



The Florida Green

March/April 1992



*Number 8
Winter Pines Golf Club,
Winter Park*



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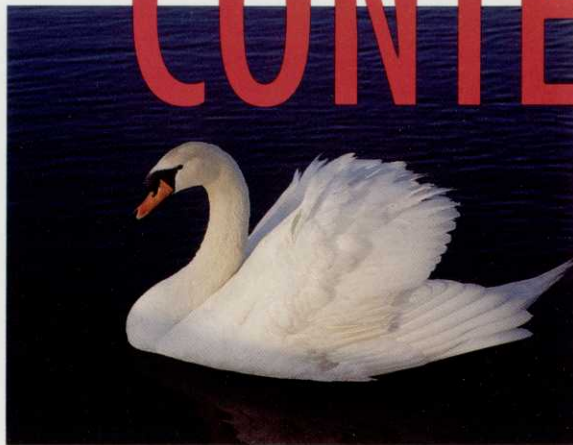
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Welcome!

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TURFGRASS QUIZ

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M
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R
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Problem:
Unplayable turf
after irrigation

Clue:
Saturated Green

Location:
Florida

Answer:
Please see Page 6

LESCO

YOUR SEED PRO

Premium Kentucky Bluegrasses

DAWN

Kentucky Bluegrass

A medium bright green, fine textured grass that greens up early, keeps color late into fall and grows well in moderate shade.

Julia

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Turf-Type Perennial Ryegrass

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Premium turf-type perennial ryegrass

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TURF-TYPE PERENNIAL RYEGRASS

A rich dark green variety with high endophyte to fend off insects, and good disease resistance.

Regency

TURF-TYPE PERENNIAL RYEGRASS

An early-maturing, low-growing turf with bright green color, medium fine texture and medium density.

Premium Turf-Type Tall Fescues

CIMARRON

TURF-TYPE TALL FESCUE

A moderately low-growing turf-type tall fescue with rich, dark green color, moderate leaf texture, and reduced growth rate.

Wrangler

TURF-TYPE TALL FESCUE

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Premium Dwarf Turf-Type Tall Fescues

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Creeping Red Fescue

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Premium Intermediate Ryegrass

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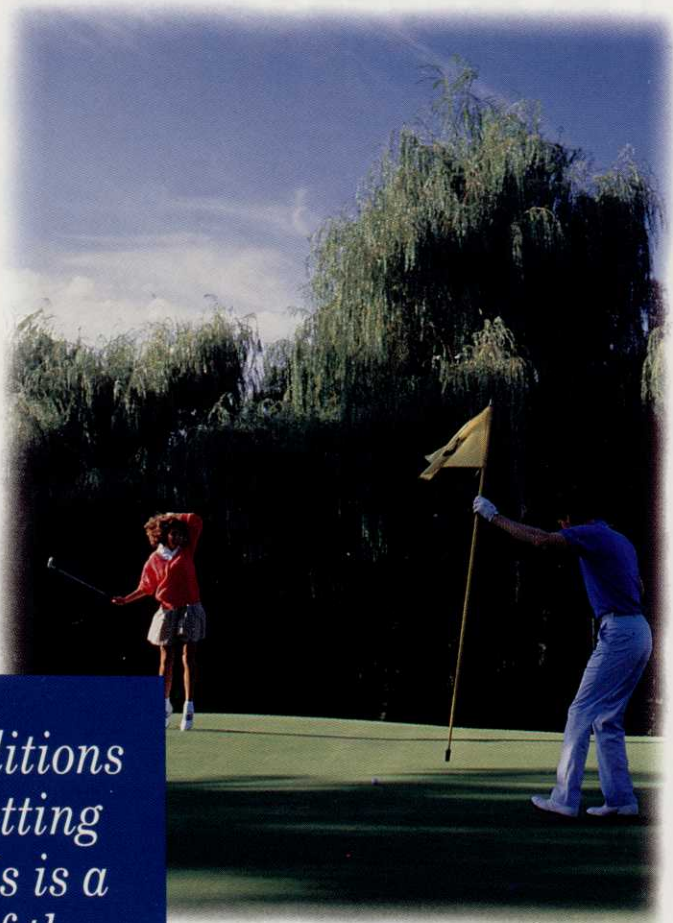
In irrigation, quality means more than quantity. Improving the poor water quality that causes soil

chemistry imbalances is the key to improving play on every green.

That's why you need pHairway™ Water Treatment Additive. Manufactured by Unocal for Greensmiths, Inc., pHairway Water Treatment Additive is an innovative turf management tool that's revolutionizing agronomic technology.

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*John Wright
Golf Course Superintendent
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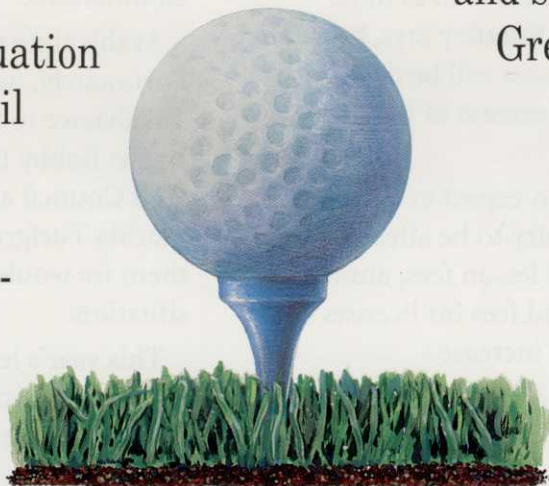
Greens.

proper amount of pHairway Water Treatment Additive is injected into the water to adjust the pH level.

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"Our members were responsive. They thought the greens were better this year . . . and they're a very critical bunch."

*Tom Werner, Golf Course Superintendent
Colonial Country Club, Fort Worth, Texas*

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It is that time of the year again when all of our distinguished elected officials have gathered in the state capital to make laws and decide the future of our great state. This year is particularly crucial in that proponents of higher taxes and environmental activists are pressing their agendas to the detriment of our industry.

*Keep your eye
on legislature
— your job
depends on it*

On the taxation front, there is considerable pressure from our illustrious legislative body to force you and me to pay more in a number of areas touching this association.

There is a good chance that we will be paying a sales tax on the membership dues we pay to be a member of benevolent societies such as ours.

Lobbyist Bobby Brantley says, however, that the “tax” issues will be dealt with during a special session of the legislature.

It is prudent to expect every segment of the golf industry to be affected, areas like professional lesson fees, annual memberships and fees for licenses and permits will like increase.

