



Florida was first!	18	Florida's golf numbers	24
Florida dominates supply list ..	19	29 great golf courses	28
Course makes its own water	22	FGCSA tops 600	32

Exclusive country club real estate usually is advertised by word of mouth and sold in mahogany-paneled offices. In Florida \$200,000 lots are advertised on billboards and sold out of mobile homes.

Golf in Florida is a \$5 billion business

Eventually, everything and everyone in golf comes to Florida.

And if they don't stay, at least they leave their money.

Golf is such a big part of Florida's economic picture that its Department of Commerce commissioned a study by the National Golf Foundation.

The finding: Golf is a \$5 billion industry in Florida, fully 20 percent of the gross national golf product.

Of that \$5 billion, less than \$400,000 is spent on equipment. The rest is on real estate, green fees, golf course construction and golf-related travel.

Nobody knows for sure exactly how many golf courses Florida has because we're building them as fast as they can pass cut the permits, sometimes faster.

As of Jan. 1, 1989, the NGF had counted 932 courses open for play in Florida. The 1990 data, scheduled for release in mid-to-late February, should show about 50 more. Another 89 were under construction or on the drawing boards as of Dec. 15, 1989 (See page 74).

More than 200 touring professionals call Florida home and, now that the LPGA has decided to give new meaning to Daytona Beach's old slogan "Where the girls are," that number is likely to climb significantly.

If Daytona Beach is where the girls are, Palm Beach is where the golf is. This one county of about 2,000 square miles and fewer than 700,000 inhabitants at the northern end of the Gold Coast supports more than 125 golf courses, all but half a dozen of them in the county's 500 square miles that are within 15 miles of the Atlantic Ocean.

If Palm Beach County were a state, it would have ranked 35th in the number of golf courses at the end of 1988, between Maine (116) and Maryland (143). By the time the 1989 data are published, it's entirely

possible for Palm Beach County to have passed Maryland and a few other states.

Palm Beach County is home to the PGA of America (which has located two and a half of its 43 sections, or chapters, in Florida), the National Golf Foundation, the Golf Course Builders Association and a handful of the world's greatest golf course architects, including one of the most prolific (page 65).

It is also home to Florida's oldest famous golf course, Donald Ross's Seminole.

It's not easy to build a great golf course in Florida, but the state has one of the largest and most varied collections of outstanding golf courses in the world (page 28).

The land is flat and generally uninteresting, the sandy soil won't hold water, which is in short supply (page 22), and the delicate ecosystem already is supporting more people than nature intended. In other words, the environmental laws are tough.

The one thing Florida golf developers have in their favor is OPM — Other People's Money or Older People's Money, take your pick. Florida has lots and lots of that.

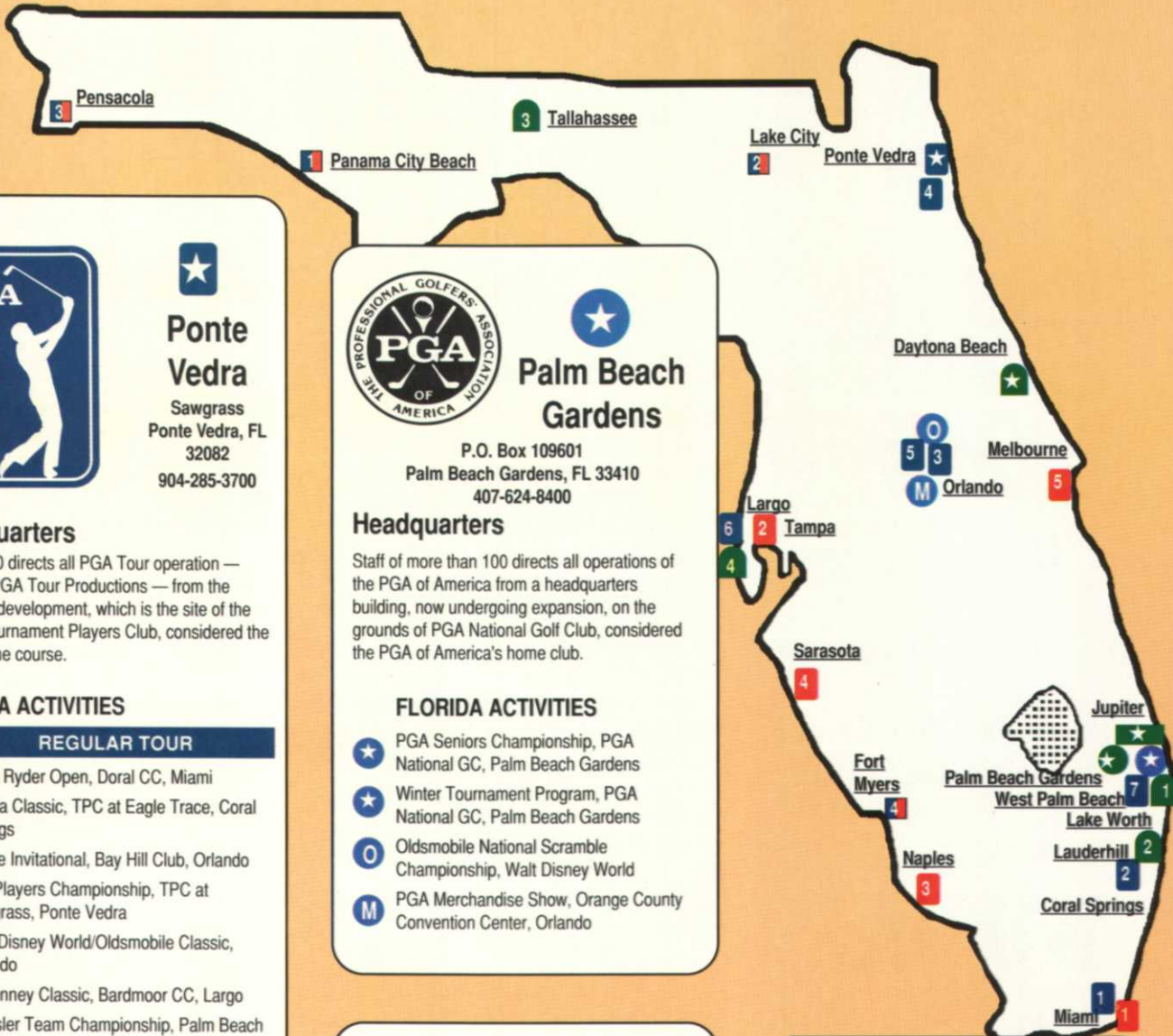
The state ranks seventh in total number of golfers and 22nd in participation — only 9.9 percent of the residents play golf — but first in senior golfers. And nobody else is in the Top Ten.

