

Best of both worlds

The maintenance technician for the new FGCSA research green at the Fort Lauderdale REC likes the hands-on approach to turf research

Marcus Prevatte admits he loves to play golf, but he's willing to give up some playing time in order to be involved with the FGCSA's new experimental putting green at the University of Florida's Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center.

Prevatte was recently given the contract to maintain the green and help IFAS researchers at the center take care of other turfgrass plots.

"There are a lot of questions about putting turf that need to be answered," Prevatte says. "This green could provide some of those answers."

Dr. Monica Elliott, assistant professor of plant pathology at the center, estimates that

the green will be green by the Fourth of July. The irrigation system had been installed and fumigation, fertilization and planting were scheduled as this section of *The Florida Green* went to press.

The research green is not Prevatte's first experience with golf course maintenance. During his four years at Florida International University, where he earned a degree in biology, Prevatte worked at Palmetto GC in Dade County. He began as a night waterman and was a mower operator by the time he left.



"The research interests me," he said, "but I also enjoy being more active and I like working on a golf course. By maintaining the new test green, I'll be able to help the researchers with their experiments and also get some practical experience."

There's a bonus for Prevatte, 26, who is uncertain about his future.

"I enjoy research but I'm also considering becoming an assistant golf course superintendent. The work at the center lets me explore both areas and gives me a chance to meet people in the industry. Right now, this is the best possible place to be."

Prevatte, who is single and lives in South Miami, will tend the green about 30 hours a week. He is paid by the FGCSA from a special research fund raised specifically for building and maintaining the green and other turfgrass plots at the Fort Lauderdale REC.

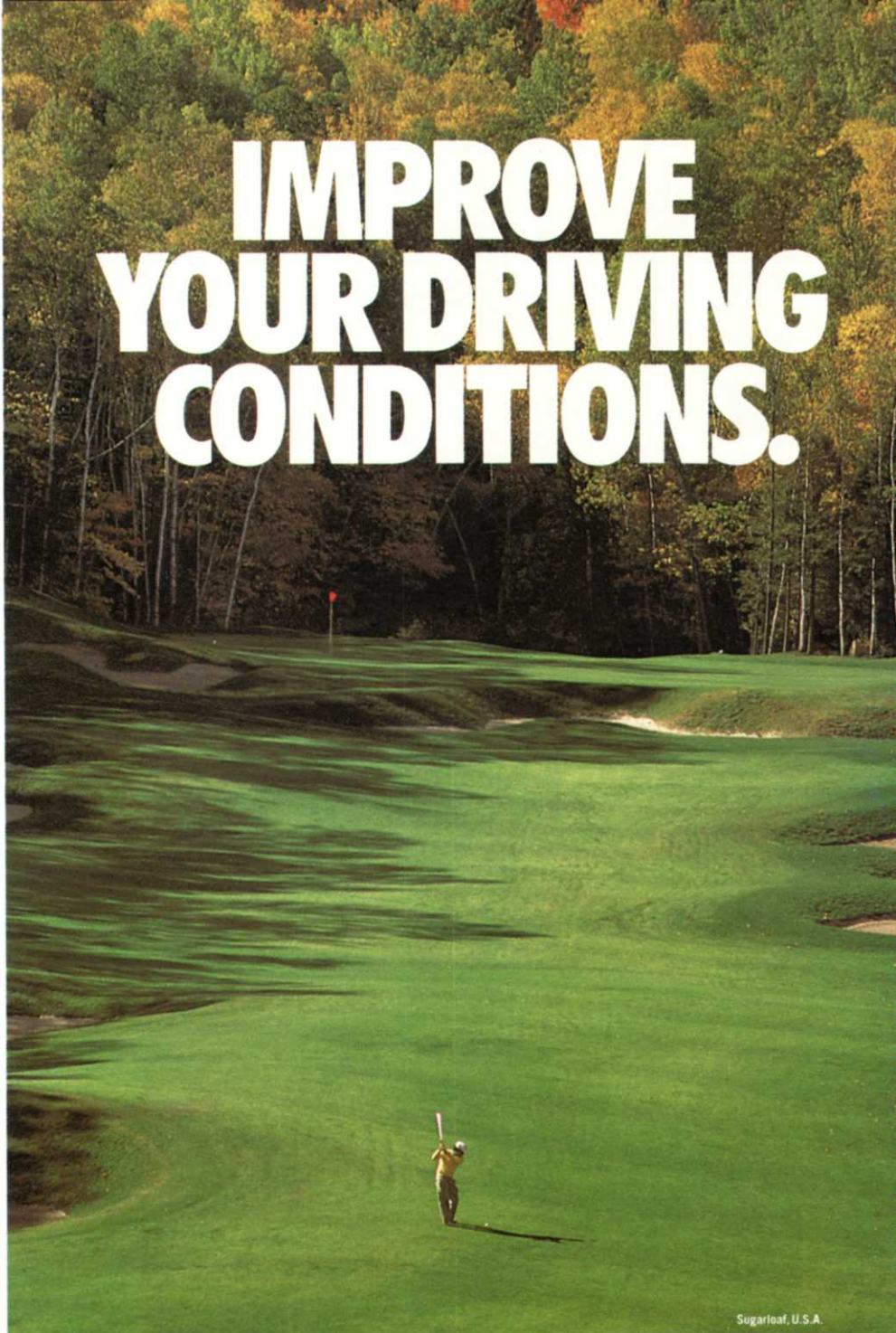
Kit Bradshaw

South Florida Field Day yields \$14,000

A total of 144 superintendents and technicians plus 28 suppliers raised \$14,000 for turf research at the Third Annual South Florida GCSA Field Day April 12 at Rolling Hills Golf Resort in Fort Lauderdale.

In addition, many superintendents and technicians renewed their pesticide licenses and obtained CEUs for certification while suppliers showed off their hardware for two hours at an

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