The environmental activist is also hard at work trying to make our life in the golf industry not just difficult but, if successful, impossible to continue. At issue here is who will be regulating the use of pesticides in this state. We have introduced legislation called the “preemption bill”. Basically what this says is that the Department of

Agriculture and Consumer Services would have the authority to set pesticide rules and regulations across the entire state and these rules would pre-empt any local rules.

What the environmentalist wants is the ability of local rule. This simply is that each local municipality or county could arbitrarily set the rules of what you could and could not do in applying pesticides to your golf course. It is easy to envision emotional and irrational activists appearing before the local elected officials pleading their doomsday stories to get their agendas accepted.

This is a scary situation, to think that our industry could be governed by people operating from ignorance instead of scientific data. That these rules will change as you cross city boundaries, and are likely to change again at the whim of the local council is a very unsettling situation. This job is difficult enough without having to live by rules created by the local “condo commandos.”

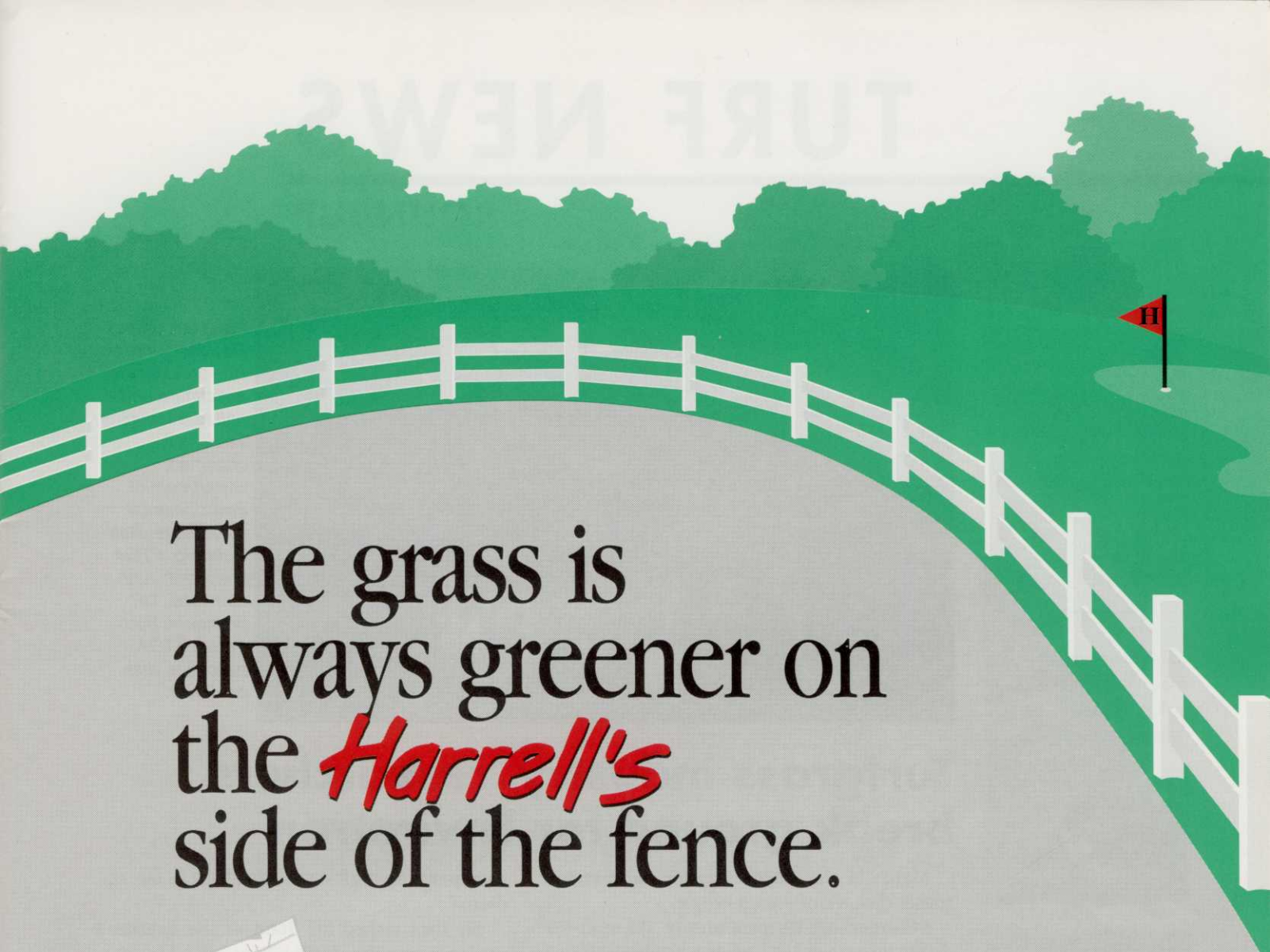
At this time the issue is unsettled. Fortunately, we have good people in Tallahassee to fight our side of the battle: Bobby Brantley of the Florida Golf Council and Tom Latta of the Florida Turfgrass Association. Without them we would be in a much worse situation.

This year’s legislative session has furthered my conviction that more than ever before we need the Florida Golf Council representing us in Tallahassee. Everyone has to do their part. Bobby is doing his and we need to do ours. If you are not a member of the FGC, please join today. You never know. The job you save may be your own.



Tom Benefield, CGCSA
FGCSA President

TURF NEWS



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always greener on
the *Harrell's*
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TURF NEWS

ROUNDUP

ALSO

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USGA presents C. Richard Skogley with Green Section Award 14

TURF QUIZ ANSWER

Green was unplayable after irrigation. Water covered tops of show soles. Capillary pull in the soil profile was interrupted by three layers of buried thatch.

Soil profile remained constantly wet. Recommended rebuilding to USGA specifications.

Alternatives: deep spiking to break up layers of grooving to physically remove layers.



From left, James Davidson, interim vice president for agriculture and natural resources; Terril Nell, chairman, department of environmental horticulture; Bob Rehberg, FTGA president; John Lombardi, UF president; Bob Yount, FTGA executive vice president.

Turfgrass industry, researchers break ground for Envirotron

March 11 was a better day for warm-season grasses than warm-season people.

Mid-morning temperatures in the mid-40s chased more than 100 turfgrass dignitaries into a Fifield Hall conference room on the University of Florida campus at Gainesville to “break ground” for the Envirotron. And after about 20 minutes of speeches, more than half the assembly walked outside and braved the bright, crystalline atmosphere to watch five men dig in the dirt.

The Envirotron is really going to happen.