By themselves, Florida golfers raise the national average age of golfers by *two years*.

And when some very talented architects go digging after all that OPM buried in Florida's sand, it is amazing what spectacular golf courses are created by the spoils.

In most parts of the world, exclusive country club real estate is advertised by word of mouth and sold in mahogany-paneled offices.

(Continues on page 24)




Ponte Vedra
 Sawgrass
 Ponte Vedra, FL
 32082
 904-285-3700

Headquarters

Staff of 350 directs all PGA Tour operation — including PGA Tour Productions — from the Sawgrass development, which is the site of the original Tournament Players Club, considered the Tour's home course.

FLORIDA ACTIVITIES

REGULAR TOUR

- 1 Doral Ryder Open, Doral CC, Miami
- 2 Honda Classic, TPC at Eagle Trace, Coral Springs
- 3 Nestle Invitational, Bay Hill Club, Orlando
- 4 The Players Championship, TPC at Sawgrass, Ponte Vedra
- 5 Walt Disney World/Oldsmobile Classic, Orlando
- 6 JCPenney Classic, Bardmoor CC, Largo
- 7 Chrysler Team Championship, Palm Beach Polo Club, West Palm Beach

SENIOR TOUR

- 1 Royal Caribbean Classic, Key Biscayne GC, Key Biscayne
- 2 GTE Suncoast Classic, Tampa Palms CC, Tampa
- 3 Aetna Challenge, Club at Pelican Bay, Naples
- 4 Chrysler Cup, TPC at Prestancia, Sarasota
- 5 Fairfield Barnett Spacecoast Classic, Suntree CC, Melbourne

BEN HOGAN TOUR

- 1 Panama City Beach Classic, Hombre CC, Panama City Beach
- 2 Lake City Classic, Lake City CC
- 3 Pensacola Open, Pensacola CC
- 4 Gateway Open, Gateway CC, Fort Myers




Palm Beach Gardens

P.O. Box 109601
 Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410
 407-624-8400

Headquarters

Staff of more than 100 directs all operations of the PGA of America from a headquarters building, now undergoing expansion, on the grounds of PGA National Golf Club, considered the PGA of America's home club.

FLORIDA ACTIVITIES

-  PGA Seniors Championship, PGA National GC, Palm Beach Gardens
-  Winter Tournament Program, PGA National GC, Palm Beach Gardens
-  Oldsmobile National Scramble Championship, Walt Disney World
-  PGA Merchandise Show, Orange County Convention Center, Orlando




Daytona Beach

2570 Volusia Ave., Suite B
 Daytona Beach, FL 32114
 904-254-800

Headquarters

Staff of about 20 administers both the touring and teaching divisions from temporary headquarters at Indigo Lakes CC while a new headquarters building and home golf course is being built "across the road" (I-4).

FLORIDA ACTIVITIES

- 1 Oldsmobile Classic, Wycliffe G&CC, Lake Worth
- 2 Phar-Mor Inverrary Classic, Inverrary CC, Lauderhill
- 3 Centel Classic, Course TBD, Tallahassee
- 4 JCPenney Classic, Bardmoor CC, Largo




Palm Beach Gardens

4361 Northlake Blvd
 Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410
 407-694-2977

The builders retain the executive services of Don Rossi, retired executive director of the National Golf Foundation.




Jupiter

1150 South U.S. One
 Jupiter, FL 33477
 407-744-6006

A staff of about 35 coordinates the NGF's research, consulting and promotional activities from just north of Palm Beach Gardens.

Sarasota not only has the nation's best supply of golf courses, it also had the first!

Bless you, John Hamilton!

BY
BILL CAREY

New York columnist supported Florida's claim in 1935

Speculation was rampant in the national press about who really was first. Joe Williams, a sturdy practitioner of the sportswriter's craft, moved the question center stage on March 21, 1935, in a column he wrote for the *New York World-Telegram*:

The Yonkers adventure is, of course, completely authentic, but if any historian wishes to wager this club was the first to re-echo the piteous cry of, 'Boy, my niblick, please!' he should proceed with great caution and frugality. To come right out and say so, he should keep his money in his pocket.

Yonkers just wasn't the first golf club in America. The Sarasota Golf Club preceded Yonkers by at least two years. For some strange reason, this interesting historical item has just been brought to light. There is indisputable evidence that golf was played here (in Sarasota) in 1886. The widow of the man who built the course is still alive to confirm the facts.

