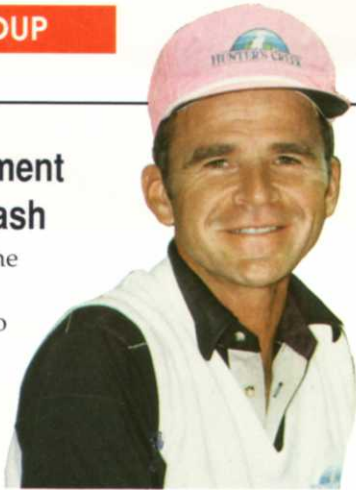


GCSAA Tournament host killed in crash

On the day before the Florida GCSAA golf team was scheduled to conduct its first practice round over Hunters Creek GC in Orlando — one of two courses to be



used by the championship flight in the GCSAA national championship Feb. 19-20 — the host superintendent was killed in a head-on collision on Interstate 4, only a few miles from his golf course.

John Jankiewicz, 42, died instantly when his car was struck head-on by a tractor-trailer shortly before noon on Dec. 1. The Florida Highway Patrol theorized that the driver of the truck fell asleep and crossed the median. Jankiewicz was on his way to Grand Cypress Resort, where he and Hunters Creek Head Professional Fred Fuhrman were scheduled to play a round of golf with two friends. Traveling in his own car a few seconds ahead of Jankiewicz, Fuhrman was unaware of the accident until late that afternoon.

"John was a bright example of a true professional who took immense pride in his work," said Joel Jackson, FGCSA President.

"He was very dedicated and loyal."

Known for his team leadership, Jankiewicz kept his mechanic and his assistant superintendent, Craig Shelton, with him for more than 12 years. His spray and irrigation technicians had been with him for more than five years.

A native of Utica, N.Y., Jankiewicz was graduated from the University of Minnesota with degrees in business administration and agronomy. He began his career at The Bay Hill Club of Orlando. He was involved with the construction of the Deer Run GC in Casselberry and the Interlachen CC in Winter Park. Before moving to Hunters Creek to supervise its construction in 1984, Jankiewicz had been head superintendent at Errol Estate GC in Apopka for nine years.

In addition to his love for golf, he enjoyed fishing, diving and photography.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Orlando, the GCSAA and the Central Florida chapter of the FGCSA.

He is survived by his wife, June; his parents; and two brothers.

The Scandinavian Connection

In a sense, it's only fitting.

Of all the areas in the world, golf is growing fastest in Florida and in Scandinavia, the countries that form the northern coasts of the Baltic and North Seas — Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark.

It shouldn't be surprising, therefore, that an aspiring golf course superintendent from Finland, which has 35 golf courses in operation and 20 more under development, should choose to take his training at Lake City Community College's School of Golf Course Operations.

And this past summer, the Jacobsen Division of Textron, Inc., brought 90 superintendents from the four countries to Florida to observe golf course maintenance practices after

getting tours of the company's plants in Racine, Wis., and Charlotte, N.C.

That the two exchanges were entirely unrelated only underscores the growing importance of Florida as a world leader in the golf industry.

This past summer, Jarkko Lahdensuo, now a junior in LCCC's three-year program, returned to his homeland for the first of his two required summer OJT programs. And, with the Finnish Sports Institute and the



LCCC/PIERSOL

Layout of Vierumaki Golf Course at the Finnish Sports Institute, where two LCCC students — one a Finnish exchange student — performed their summer OJT.

Finnish national airline — Finnair — picking up the expenses, he brought classmate Bruce Chestnutt with him.

Furthermore, the two national institutions brought John Piersol, chairman of the LCCC golf course operations program, into the country for 12 days to check on the turf management programs at their golf

90 superintendents from Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden observed maintenance techniques at Doral CC in Miami and Grand Cypress Resort in Orlando. The superintendents also toured the Jacobsen plants in Racine, Wis., and Charlotte, N.C.



Two students from Lake City Community College did their summer OJT in Finland. Their instructor visited them for 12 days.



fields.

While there, he conducted a turf management seminar and field day and, of course, checked up on his students.

"This was an outstanding experience for me," said Piersol. "The people have really taken to the game, which they view as a family activity that provides enjoyable recreation and exercise.

"No one rides golf carts. In fact, they don't even know about carts. The Finns have a great attitude toward the game that I hope they maintain."

Another Finnish attitude Piersol admires is their "green card" system.

"No one can play golf until he has a green card," Piersol reports.

Golfers obtain their green cards by passing written and practical tests on the rules of golf, etiquette and basic skills.

"Since golf is growing so rapidly, many pros spend much of their time giving 'green card' lessons," he says. "It's a great system that assures that everyone has some basic knowledge before getting on to the course."

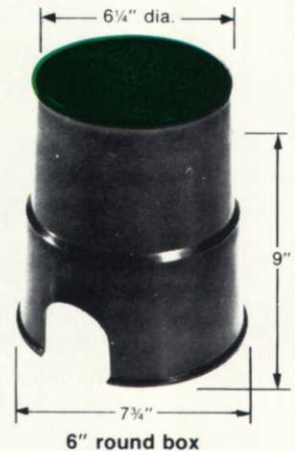
Agronomically, the Finns have a lot of catching up to do, Piersol says. Greens construction is a particularly vexing problem.