UF President John Lombardi opened the ceremonies with a summary of the \$700,000 research facility’s scientific and educational mission.

“I’m reading this,” he noted candidly, “because frankly I don’t have a clue what an envirotron does. I’ll wait until it’s finished and I can look at it.

“But we all know that the scientific study of turfgrass is important to this state and its environment. Turfgrass in the state of Florida is a big-time industry and everyone will be very interested in the research that takes place here and all of us will share in the benefits.”

Jim Davidson, UF interim vice president for agriculture and natural resources, brought down the house with the observation that “the University of Florida was not able to win an SEC football

championship until we put turf back in our stadium.”

He then recited the litany of the industry’s economic importance (\$5 billion in Florida), noting that Florida had only 125 golf courses in 1953, the year of the state’s first turfgrass conference. “Now there are more than a thousand.

“Environmental factors dictate that we take a holistic approach to turfgrass maintenance. We must not only find ways to control and eliminate pests and diseases but we must come to solutions that are acceptable to our society while protecting our environment

“The Envirotron will enable us to better serve the state and its citizens.”

Science and education will be the major contributions of the Envirotron, said FTGA President Bob Rehberg in the main address.

“One thing this facility will allow us to do is recruit first-class graduate students. We have built living facilities within the Envirotron so that first-class students can live there as well as study there.

“The leaders of tomorrow are the students of today.”

Living quarters and all the other bells and whistles in the original concept survived the design and budget process, although the final ver-

sion looks nothing like the original "artist's conception" used in fund-raising efforts spearheaded by FTGA Executive Vice President Bob Yount.

In fact, the rhizotron — the rootstock from which the entire project sprang — is not even part of the main building. The subterranean laboratory which enables researchers to study the interaction between roots and soils to a depth below six feet is now a separate facility more than 100 feet away from the laboratory, classrooms, head room and living quarters.

"It had to be that way because otherwise shadows would have interfered," said Jack Ponikvar, associate of the Lewis Brown Jr. architectural firm that designed the building. Ponikvar, who has designed several other facilities for IFAS, was the lead designer of the Envirotron.

Construction will begin this autumn and is expected to take about eight months. The facility will be "functional" by late 1993.

"Now we have to raise the money to equip the lab," said Yount, as the participants and onlookers scattered to the warmth of their offices and automobiles.

— Larry Kieffer

Springtime education brings opportunities around the state

For those clubs and superintendents who strive to be the best, there are educational opportunities aplenty this spring. If you weren't able to travel to the FTGA Conference in Jacksonville last fall or the GCSAA Conference in New Orleans this past February, there are some outstanding local seminars on tap to help you catch up on what's going on in the world of turf management.

MARCH. The USGA scheduled the annual Green Section Conference in West Palm Beach at the Royce Hotel on March 10 and at the Marriott Hotel on International Drive in Orlando on March 12. Because of the increasing demand for this quality program, this is the second year that the conference was held in two locations.



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For golf course superintendents, mole crickets come with the territory. It's not so much a question of whether the insects will be a problem, but rather a question of how best to control them.

These days, more and more superintendents are finding their product of choice to be CRUSADE® 5G Granular Insecticide. Manufactured by ICI Professional Products and distributed by LESCO, Inc., CRUSADE is now approved for non-restricted use on golf courses.

Superintendents Launch

CRUSADE® To Control Mole Crickets

With the active ingredient fonofos, CRUSADE offers excellent control of both the nymph and early adult stages of the mole cricket for four to six weeks or more. Its residual makes this new weapon in the arsenal of mole cricket insecticides the most cost-effective control on the market today.

At Quail Creek Country Club, a private 36-hole facility in Naples, Florida, Superintendent Steve Durand applied CRUSADE twice in 1991. He put the first application on the greens, tees, and fairways of nine holes during the third week of June. In late September, based on the success of the earlier treatment, he applied the product to all 36 holes. "The results in June were excellent and the residual was outstanding,"

"The results were excellent and the residual was outstanding."

*Steve Durand, Superintendent,
Quail Creek Country Club*

Durand said. "With other products, the residual doesn't seem to be as strong. From the results of the first application, I wasn't hesitant to buy a second time. The decision was easy."

CRUSADE is an organo-phosphorus soil insecticide that can be applied to warm or cool season grasses on all turf areas of the golf course. It is also registered for use on commercial sod farms. Applied at the relatively low rate of 80 pounds per acre for mole cricket control, its convenient granular formulation simplifies treatment and is especially beneficial when making partial applications or working in isolated areas.

In extensive testing by university entomologists for more than 15 years, fonofos has repeatedly demonstrated superior control of all economically important turf-grass insects including white



grubs, chinch bugs, sod webworms, and cutworms, as well as mole crickets.

In 1991 tests in Georgia, CRUSADE demonstrated a statistically significant reduction in mole cricket damage by the second week following application. In tests in Florida in 1988–1989, CRUSADE exhibited mole cricket control equal to or greater than six other products.

Application timing is critical with any insecticide. With CRUSADE, timing is especially important because of the product's ability to control both the adult and nymph mole cricket populations. Other products are not as effective against the adults.

Adult mole crickets mate and lay eggs and fly away to die. Nymphs hatch in two to three weeks. With knowledge of what stage of the life cycle the insects are in and proper application timing, the

applicator can apply to control both the adults as they go down into the soil to lay eggs and the nymphs as they hatch and emerge from the soil.

In Largo, Florida, at the Bardmoor North Golf Club, Superintendent Steve Hritsko, who has recently moved to the World Woods Golf Resort in Homosassa, applied CRUSADE in April of 1991 to all fairways and tee and green slopes on the 18-hole course. He reapplied in September.

"With two applications of CRUSADE, I had better results than any other product would provide," Hritsko said. "I did, however, begin to see some activity that had to be addressed around the middle to the end of August. For 1992, I've budgeted three applications of CRUSADE—one in March, another in June and a third in September."

Once CRUSADE is applied and irrigated, the

"With two applications of CRUSADE, I had better results than any other product would provide."

*Steve Hritsko, Superintendent,
World Woods Golf Resort*

active ingredient releases from its carrier and attaches to the soil. The product resists leaching and its performance is not affected by enhanced microbial degradation.

According to Bob Yarborough, Vice President for Control Products at LESCO, the longevity of CRUSADE in the soil makes it a welcome addition to the arsenal of mole cricket insecticides.

