

**W**elcome to Green Side Up!

I feel a little bit like the act scheduled to follow Pavarotti, Streisand or Olivier. Dan and Irene have left some mighty large

footprints to follow, and I'll do my best.

As we try new ideas and formats, let us hear from you so we can keep the magazine

tailored to your needs and yet surprise you from time to

time. We always endeavor to bring you articles and items of interest that will keep you informed about our industry. Letters to the editor will be welcomed for story ideas and to register constructive criticisms.

Our association is taking a pro-active role in cooperating with the Florida Turfgrass Association, the Department of Environmental Regulation, and the U.S. Geological Survey in a groundwater study. The original purpose of the study was to study the effects of effluent irrigation on the mobility of pesticides in the soil. As a condition of our cooperation, we have asked that nutrient levels also be examined in the samples to be taken. Our goal is to refute the unsubstantiated claims that golf course operations are contaminating the groundwater. We see this as an opportunity to gather much-needed data to support our claims that well-managed golf turf is an environmental benefit.

*Cooperative study with DER, USGS will yield much-needed data*

**Green Side Up**



*Joel D. Jackson*  
Joel D. Jackson, CGCS

The study will be conducted by the USGS. It will select three pairs of courses from the Orange-Seminole, Hillsborough, and Sarasota-Lee county areas. One course of each pair will use effluent irrigation, and the other will use deep well or surface water irrigation. Each of the six courses will have four test wells installed. Additionally, surface waters on each course will also be sampled to check for run-off contamination.

The initial phase of the study will consist of a questionnaire which we helped design and distribute. If you receive one of these questionnaires, please fill it out as accurately as possible and return it promptly. This information will give the USGS an insight into golf course operations.

We have recently had the good news that the DER wells on the Palm Beach National GC tested negative for contaminants. In fact, all compounds tested for were BDL (Below Detectable Levels). This upcoming study will give us the opportunity to add to the data from the Cape Cod study which also showed that the groundwater under the sandy soils of three golf courses did not contain any significant levels of pesticides. We are confident that this study will produced similar results.

Certainly, if there is a problem we will want to take the necessary steps to correct it. It has always been our mission to be stewards of the environment.