She is Mrs. J. Hamilton Gillespie, a gracious lady who lives here in an attractive home. Her husband — very probably the father of American golf — died on a golf course here 12 years ago.

From scrubby beginnings, golf in Florida has blossomed into a multi-billion dollar business.

And isn't it interesting that the place where it all began now is recognized as the best-supplied market in the nation for public golf facilities.

Remarkable!

The man who started it all, a feisty Scot land developer named John Hamilton Gillespie, loved the game and had the vision to play it anywhere. Which explains why, in May 1886, in Sarasota,

Florida — a little fishing village, then part of Manatee County, on the Gulf of Mexico south of

Tampa — Gillespie hacked out the first two golf holes in Florida.

Pristine meadowland, surrounded by native palmetto scrub and pine trees, provided an idyllic setting for the introduction of the hallowed game to the new Sunshine State.

"Twa holes f'r practice an' they can be extended later," was the way Gillespie described them to friends.

Although well documented as Florida's first golf holes, there always remained the question, "Were they the first in the nation?"

In the annals of the U.S. game, five holes at Yonkers, NY, constructed in February 1888 by John Reid, another Scot, have been officially ranked first because the club has continued in operation since inception.

Reid creatively named his club St. Andrews, which sealed the deal for golf historians. The Yonkers location was a centerpiece of the American Centen-

nial of the game observed during 1988.

On May 8, 1939 — 53 years after Gillespie's holes opened for a short few year's play — the local *Sarasota Herald* newspaper published a special Golf News edition. A bold headline on the front page screamed: "SARASOTA BIRTHPLACE OF U.S. GOLF."

Gillespie, himself, wrote very informative articles about the state of the game for publication in the U.S. and Great Britain. His pieces reminisced about the early days of golf in Edinburgh and St. Andrews in his native Scotland. He went into great detail to explain how the great players of the day employed their special shots for repeated victories, the changes in equipment and social structure which provided women more liberal use of golf courses.

His papers and diaries touched on legendary reports of golf in the 1780s at Harleston Green in Charleston, S.C. There was no hard evidence, however, to prove the golf club was anything but a place for social gatherings. No golf holes ever were documented and certainly women weren't making inroads into the game.

Gillespie's action in Sarasota 103 years ago gave Florida a head start in a game which has developed into the state's major non-polluting industry. According to a recent National Golf Foundation study commissioned by the state's Department of Commerce, golf is very big business, expected to contribute an estimated \$5.2 billion to the state's economy in 1989.

The crowning jewel in the Gillespie legacy, however, as we enter the second century of golf in Florida, is that Sarasota, where the game began, leads the nation in providing public golf courses for residents and visitors. Sarasota County is Number One in the country on a list of the 10 best-supplied metro areas for public golf (See sidebar elsewhere), according to another NGF study. Sarasota is far in the lead offering an 18-hole golf course for every 715 players.

Gillespie the Scot and his golf, like the amber flow of another smooth export of his native land, gain favor with the passage of time.

Bless you, John Hamilton.

Bill Carey was executive director of the Florida State Golf Association for 24 years and a USGA committeeman for about the same period.

BEST SUPPLIED GOLF MARKETS

Metropolitan Area	Golfers Per 18 Public Holes
1. Sarasota	715
2. Fort Myers/Cape Coral	998
3. Naples	1,003
4. Glens Falls, N.Y.	1,183
5. Bellingham, Wash.	1,261
6. Fort Walton Beach	1,431
7. Elmira, N.Y.	1,446
8. Fort Pierce	1,448
9. Bradenton	1,472
10. Jackson, Mich.	1,499

Source: National Golf Foundation, Sept. 1, 1989

Florida cities lead nation

Sarasota leads six metropolitan areas in Florida listed among the nation's ten "best-supplied" with public golf courses, according to figures released by the National Golf Foundation Sept. 1.

The west coast city has only 715 resident golfers for each 18 public holes, a ratio that is twice as good as the sixth-best metropolitan area (Fort Walton Beach) and more than five times better than the national average of 3,677 golfers per 18 public holes.

Jersey City, N.J., is the nation's worst-supplied city, with 60,334 golfers for each 18 public golf holes.

Based on annual surveys, the NGF calculates "participation rates" — the percentage of the population which plays golf — for each of the nation's 357 Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas and applies those rates to population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau to determine the number of golfers in each metro area.

The folks around Sarasota aren't quite as well off as the figures suggest, however. The study is based on resident population. In winter, the area's population swells to 650,000 and many — if not most — of the nearly 400,000 visitors are golfers.

WORST SUPPLIED GOLF MARKETS

Metropolitan Area	Golfers Per 18 Public Holes
1. Jersey City, N.J.	60,334
2. New York City	21,562
3. Texarkana, Tex.	19,125
4. Houma/Thibodaux, La.	15,387
5. El Paso, Tex.	14,910
6. Montgomery, Ala.	13,020
7. Los Angeles, Calif.	12,421
8. Tuscaloosa, Ala.	12,192
9. Houston, Tex.	12,108
10. Albuquerque, N.M.	11,951

Source: National Golf Foundation, Sept. 1, 1989

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If your golf course is in a littoral zone — or anywhere that salt water intrusion has become a problem — and fresh water is in short supply, Ray Hansen has the solution.

Make your own water.

Hansen, superintendent at the Ocean Reef Club, an exclusive 36-hole layout on the northern tip of Key Largo, most likely is the only golf course manager in the continental U.S. whose responsibilities include overseeing the operation of a reverse osmosis plant capable of transforming nearly a million gallons of brack-

ish water into fresh water every day.