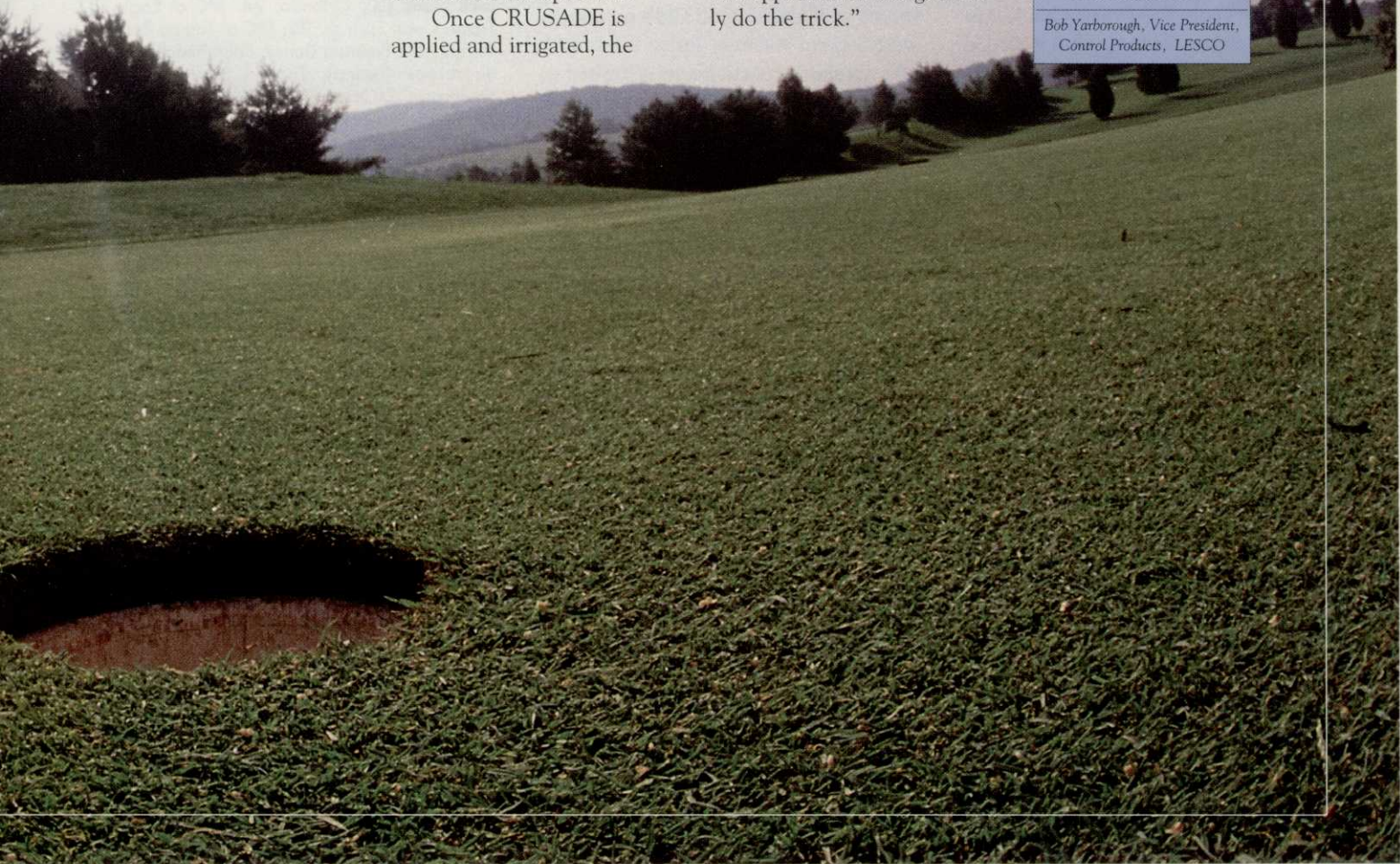
"What makes CRUSADE unique is that it doesn't have the microbial degradation of other soil-active insecticides," Yarborough commented. "That gives it the residual necessary to provide prolonged control of both the adult and the nymph populations. Other products may need to be applied as many as five times a year, but, with CRUSADE, two applications will generally do the trick."

After years of research and refinement, ICI Professional Products is pleased to provide golf course superintendents with this exciting insecticide. CRUSADE is a convenient, easy-to-use granular formulation that demonstrates superior efficacy against mole crickets and other turf-damaging insects. It can be used from tee to green on both warm and cool season grasses and is nonphytotoxic, with performance unaffected by enhanced microbial degradation.

CRUSADE can't promise to end the war against mole crickets on golf courses. But it is guaranteed to make each battle a whole lot easier to win.

"What makes CRUSADE unique is that it doesn't have the microbial degradation of other soil-active insecticides.."

*Bob Yarborough, Vice President,
Control Products, LESCO*



APRIL. On April 9, there will be two blockbuster programs to choose from.

On the east side of the state the **South Florida Chapter** is hosting the Otto Schmeisser Research Green Exposition at the Rolling Hills Golf Resort in Fort Lauderdale.

This is a combination event with a morning Turfgrass Workshop with **Dr. Joe Vargas**, Michigan State University, speaking on "Prevention of Black Layer and Fungicide Resistance", and **Dr. Robert Dunn**, University of Florida, discussing "Nematicides: Promises and Problems in Golf Course Management".

Following the workshop, there will be product displays and equipment demonstrations. This event is the original and primary fund raiser for the building and maintenance of the Otto Schmeisser Research Green at the IFAS Research Station in Fort Lauderdale. It is the only research plot in the state where tests are conducted on turf maintained under playing conditions. For registration information call the FGCSA office at (407) 692-9349.

Meanwhile on the west coast at the Bonita Bay Club, the **Everglades Chapter** hosts a Spring Seminar that is loaded with turfgrass talent! The all-day program includes two presentations by renowned author and Texas A & M researcher, **Dr. James Beard**, "Water Conservation & Turfgrass" and "Bermudagrass Greens Management".

Other speakers include: **Bob Rehbarg**, President of the FTGA; **John Foy**, USGA Green Section director for the Florida region; **Dr. Bert McCarty**, U. of Florida, "Herbicides and New Compounds"; **Dr. William Hagland**, Washington State University, "New Technologies in Nematode Control," and **Dr. Wayne Hannah**, USDA Research Geneticist, "Bermudagrass Breeding and Quality Analysis." For registration information call David Fry, CGCS at (813) 624-6204.

Both of the April 9 Seminars will provide CEU credits for renewing Restricted Use Pesticide Licenses.

