

# Eagle's Trace

The dictionary defines an eagle as "A large bird of prey with a strong soaring flight". Another definition is "A former gold coin of the U.S. worth ten dollars". The same dictionary describes the word trace as "A visible mark or sign of the former presence of passage of some person, thing or event", or "To form with special care".

A recent visit to the tournament players Club at Eagles Trace brought all these definitions to mind. It was most certainly formed with special care and Arthur Hills, Golf Course Architect, has left a visible mark on the rolling terrain that was once a landfill, given the extraordinary amount of earth moving (elevation changes from 25-30 feet). The course is worth significantly more than a \$10 gold coin and to cope with the sometimes dramatic undulations, a golfer must project his ball into an eagle-like strong soaring flight.

Located west of the turnpike and Coral Springs, Florida, Eagles Trace is situated on approximately 425 acres, where beautiful homes will encompass the Tournament Players Club. The golf course was built by Wadsworth Golf Construction Company and was officially opened on December 3rd, 1983. As mentioned earlier, the course was built on a designated landfill site and this required the movement of millions of yards of sand. This vast amount of sand and soil was sculptured into a challenging and Scottish-style golf course.

Arthur Hills designed greens that range in size from 4,000 sq. ft. to 16,000 sq. ft. and average approximately 5,500 sq. ft. Actual turf will cover about 120 acres in addition to 25 acres of lakes. The lakes and 35 bunkers are esthetically beautiful but will add menacing numbers to score cards for those with less than accurate shots.

It's been said that behind every great man there is a great woman and visa versa. It can also be said that behind every greatly conditioned golf course there is a great Golf Course Superintendent. The management at Eagles Trace knew they had a special club and therefore needed an eminently qualified Golf Course Superintendent. Their search ended with Fred Klauk, former Golf Superintendent at Pine Tree. He is considered one of Florida's and the nation's top superintendents. In addition to this he is a highly competitive golfer, who carries a 2 handicap and has won several tournaments, including the FTGA Scholarship and Research Tournament, (1981 and 1983) and the Crowfoot Open. For those who like details he has lost the POA Annual Classic twice in sudden death.

Fred Klauk's first job on a golf course was edging bunkers and removing love vine from oak trees for Lou Oxenevad at Lost Tree. During his high school summer months, he also installed irrigation systems and rebuilt greens under Lou's guidance.

After his graduation from the University of Florida, where he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Ornamental Horticulture, Fred became superintendent, during and after construction, on the north course at John's Island in Vero Beach, Florida. Following John's Island, he was superintendent for nine years at the prestigious Pine Tree Golf Club where he acquired a reputation for superior putting greens. He has brought to Eagles Trace the experience and dedication it will take to satisfy the needs of touring pros and the owner.



Since he began at Eagles Trace in September of 1983, Fred has been busy planting trees, conditioning the course and making modifications. At the time of construction, there were virtually no trees on the property and this has led to extensive planting of Live Oak, Black Olive, Bottlebrush, Gumbo-Limbo and a few Ficus, Royal Poincianna, and Jacarandas. The greens consist of Tifdwarf Bermudagrass, inter-seeded with Penncross Bentgrass in the cool season months. The tees are tifgreen 328 Bermudagrass and fairways and roughs are Tifway 419 Bermudagrass. The golf course has a wall to wall cart path system that spans approximately 30,000 linear feet and aids in minimizing turf damage, due to wet conditions. Excellent surface drainage was created on the course by rolling the terrain and installing catch basins. All of the bunkers have drainage pipe connected to catch basins and as a result of this extensive drainage network, the course can receive 6 inches of rain one day and be open for play the next.

(Continued on page 37)

(Continued from page 36)

The most significant problem Fred faces currently is the torpedo grass in some roughs and fairways. Equipment storage is in the 6,000 sq. ft. maintenance complex that is a good facility with excellent crew accommodations. Presently, the course has no shade problems and being a new development receives relatively light traffic.

Situated approximately 1/2 mile west of the golf course is the Everglades, with a variety of wildlife. This includes ducks, Great Herons, and the famous Florida alligator. Perhaps they will assist Fred with his current nineteen item course change list. This list was accumulated as a result of suggestions from players who participated in the first TPC at Eagles Trace. Take the 8th hole for example, Fred is in the process of removing a mound in the landing area that previously would accelerate shots hit off the tee into a lake if the shot hit on the downshape of the mound. The severity of the mound has been reduced and the area will be re-sodded. Three new tees on numbers 3, 5 and 11 are being built for better alignment toward the green and part of the Par 4, 12th green is going to be redesigned to reduce the severity of the contour.

The irrigation system is Toro Vari-time II, hydraulic and is virtually wall to wall. There are 1100 heads on the golf course consisting of 640's, 650's, 670's and Fred's favorite, the 690. There is one pumping station enclosed in a \$100,000+ house that includes a 20, 40, 60 and 100 horse power pump. Fred is currently in the process of balancing his irrigation system and limiting demand which ultimately will lower his electric bill.

The TPC at Eagles Trace was deemed a successful event by the majority of people who played or were involved with the tournament. Bruce Lietzke won the first tournament and Gary Koch and Mark McCumber share the course record of 66.



Under the capable leadership of Fred Klauk and his assistant, Scott Bell, Eagles Trace will undoubtedly continue to improve as the course ages. Each year as newly planted trees mature and modifications for improvements are initiated, the course will assume a slightly different character. As long as Fred Klauk is involved it is safe to assume that the character will be a reflection of his own professional reputation, constantly seeking ways to improve and perhaps like the Eagle, soaring above the rest and leaving a Trace of something significant and worthwhile. That's the essence of Eagles Trace and Fred Klauk. ■

# Sunniland®

## TURF GRO PRODUCTS



- Fertilizers/Pesticides
- Custom Application
- Fork Lift Delivery

**Specialized formulation  
using . . .**



**TECHNICAL SERVICES  
AT  
NO EXTRA COST!**

West Coast	Central Florida	South Florida
Steve Goedereis 813-726-2715	George Clifton 904-734-1113	Stan Hildreth 305-744-1292



**TOLL FREE  
1-800-432-1130  
P. O. BOX 1697  
SANFORD**