Fed by deep (1,100 feet) wells which supply water with about 3,000 parts per million dissolved salts and solids, the plant produces water at 150 ppm salts and solids. Anything below 1,000 ppm is considered safe for turfgrass; anything below 500 ppm is potable.

The reject water containing about 17,000 ppm salts and solids is piped into canals which empty into the ocean. Sea-



water contains about 35,000 ppm salts and solids.

The plant was built in the 1970s to meet all the community's freshwater needs but, as it grew, running an aqueduct from a wellfield on the mainland became economically feasible.

Still, water from the wellfield costs \$6 per thousand gallons. Water from the "RO" plant costs about half that.

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Gunnite-lined reservoir holds about 2 million gallons, or slightly more than two days' supply of irrigation water at peak consumption.

"I figure it costs me about a thousand dollars a day to water my golf courses," Hansen says. "Three hundred thousand a year for the golf course's share of the operating costs of the plant and another \$60,000 for the irrigation system."

In addition to Hansen's two golf courses, the desalinated water is used to irrigate Card Sound GC, a private course within the ultra-private Ocean Reef community, and other landscaped areas.

Although he knows of no other golf courses using desalinated water on his scale, Hansen says he has had inquiries from Texas and Hawaii.

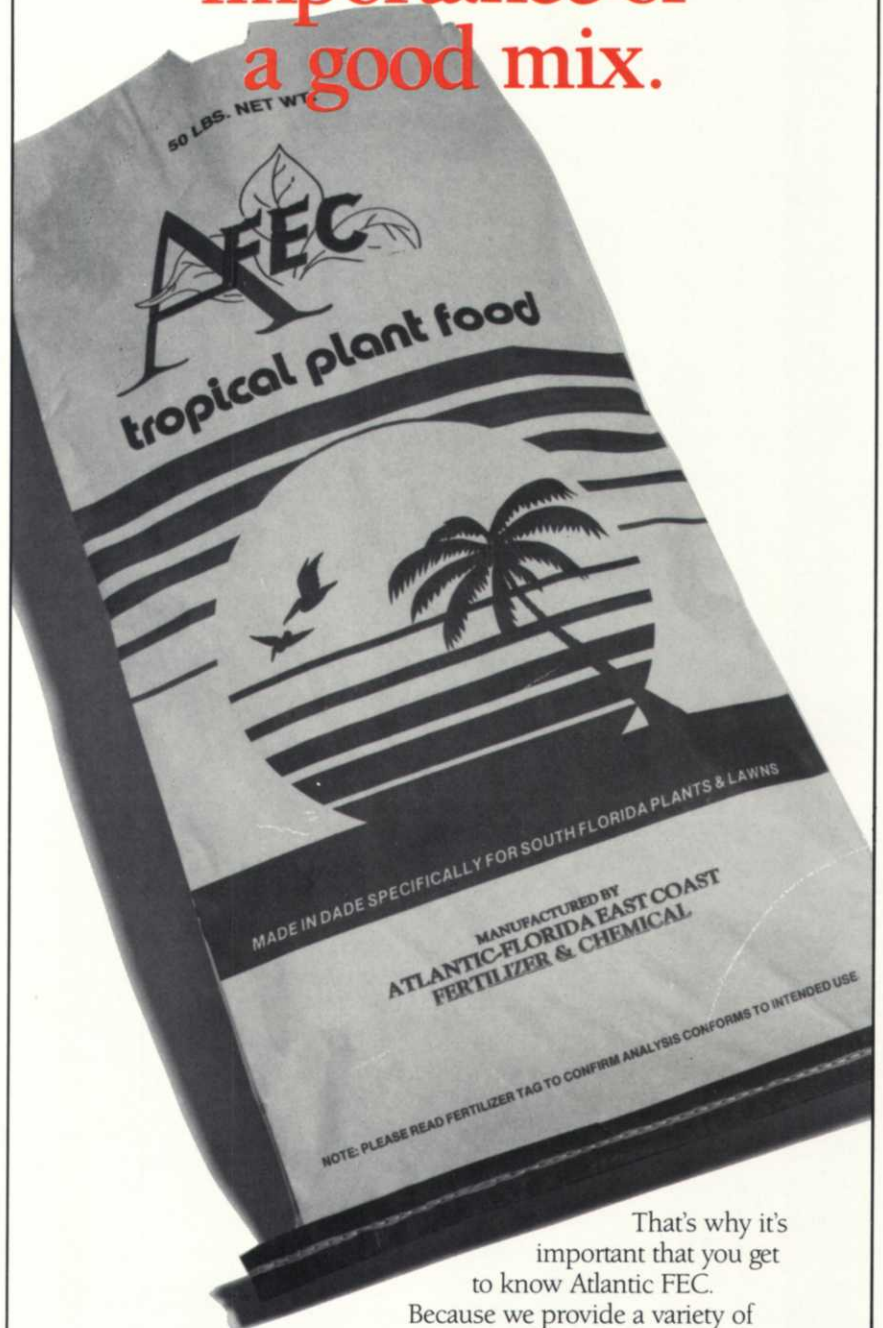
"Places that learned to get by on less water don't have to with this technology," he said.



KIEFFER/JANLARK

Ray Hansen at the controls of one of the reverse osmosis units.