Superintendents in North Florida can look forward to the **46th Annual Southeastern Turfgrass Conference** to be held in Tifton, Georgia on April 13

and 14. There will be a golf tournament sponsored by the Georgia GCSA at 1 p.m. at the Spring Hill C.C. on Monday. For those not playing golf registration and inspection of Experiment Station research plots will be available from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.. There will also be a fish fry lunch at Spring Hill and a 6:30 p.m. putting tournament and barbeque at the Tifton Family GC. On Tuesday, April 14 there will be an educational program for golf course superintendents. For more details, you may call (912) 386-3353.

MAY. This magazine won't be out in May so you better check this out now! On May 7, the University of Florida will hold its **Annual Turfgrass Research and Educational Field Day** from 8:30 a.m. to Noon at the Horticultural research Unit on Northwest 71st Street in Gainesville. This is an excellent opportunity to talk one-on-one with the state's leading turfgrass specialists. The event is free but there is a \$5 charge for the noon barbeque. Call Marie at (904) 692-1831 and let them know you'll be eating so they can plan the food. After lunch, the first Gator-Turf Golf Tournament will be held at the University of Florida's Golf Club on Southwest Second Avenue. Entry fee is \$20. The number of participants is limited so please call Dr. Bert McCarty's secretary, Marie, at (904) 392-1831 to insure registration.

If you can't make any of these events, then you aren't trying hard enough! Education is the key for the continued success and survival for every golf club and superintendent in the state.— *Joel Jackson.*

Golfweek reader poll taps Lecanto's Black Diamond Ranch as Florida's best course

Black Diamond Ranch in Lecanto was named the best golf course in Florida in the 13th annual reader survey by *Golfweek*, the weekly golf newspaper.

"We believe the true test of a course's greatness is the appreciation by golfers of all skill levels," wrote *Golfweek* Publisher Tom Stine in the Jan. 18 edition.

Each *Golfweek* subscriber was asked to rank the 10 best golf courses in whichever

state he was most familiar with.

"No restrictions were placed on the voters. We asked that they consider "design, distinctiveness of holes, memorability, condition, fairness, difficulty, playability, and personal preference. The weight given to each category was up to the individual voter."

The rankings:

1. Black Diamond Ranch, Lecanto
2. Innisbrook (Copperhead), Tarpon Springs
3. TPC at Sawgrass (Stadium), Ponte Vedra
4. Bay Hill Club, Orlando
5. Doral CC (Blue), Miami
6. Grand Cypress (North/South), Orlando
7. Bonita Bay Club (Marsh), Naples
8. Hammock Dunes Links, Palm Coast
9. Seminole, North Palm Beach
10. Bloomingdale Golfers Club, Valrico
11. Jupiter Hills (Hills), Jupiter; 12. Ravines, Middleburg; 13. Golden Ocala, Ocala; 14. Fiddlesticks CC (Long Mean), Fort Myers; 15. Grenelefe G&RC (West), Haines City; 16. Walt Disney World (Magnolia), Lake Buena Vista; 17. Old Marsh GC, Palm Beach Gardens; 18. Mission Inn, Howey-in-the-Hills; 19. Indigo Lakes, Daytona Beach; 20. Grand Cypress (New), Orlando.
21. Walt Disney World (Palm), Lake Buena Vista; 22. Pine Tree GC, Boynton Beach; 23. Lake Nona CC, Orlando; 24. TPC at Eagle Trace, Coral Springs; 25. TPC of Tampa Bay, Tampa; 26. Emerald Dunes, Palm Beach; 27. Innisbrook (Island), Tarpon Springs; 28. Sawgrass CC (Oceanside), Ponte Vedra Beach; 29. The Loxahatchee Club, Jupiter; 30. Bluewater Bay CC, Niceville.
31. Avila CC, Tampa; 32. PGA National (Champion), Palm Beach Gardens; 33. Key Biscayne, Miami; 34. The Reserve, Port St. Lucie; 35. Amelia Island Plantation (Long Point), Amelia Island; 36. Hawk's Nest, Vero Beach; 37. JDM CC (East), Palm Beach Gardens; 38. Mayacoo Lakes CC, Palm Beach; 39. Eagle Creek CC, Naples; 40. Palm Beach Polo (Cypress), West Palm Beach.
41. Hunter's Green, Tampa; 42. River Wilderness, Parrish; 43. Wildcat Run, Estero; 44. Errol CC, Apopka; 45. Club at Pelican Bay, Naples; 46. Adios CC, Coconut Creek; 47. Kissimmee Bay CC, Kissimmee; 48. Pelican's Nest, Bonita Springs; 49. Harbor Hills G&CC, Lady Lake; 50. DeBary Plantation, DeBary.

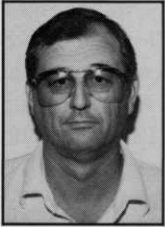
Two weeks earlier, the publication named 17 Florida courses in its annual list of the "50 most distinctive development courses in the Southeastern United States."

No selection criteria were listed but Black Diamond made that list as well.

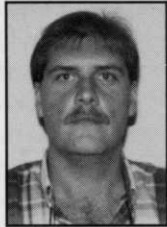
The honorees, in alphabetical order:

Alaqua CC, Longwood; Black Diamond

WANTED



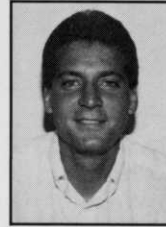
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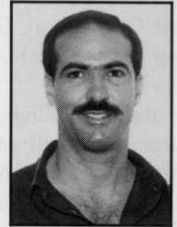
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Ranch, Lecanto; Bloomingdale Golfers Club, Valrico; Bonita Bay Club, Bonita Springs; Cobblestone CC, Palm City; Emerald Bay, Destin; Hammock Dunes Links, Palm Coast; Ibis G&CC (The Legend), West Palm Beach; Ironhorse CC, West Palm Beach;

Lake Nona Club, Orlando; Lely Resort (Flamingo Island); Magnolia Point, Green Cove Springs; Old Mash GC, North Palm Beach; TPC of Tampa Bay, Tampa; Weston Hills, Fort Lauderdale; Wildcat Run, Estero; Willoughby GC, Stuart.

PGA National to be featured on TV show

PGA National GC in Palm Beach Gardens will be one of the courses featured in the PGA of America's nationally syndicated TV program, PGA's Golf Almanac.

In its third year, the series will expand from 10 to 13 weeks for each of the PGA's 41 sections. The 30-minute shows will air in both Florida sections beginning the weekend of April 4 and ending June 27.



