barter system. We keep track of how many times he furnishes us with plant materials," said Fake.

"Our club is relatively flat due to the storms that have come through here," he continued. "We have mostly pines left on the course, so we're trying to plant some more oaks to add a greater mix. We also have planted some azaleas, oleanders and camilla bushes as part of a beautification project around the tees."

Fake will be attending a landscape course at the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show in Orlando this month. "I try to go every year because it's a great way to network with other superintendents," he said. "I like to keep up on continuing education classes as well as check out all the new equipment at the trade show."

"I grew up in upstate New York," said Fake. "My father was an avid golfer, and he knew the importance of a good superintendent. After learning to play golf myself and working on a golf course, I decided to advance my education. One thing that I knew was that I wanted to live where it was warm, so I applied to Lake City Community College." Fake has stayed to enjoy the weather and find a good crew and some of the plant life on the property. The layout almost plays like a links-style course now."