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FLORIDA'S NUMBERS

Category	Number	(Rank)
Number of golfers	1,171,635	(7)
Participation Rate	9.9%	(22)
Rounds per year per golfer	36.0	(2)
Golfers who are women	22.1%	(26)
Golfers age 50 and older	42.6%	(1)
Average age of golfers	45.6	(1)
Total facilities	765	(1)
Daily Fee	369	(4)
Municipal	76	(6)
Private	320	(2)
Par-Three	43	(3)
Executive	100	(1)
Total Courses	932	(1)
Daily Fee	431	(2)
Municipal	89	(6)
Private	412	(1)
Par-Three	53	(3)
Executive	119	(1)
Nine-Hole Facilities	105	(17)
Percentage of total	14%	(50)
Daily Fee	63	(14)
Municipal	13	(21)
Private	29	(25)
Total Holes	15,300	(1)
Daily Fee	6,930	(1)
Municipal	1,413	(5)
Private	6,957	(1)
Population per 18 Holes	14,300	(6)
Population per 18 Public Holes	26,200	(16)
Golfers per 18 holes	1,378	(8)

Source: National Golf Foundation, Jan. 1, 1989

(From page 16)

In Florida \$200,000 lots are advertised on billboards and sold out of mobile homes!

But residents aren't the only ones who get a good deal.

Collectively, Florida's golf resorts so completely dominate the industry that half its resort courses could be distributed to all the other resort areas of the world and a case could be made that what was left still comprised the world's best collection.

And we cannot emphasize the word "collection" too strongly. Nobody seriously claims that Florida resort courses surpass all others in quality. It's just that there are so many "world-class" resort courses in the state that they tend to get lost in the shuffle:

What is mundane here would be labeled "spectacular" almost anywhere else.

That's the sunny side: golf is booming. People plan their whole lives around the fact that they can move to Florida and play golf year-around on

outstanding golf courses whose quality somehow seems to improve every year.

The down side, so far as superintendents are concerned, is that people plan their whole lives around the fact that they can come to Florida and play golf every day of the year on what they expect to be the best golf course in the world.

If you have to, read those last two paragraphs again. The subtle differences between them have led to a profession littered with heart disease and ulcers.

In an unguarded moment, ask a Florida superintendent to name his biggest problems and most likely he'll respond, "Mole crickets, members' egos, the #%&i* (fill in your regulatory agency of choice) and I need a day off."

Mole crickets are a serious problem in Florida (page 56), as are parasitic nematodes, but turf managers all over the world must battle pests with a declining arsenal of chemical weapons.

Nor has Florida cornered the mar-

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ket on politically-charged regulatory agencies.

What makes Florida unique is its combination of tropical climate and easy accessibility to hordes of wealthy egos who insist, "I want things as good as they were up North, only better."

Only God has not yet revealed how to grow things "as good as they were up North" in a tropical climate with lots of traffic and no dormant season.

And that's where the tine meets the turf.

The problem is peculiar to private clubs, but nearly half of Florida's courses are private.

In guarded conversations, most golf-playing superintendents will admit that properly maintained bentgrass under optimum conditions provides a better putting surface than the best hybrid bermudagrasses.

The differences are subtle, and should not make a bit of difference to any but the lowest handicapper, but fact has a way of disappearing in the face of ego.

Members know that bentgrass is best and, "We want the very best course in Florida, bar none. That's why I come here every winter and that's why you have a job."

End of discussion.

Most superintendents use the strategy of overseeding — planting bentgrass, or various combinations of bentgrass, rye, fescue and poa trivialis in the fall as the bermudagrass goes dormant — but that creates another set of problems: the greens are nearly unplayable during the two transition periods. Furthermore, overseeded greens generally don't reach peak quality until late February.

Most private club members are seasonal residents: they return north in March and April, meaning a lot of work goes into providing only a few weeks of superior putting surface.

So a few clubs are now experimenting with keeping the bentgrass greens year-around.

Bentgrass will stay alive — barely

— in Florida's long, hot, humid summers, but not if it gets any significant traffic.

How much traffic is significant?

"Anything more than two four-somes a day and I've got trouble," said one superintendent.

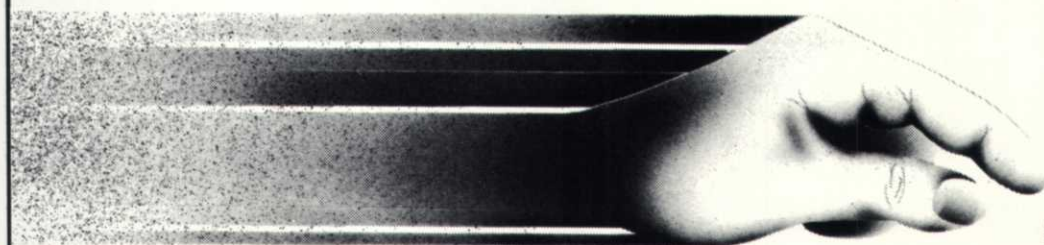
Furthermore, the amount of care required to keep the grass alive is extraordinary. Frequent syringing, sometimes around the clock, is required to keep the grass cool. And all that water leads to fungus problems and...

The whole world saw what can happen when PGA National GC in Palm Beach Gardens lost its greens the week before it hosted the 1987 PGA Championship.

And the spectre of those brown, lifeless greens on international television, created by relentless pressure to have "the best course in the world, bar none" hangs over every superintendent's head.

Perhaps that's why the typical Florida superintendent rarely stays at one place more than five or six years. 🐢

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If you don't like these 29 great ones, wait a year

Florida has lots of great golf courses. And if you don't like any of the current crop, just wait a year or two. Within that span, at least a few new courses will make somebody's list of "greats."

Great golf courses can be found all over the world; what distinguishes Florida's collection is its size, variety and, above all, relative youth.