Robert Trent Jones Sr. in oil portrait by Arthur Weaver

USGA honors Robert Trent Jones Sr. with portrait for permanent display in Golf House

An oil portrait of golf architect Robert Trent Jones Sr. by renowned British artist

Arthur Weaver was unveiled during the annual meeting of the United States Golf Association in Palm Beach in February.

"It was an occasion I will always remember," Jones said. "I was simply delighted with Arthur Weaver's work and am honored the USGA will display it."

It was the first of two February honors for the architect. He received the Don Rossi Humanitarian Award from the Golf Course Builders Association of America at the International Golf Course Conference and Show in New Orleans.

Jones's portrait will hang at the USGA's Museum, Golf House, in Far Hills, N.J. He becomes the 17th golf dignitary — and the first golf architect — honored with a portrait. Others include Bob Jones, Francis Ouimet, Ben Hogan, Byron Nelson, Gene Sarazen and Glenna Collett Vare. A selection of Arthur Weaver's landscapes was exhibited at Golf House last summer. The museum is open from 9 to 5 weekdays and 10 to 4 on weekends.

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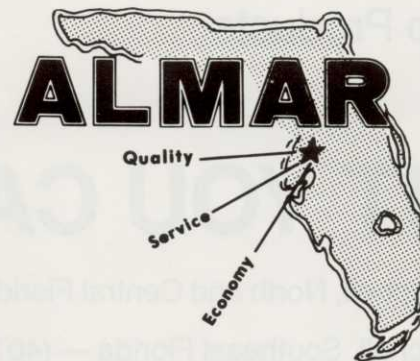
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ASGCA honors Paul Fullmer with 1992 Donald Ross Award

Paul Fullmer, who has guided the development of the American Society of Golf Course Architects for the past 22 years in his role of executive secretary, has been named the 1992 winner of the organization's Donald Ross Award.

"Paul has been at the helm during one of the most dynamic growth periods in the history of golf course architecture in this country," President Tom Clark explained, "and his steady hand has enabled the society and its members to achieve recognition throughout the world as the premier design source. The Society has experienced rapid growth during the past decade and has become a high-profile member of the Allied Associations of Golf, and we wanted to recognize his consistent counsel and pro-active programs by awarding Paul the Ross Award — the highest honor we can bestow."

Fullmer now joins others including Robert Trent Jones and Geoffrey Garnish as ASGCA recipients of the coveted Ross award. The ASGCA presents the Ross Award annually to someone who has made a significant contribution to the game of golf, and specifically golf course architecture.

Fullmer became ASGCA executive secretary in 1970. His golf connection developed through his wife, Sandra, and her father, Percy Clifford, who was an ASGCA Fellow and one of the



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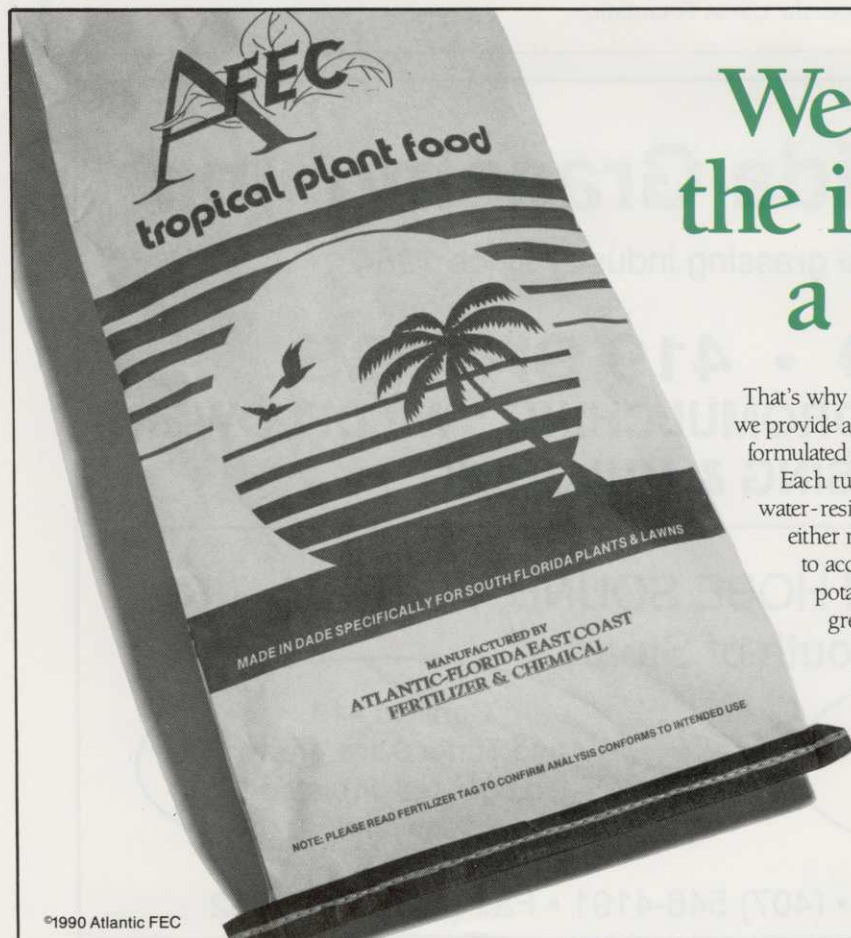
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"Quite simply, I am deeply honored by the Ross Award," Fullmer said.

"I am well aware that staff people seldom are recognized with their organization's highest honor, and this recognition certainly is one of the highlights of my life, especially because it comes from such great friends."

**USGA presents
C. Richard Skogley
Green Section Award**

A turfgrass breeder and educator responsible for several varieties of bentgrass and fescue, including Providence and Jamestown, was presented the USGA's 1992 Green Section Award at the International Golf Course Conference and Show in New Orleans Feb. 10-17.

"I'm very proud to receive the acknowledgement of my peers for my years of research in turfgrass," said Dr. C. Richard Skogley, who has spent most of his 40-year career as director of the Uni-

versity of Rode Island turfgrass program.

The award has been presented annually since 1961 to recognize distinguished service to golf through work with turfgrass.

An author or co-author of many articles for scientific journals and the public press, Skogley has been a featured speaker at turfgrass programs throughout the world.

He has received many honors, including the Oregon Seed Trade Association Man of the Year Award and the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award.

Skogley retired from URI in 1990 but he continues to provide consulting services.

**USGA Foundation
grants funding to
youth golf programs**

A Florida-based program to introduce underprivileged youngsters in 125 cities around the nation to golf has received a grant from the USGA Foundation.