"The concept of the USGA green was just presented to the Finnish golf

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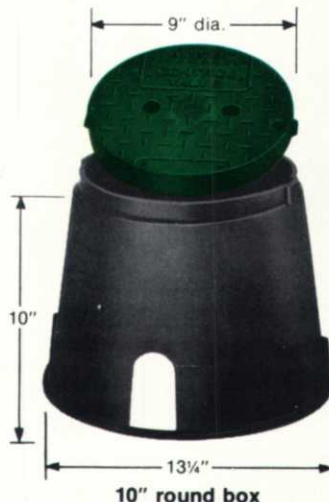
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SCANDINAVIA/FLORIDA COMPARISON 1987

Country	Population ¹	Area ¹	Golfers ²	Courses ²
Denmark	5,124,000	16,629	29,000	60
Finland	4,788,000	130,120	8,900	18
Norway	4,092,000	125,053	6,500	9
Sweden	8,320,000	173,775	123,000	156
Scandinavia	22,324,000	445,467	167,400	243
Florida	12,023,000 ³	58,560	1,172,000 ⁴	808 ⁴

SOURCES:
1. Hammond Citation World Atlas; 2. Golf Digest Almanac; 3. Florida Handbook (1989-90); 4. National Golf Foundation

industry by Jarkko this past summer. He showed the new USGA greens construction tape to a group of Finnish greenkeepers.

"Jarkko's American training at LCCC makes him a highly respected individual in Finland."

Although many native bentgrasses grow wild throughout Scandinavia, the common grasses for Finnish tees and fairways has been bluegrass and fescue. Greens generally are fescue.

The LCCC students introduced the Finns to Pennecross, Penneagle and Penway bentgrasses this past summer.

"There is no formal turf management education available in Finland," Piersol says. "That's why they came to LCCC for help."

Coming the other direction were 90 superintendents who were the guests of ORAG Inter AG, the European distributor of Jacobsen equipment.

They spent two weeks in the U.S. for a "learning experience with a little fun mixed in," according to Neils-Erik Brems, ORAG's representative in Denmark.

In addition to their plant tours and visits to Doral CC in Miami and Grand Cypress Resort in Orlando, the supers toured the University of Minnesota's Department of Horticulture.

"The purpose of this trip is to educate the superintendents on



LCCC/PIERSOL

Jarkko Lahdensuo examines a soil core sample while explaining the concept of USGA green specifications.

what's being done here in the United States," Brems said. "They can then go back and educate their boards of directors and greens committees on what can be done to improve their courses."

LCCC student Bruce Chestnut demonstrates the use of a turf aerator at an equipment field day.



LCCC/PIERSOL



David Wedge, right, receives award from William Krome

Horticultural Society honors tree author

David Wedge, a horticultural consultant whose articles on trees appear frequently in *The Florida Green*, was honored at the Florida State Horticultural Society's annual meeting in Tampa last fall for his paper describing a West Palm Beach program to re-introduce flowering trees.

He received a silver medal and \$200 honorarium for the best paper in the Garden and Landscape section of Vol. 100, *FSHS Proceedings*.

Ross course in Orlando undergoes renovation

The Country Club of Orlando will celebrate its 80th birthday this summer by getting a facelift.

The venerable Donald Ross layout, which was begun in 1910 and opened in 1912, will be completely renovated under the direction of architect Brian Silva, the noted Ross scholar. Silva's business partner is Geoff Cornish, author of the seminal history of golf course history in the United States.

Although Ross himself never visited the Orlando site, Silva said he is "very comfortable" that Ross did the layout and that the course was one of several hundred built by one of his principal construction superintendents, according to CCO Superintendent Cary Lewis.

The greens will be rebuilt to modern

USGA specifications and will be restored to their original contours.

Architect revises booklet on greens construction

"More than 70 percent of all greens today have been improperly built, or otherwise fail to meet modern scientific standards conducive to promoting growth while reducing physical and physiological stress," says Dr. Michael Hurdzan, a former superintendent and past president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

In his revised version of the 24-page pamphlet, "The Evolution of the Modern Green," Hurdzan points out that to further complicate matters, each green has its own requirements involving such factors as orientation to the sun, air, drainage, shade and wind, and swings in temperature and relative humidity.

"The net result," Hurdzan concludes, "is that today's golf course superinten-

dent has 18 different 'babies,' each one having its own strengths and weaknesses, and all of them being susceptible at any given time to devastation resulting from weather, disease, insects, vandals, weeds, equipment failure or operator error, miscalculation or player abuse."

The quest for faster greens has resulted in a situation in which more of today's greens are being stressed beyond their genetic capacity to heal themselves.

However, he believes space-age technology will help win the battle.

"Today's greens are the product of such disciplines as agronomic chemistry, soil physics, genetics and



Mike Hurdzan

play physiology — disciplines that were far removed from the art of turfgrass management until the last 30 years or so," Hurdzan says.

Even at world-famous courses, the greens may be perfect only for a very short period, and then only with great expenditures of time, money and manpower, he adds.

"Therefore, greens should not be compared. Good greens are expected... great greens should be appreciated... and perfect greens should be cherished. For they are as fragile and changeable as life itself," he says.

Hurdzan's booklet reviews the historical development of the putting green, including the dominant methods of construction and the carefully prescribed procedures for building them, as well as the proper care and maintenance of both new and mature greens. It is available for \$5 from the American Society of Golf Course Architects, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60601.



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