Of the 29 outstanding golf courses depicted on these pages, only 11 were built before 1980, and only three before 1970: the Bay Hill Club and the "Blue Monster" at Doral by Dick Wilson and Seminole, the 60-year-old mystery course which makes everybody's list even though most have never trod its turf or laid eyes upon its classic Donald Ross bunkers.

We chose 29 courses for two reasons:

- That's how many we ended up with after taking the top 20 from three publications which have extensive experience in Florida and adding the nine beauties on *Golf Digest's* list of America's 100 best golf courses.

- We couldn't fit any more around the map.

The latter statement is not entirely facetious. A hundred could have been added with little drop in quality.

Truth be told, the "rank" of a golf course says as much about the quality of its public relations as it does about the quality of the architect, contractor and superintendent.

Two different methods were used by the four publications to select the courses on their lists: *Golfweek*, a national weekly newspaper which began as a Florida publication in 1975, and *The*

Florida Golf Reporter, a monthly magazine, both rely on reader polls. Readers see only a small percentage of the courses they vote on.

Golf Digest and *The Florida Golfer*, on the other hand, have panels of "experts" walk the courses, study the layouts, pore over the blueprints, test the shot values and consult the stars.

They come up with the same courses as the readers, only in a slightly different order.

So take the particular rankings with a dose of skepticism but trust us: these are great golf courses. They represent some of the very best work of 16 different architects, 12 of whom are still signing contracts.

Most are spectacular to behold, difficult to play, and impossible to get on, particularly at this time of year. Many were built in conjunction with real estate developments that are not yet sold out: qualified prospects can get on, if arrangements are made in advance.

A few are open to the first golfers in line, notably Bloomingdale Golfers Club in Valrico and Coral Oaks in Cape Coral. The latter is municipally owned.

Of the resorts, Mission Inn is probably the least known but its dramatic changes in elevation are matched only at The Ravines, Jupiter Hills and Black Diamond Ranch, all of which are veddy, veddy private.

One thing these 29 golf courses have in common with hundreds of Florida layouts: they are exceptionally well maintained. For that reason, we have given the FGCSA superintendent credit for the ranking, along with the architect.

GOLDEN OCALA

Ocala, 1986, Ron Garl. **Development.** *Golfweek* readers 16, *Golf Reporter* readers 18, *Florida Golfer* panel 14

BLACK DIAMOND RANCH

Lecanto, 1987, Tom Fazio. **Carl Jacob**, superintendent. **Private.** *Golfweek* readers 6, *Golf Reporter* readers 2, *Florida Golfer* panel 1

LAKE NONA

Orlando, 1986, Tom Fazio. **John Yancey**, superintendent. **Private.** *Golfweek* readers 19, *Golf Reporter* readers 1, *Florida Golfer* panel 3

DISNEY MAGNOLIA

Orlando, 1970, Joe Lee. **Larry Kamphaus**, CGSC, superintendent. **Resort.** *Golfweek* readers 18, *Florida Golfer* panel 13

ISLEWORTH

Windermere, 1986, Arnold Palmer/Ed Seay. **Joel Jackson**, CGCS, superintendent. **Private.** *Florida Golfer* panel 20

INNISBROOK COPPERHEAD

Tarpon Springs, 1983, Larry Packard. **Resort.** *Golf Digest* Top 100 panel 69, *Golfweek* readers 1, *Golf Reporter* readers 12, *Florida Golfer* panel 8

FIDDLESTICKS (LONG MEAN)

Fort Myers, 1983, Ron Garl. **Dale Conzelmann**, CGCS, superintendent. **Private.** *Golfweek* readers 17, *Golf Reporter* readers 13

BONITA BAY CLUB

Bonita Springs, 1985, Arthur Hills. **Mark Black**, superintendent. **Private.** *Golf Digest* Top 100 panel 60, *Golfweek* readers 8, *Golf Reporter* readers 9

RAVINES

Middleburg, 1979, Mark McCumber/Ron Garl. **Private.** *Golfweek* readers 15, *Golf Reporter* readers 14, *Florida Golfer* panel 16

SAWGRASS (OCEANSIDE)

Ponte Vedra, 1974, Joe Lee. **Private.** *Golfweek* readers 20

TPC AT SAWGRASS

Ponte Vedra Beach, 1980, Pete Dye. **Fred Klauk**, superintendent. **Resort.** *Golf Digest* Top 100 panel 32, *Golfweek* readers 2, *Golf Reporter* readers 3, *Florida Golfer* panel 6

MISSION INN

Howey in the Hills, 1975, C. Clark/Lloyd Clifton. **Resort.** *Golfweek* readers 13, *Florida Golfer* panel 12

HAMMOCK DUNES (LINKS)

Palm Coast, 1989, Tom Fazio. **Dwight Kummer**, superintendent. **Private.** *Golfweek* readers 14

BAY HILL CLUB

Orlando, 1963, Dick Wilson/Arnold Palmer. **Jim Ellison**, CGCS, superintendent. **Private.** *Golf Digest* Top 100 panel 56, *Golfweek* readers 5, *Golf Reporter* readers 4, *Florida Golfer* panel 4

INDIGO LAKES

Daytona Beach, 1976, Lloyd Clifton. **David Van Wagner**, superintendent. **Resort.** *Golfweek* readers 12, *Florida Golfer* panel 15

GRAND CYPRESS

North/South Course
Orlando, 1984, Jack Nicklaus. **Tom Alex**, superintendent. **Resort.** *Golf Digest* Top 100 panel 91, *Golf Reporter* readers 15, *Golfweek* readers 3