"Hook-a-Kid-on-Golf," run by the National Youth Sports Coaches Association based in West Palm Beach, and the LPGA/American Athletic Foundation Junior Golf Program in Anaheim, Calif., which will teach the game to disadvantaged youths in Southern California.

Both received major funding from the USGA series of grants designed to assist in developing youth and education programs.

Several programs for physically challenged golfers also received support this year, including Special Olympics International; Fore Hope, Inc, of Columbus, Ohio; National Amputee Golf Association, of Amherst, N.H.; and the Physically Limited Golfers Association in Duluth, Minn. Funds for these programs were raised through USGA sales of greeting cards in 1991.

The National Minority Junior Golf Scholarship Association, in Phoenix, Ariz., was awarded a grant to assist with its scholarship program for financially disadvantaged high school golfers.

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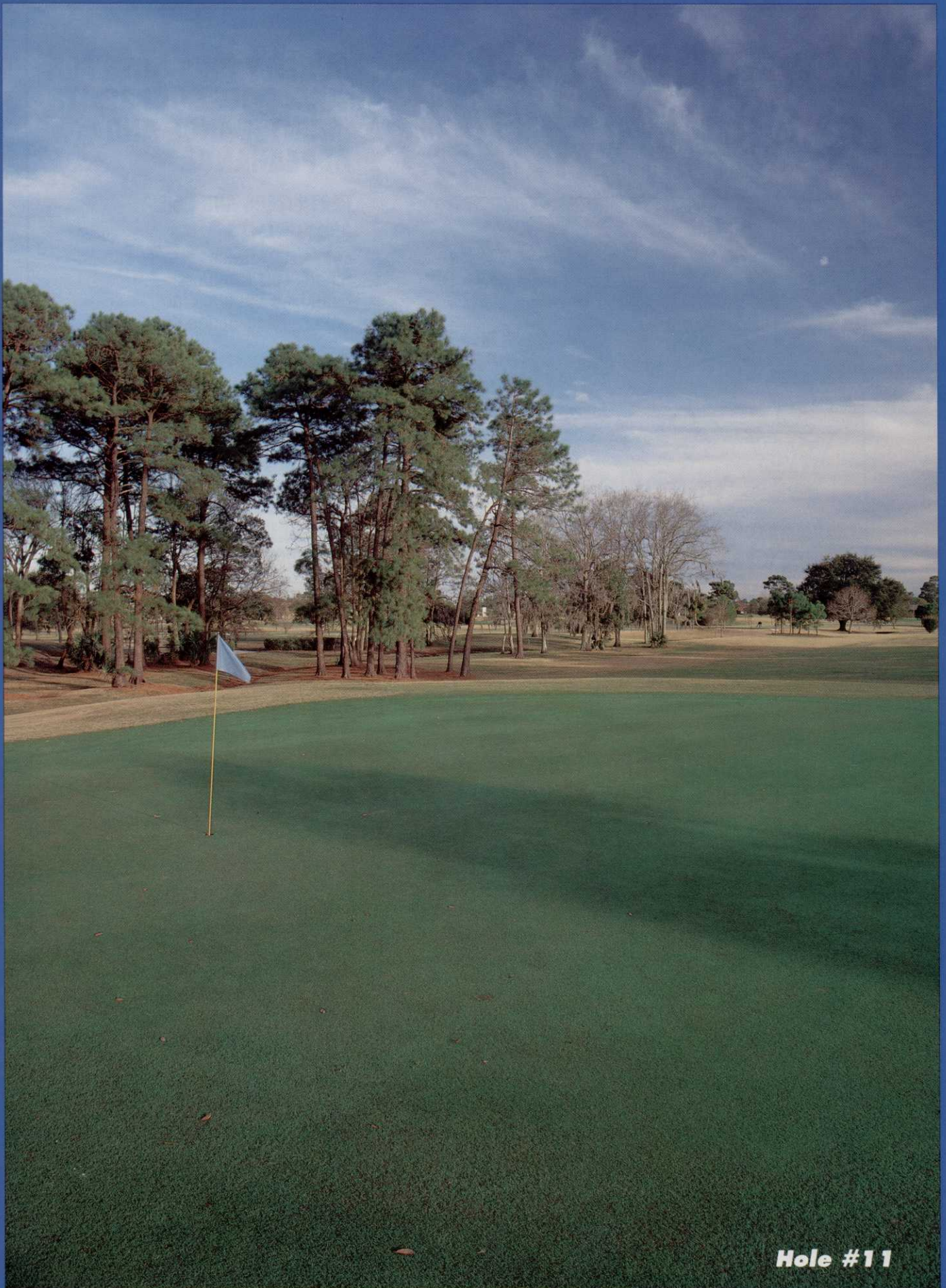
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Hole #11



Photos by Brian Everhart

Winter Pines Golf Course

A good, everyday golf course for good, everyday golfers

BY LARRY KIEFFER

Joe Ondo, CGCS, is a working superintendent.

With four full-time employees and three part-timers, he maintains the 18-hole, 5,400-yard Winter Pines Golf Course, a par-67 public facility that gets 90,000 rounds a year. He's a part-time mechanic and spray technician, and a full-time member of the crew.

And he wouldn't have it any other way.

"Everybody can't be at the prestigious places," says the 39-year-old Ohio native and 1975 graduate of Lake City Commu-

nity College's School of Golf Course Operations.

"I enjoy not having to be in the office all day. I not only get to see my golf course up close and personal every day, I get the chance to do something about it. You see things when you're riding the spayer that you wouldn't see while making an inspection tour.

"What we have is a good, everyday golf course for good, everyday golfers."

And Ondo, with a three handicap and several state championships under his belt, is a pretty good everyday golfer himself. He learned to play golf at 15, when a public course, Bronzwood

Golf Club owned by James and Natalie Bronson, was constructed across the street from his Kinsman, Ohio, home.

Kinsman is about 50 miles east of Cleveland and not much further southwest of Erie, Pa., home of the current Winter Pines owners.

After watching the course grow in, Joe and his dad thought golf might be fun. So they walked across the street and tried it. They liked it... and became pretty good at it.

The Bronsons's son, Carl, was Joe's age. Soon the two teenagers were tearing up the local junior tournaments.

After high school, Carl Bronson (now superintendent at East Lake Woodlands GC in Palm Harbor, Fla.) went to Lake City Community College while Ondo entered Youngstown State University on a golf scholarship.

"I thought I knew a lot about math until I started taking engineering courses," Ondo recalls. "I changed my major to physical education."