GRENELEFE (WEST)

Haines City, 1972, Robert Trent Jones. **Paul Hickman**, CGCS, superintendent. **Resort.** *Golfweek* readers 7, *Golf Reporter* readers 10

JUPITER HILLS

Jupiter, 1970, George & Tom Fazio. **Richard Herr**, CGCS, superintendent. **Private.** *Golf Digest* Top 100 panel 46, *Golfweek* readers 11, *Golf Reporter* readers 7, *Florida Golfer* panel

OLD MARSH

Palm Beach Gardens, 1988, Pete Dye. **Private.** *Golf Reporter* readers 8

SEMINOLE

North Palm Beach, 1929, Donald Ross. **Hal Hicks**, superintendent. **Private.** *Golf Digest* Top 100 panel 8, *Golfweek* readers 10, *Golf Reporter* readers 6, *Florida Golfer* panel 2

BLOOMINGDALE

Valrico, 1983, Ron Garl. **Daily Fee.** *Golfweek* readers 9, *Golf Reporter* readers 5, *Florida Golfer* panel 10

CORAL OAKS

Cape Coral, 1989, Arthur Hills. **Don Stewart**, superintendent. **Municipal.** *Golf Reporter* readers 16

WILDCAT RUN

Estero, 1987, Arnold Palmer/Ed Seay. **Michael Mongoven**, superintendent. **Private.** *Florida Golfer* panel 18

PELICAN'S NEST

Bonita Springs, 1986, Tom Fazio. **Jim Leiseberg**, superintendent. **Private.** *Golf Reporter* readers 17, *Florida Golfer* panel 11

CLUB AT PELICAN BAY

Naples, 1979, Arthur Hills. **Private.** *Florida Golfer* panel 17

DORAL (BLUE)

Miami, 1962, Dick Wilson. **Stephen Kuhn**, superintendent. **Resort.** *Golfweek* readers 4, *Golf Reporter* readers 11, *Florida Golfer* panel 9

LOXAHATCHEE

West Palm Beach, 1986, Jack Nicklaus. **Private.** *Golf Digest* Top 100 panel 81

PINE TREE

Boynton Beach, 1970, Dick Wilson. **Private.** *Golf Digest* Top 100 panel 57, *Golf Reporter* readers 20, *Florida Golfer* panel 5

TPC AT EAGLE TRACE

Coral Springs, 1983, Arthur Hills. **Jeffrey Haley**, superintendent. **Private.** *Golf Reporter* readers 19, *Florida Golfer* panel 19

FGCSA: from 0 to 600 in 20

The Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association was founded at the Palm Beach CC in April, 1970, as a confederation of regional associations.

Its original purpose was to open lines of communication, to provide a broader base for educational seminars and to establish stronger voting power in national affairs. Directors were the presidents of the regional associations.

Stan Clarke was the first president, annual dues were \$5, and the first statewide meeting was in January, 1971, at the Florida Agricultural Station in Fort Lauderdale.

Succeeding presidents were Paul Turcotte of the South Florida Association and C.R. Pearson of Bradenton.

Following a five-year dormancy, the FGCSA was revived in 1978 as a federation, with local chapters retaining complete autonomy in their internal affairs. The chapters are represented equally on the board of directors, which elects the three statewide officers: president, vice president and secretary/treasurer.

Public relations, government relations and research funding were added to the association's original goals.

Today, more than 600 superintendents and their assistants are affiliated with the FGCSA through 10 regional chapters, representing more than 400 golf courses from the Keys to the state capital in Tallahassee.

Monthly chapter meetings of the autonomous regional associations are the principal membership activities.

Functions of the state association are carried out by 20 different committees, whose meeting schedules vary according to their assignments. Their work is coordinated by a part-time executive secretary with a computer, answering machine and fax machine.

The FGCSA officers and directors meet quarterly — at the GCSAA convention in February, the Florida Turfgrass Association conference and show in October, and at two popular tournaments for superintendents, the Poa Annu Classic at Naples in May,

FGCSA COMMITTEES	
Bylaws	Long Range Planning
Certification	Membership
Crowfoot Open	Nominations
Education	Poa Annu Classic
Ethics	Publications
FTGA	Public Relations
Fund Raising	Research
GCSAA	Employment Survey
Golf	Voting Delegate
Government Relations	Conference

and the Crowfoot Open at Orlando in August. At the latter two events, the FGCSA education committee sponsors seminars which carry CEU credit for certification.

The FGCSA also helps sponsor the annual day-long USGA Green Section Conference (which may be expanded to two sessions in different parts of the state), an annual bentgrass seminar in South Florida and two seminars for golf course mechanics at Lake City Community College's School of Golf Course Operations.



FGCSA publications include a quarterly magazine, a bi-monthly newsletter and an annual membership directory. All are financially self-sufficient.

The FGCSA's latest project is a 20,000-square-foot research green — half of it built to USGA specifications and the other half built with the more typical so-called "Florida modification" (no choker layer of coarse sand) — at the University of Florida's Research and Education Center at Fort Lauderdale.

In addition to building the green at its own expense —

which topped \$10,000 despite donated materials and labor — the FGCSA has contracted with a technician to maintain the green to playing standards.

Most fundraising for research is conducted at the chapter level, but the state organization does coordinate "Florida Golf Week," which attempts to focus statewide attention on local

FGCSA PRESIDENTS	
Stan Clarke	1971
Paul Turcotte	1972
C.R. Pearson	1973
Tim Hiers	1978-80
Bill Wagner	1980-82
Devin Downing	1982-83
Don Delaney	1983-84
Tom Burrows	1984-86
Reed LeFebvre	1986-87
Dick Blake	1987-88
Cecil Johnston	1988-89
Joel Jackson	1989-90

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 Certified 6

Rick Walker, President
 Orange Lake CC
 Kissimmee
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EVERGLADES GCSA

A&B Members 85
 Certified 7

Mark Atwood, CGCS
 President
 Bears Paw CC
 Naples

NORTH FLORIDA GCSA

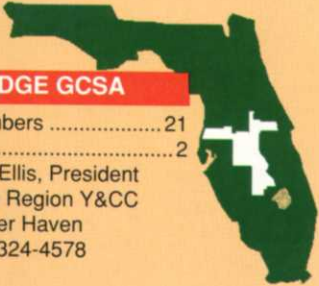
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 Certified 7

Mark Waldron, President
 Turkey Creek CC
 Alachua
 904-462-4656



PALM BEACH GCSA

A&B Members 101
Certified 5
Peter Brooks, President
The Everglades Club
Palm Beach
407-655-7052



RIDGE GCSA

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Certified 2
Bob Ellis, President
Lake Region Y&CC
Winter Haven
813-324-4578



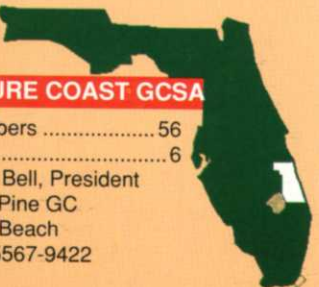
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Joe Pantaleo, President
TPC at Eagle Trace
Miami
305-755-6105



SUN COAST GCSA

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**FTGA RESEARCH FOUNDATION
1989 CONTRIBUTIONS**

Central Florida	\$2,000
Everglades	4,500
North Florida	2,000
Palm Beach	3,000
South Florida	3,200
Suncoast	3,000
Treasure Coast	1,000
West Coast	5,000
Florida Golf Week	<u>2,300</u>
Total*	\$26,000

* Does not include more than \$30,000 contributed towards construction and maintenance of the research green at the University of Florida's Research and Education Center.

fundraising efforts for turf research.

Public relations efforts are funneled through a variety of media.

A unique feature of the association's public relations program is its designated feature writer, who writes columns and stories for outside publications and assists reporters from the news media with technical information.

The association's award winning quarterly magazine, which began life

 <p>WEST COAST GCSA</p> <p>A&B Members 85 Certified 6 Marshall Edgren, CGCS President Mangrove Bay GC St. Petersburg 813-893-7907</p>	 <p>TALLAHASSEE GCSA</p> <p>A&B Members TBD Certified TBD Robert Giehls Organizing Superintendent Killlearn CC Tallahassee 904-893-2412</p>
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as the newsletter of the South Florida GCSA, is distributed to three persons at every golf course in the state: the superintendent (regardless of FGCSA affiliation), the golf professional and the greens chairman or general manager. The magazine's purpose is to speak for the golf course to the golf industry.

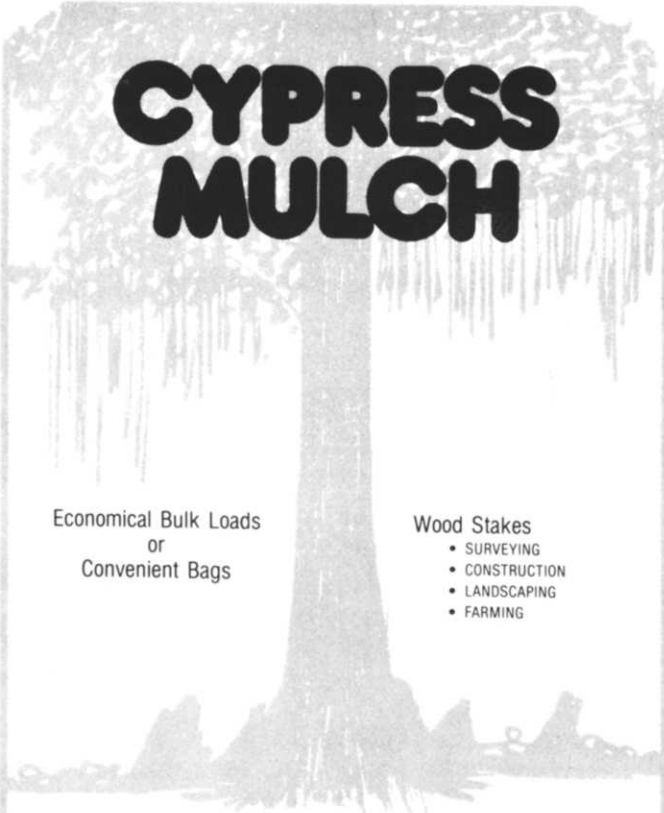
The bimonthly *Green Sheet*, on the other hand, is a newsletter aimed strictly at members and is the primary means of communicating official business.

The annual *Membership Directory* contains the rosters of all chapters, plus association history, code of ethics, by-

laws, committee assignments, member services and winners of the FGCSA's two awards.

The association sponsors two awards: the Distinguished Service Award and the President's Award. Both recognize outstanding contribution to the profession of golf course management, but the President's Award is intended to honor "pioneers who were instrumental in state and local affairs but who may no longer be actively involved in the FGCSA."

The FGCSA has a booth which it takes to trade shows such as the Florida Turfgrass Association conference and golf shows for the general public. 🏌️



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