Although he toyed with the notion of becoming a golf professional, Ondo dismissed the idea because "I didn't have the resources. Sponsors weren't readily available back then."

So he followed his buddy, Carl, to Lake City, and graduated with the class of 1975. He then landed the assistant's job at Sharon (Pa.) CC.

In the fall of 1978, he came to Florida as assistant to John Lapikas at Lost Tree Club in North Palm Beach. Six months later, he took the Winter Pines post. There was an E(e)rie connection.

Lapikas had been superintendent at Winter Pines before moving to posh Lost Tree and the Winter Pines owners were

"seven guys from Erie, Pa.," near Ondo's hometown and the wellspring of Ondo's career in golf.

"It was a different world, that's for sure," said Ondo, comparing Winter Pines to Lost Tree. "Down there, everybody was under scrutiny every moment. Every member was everybody's boss. At Winter Pines, we have only the owner to satisfy."

As a public golf course operated for profit, Winter Pines could not be described as "manicured." But it gets as much tender loving care as the staff and budget will allow.

"It's not a difficult course to maintain," says Ondo "but it takes quite an effort to get everything done before each weekend, particularly when we try to make it at least a little bit better every week. We put in a lot of 10-hour days."

At Winter Pines, as at most public courses, weekends are the source of profits and profits are the source of funds for improvements.

"We pretty much gear up for weekends," Ondo says.

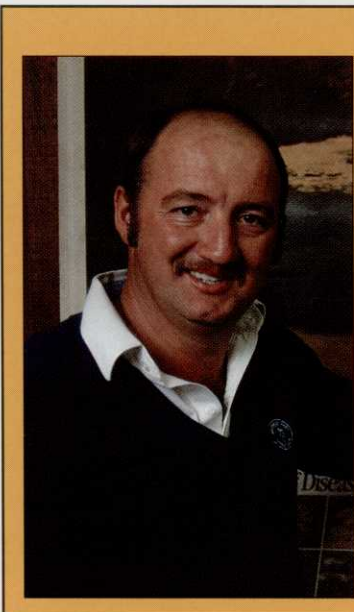
One of the things that helps the profit picture at Winter Pines is free treated sewage effluent from the city of Winter Park.

"It's a good deal for the city because we are getting rid of the effluent at no cost to the city and it's a good

deal for us, too." Ondo says. In the future, the golf course may pay some of the energy costs of treating and pumping the effluent.

At 5,400 yards, the Winter Pines is short, but not as easy as it looks, says Ondo, a former Florida Publinx GA state champion and member of the FGCSA national team several times.

As a concession to maintenance economy and speed of play, Winter Pines has only 21 bunkers, but three lakes and a canal



Joe Ondo, CGCS

Employed as Golf Course Superintendent at Winter Pines Golf Course, Orlando.

Originally from Kinsman, Ohio.

Attended College at Youngstown State University and Lake City Community, Class of 1975.

Previously employed as assistant superintendent at Sharon (Pa.) CC and Lost Tree Club of North Palm Beach.

Earned CGCS designation in 1986.

Married to Kathy, eight years.

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bring water into play on 12 holes and a tree-planting program has tightened the course into a challenge. Three par-threes are longer than 200 yards.

"There's not a lot of room out there. You've got to score well on the front side if you want to leave happy," he says.

"Of course, there aren't too many courses where you can shoot 12 over par and still break 80," Ondo adds. "A lot of golfers like that."

If Ondo is a working superintendent at a working man's golf course, he is thoroughly professional, with the complete support of owner Ed McMillin (another resident of Erie, Pa., who bought the course eight years ago) and his son Jon, the course manager and Ondo's boss.

"Every time I have the opportunity to learn something, they are willing to let me. In fact, they encourage me to attend all the seminars and workshops," he says.

In 1986 Ondo was one of the first golf course superintendents in central Florida to become certified. And he has served the FGCSA for years as a director (external vice president of the Central Florida GCSA) and as golf chairman.

Between his professional responsibilities and his passion for golf, there is little time for other recreational activities.

"Weekend golf tournaments are pretty much our vacations," says Ondo, who gets (and takes) three weeks of vacation every year. Taking long walks with Kathy, his wife of eight years, is a major source of relaxation.

"There is not a private club atmosphere here," Ondo says. "And I like that. I like knowing that we're doing the best job we can do and the fact that we are helping all kinds of people—from

kids to senior citizens—enjoy themselves and this great game. "I'm happy."



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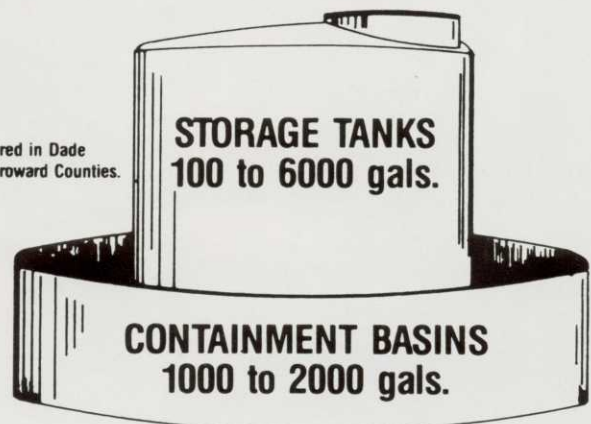
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Photos by Brian Everhart

Number 13

Winter Pines Golf Course

Location: 950 S. Ranger Blvd., Winter Park, FL 32792

Ownership: Ed McMillin, Erie, Pa.

Playing Policies: Public; 90,000 rounds a year.

Design & Construction: Built in 1967 as par 62 executive course; designer unknown; Five holes lengthened late 1970s by Bud Timbrook and Gardner Dickenson; 5,400 yards, par 67.

Turf: Greens average 5,000 square feet in Tifdwarf bermudagrass (three are Tifton 328 bermudagrass); overseeded in winter with blend of perennial

ryegrass; maintained at 3/16-inch year-around. Tees average 2,000 square feet in Tifton 419 bermudagrass cut to 7/16-inch; overseeded in winter. Fairways (about 20 acres) and roughs also Tifton 419 bermudagrass, not overseeded.

Irrigation: Griswold controller and valves; heads by Rain Bird, Thompson, and Toro. Treated effluent from city of Winter Park.

Maintenance Crew: 4 fulltime and 3 part-time. No assistant superintendent. Mechanic is part-time.

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Florida superintendents attend GCSAA

The GCSAA's 63rd International Golf Course Conference and Show in New Orleans Feb. 10-17 attracted a record crowd of more than 16,000 from about 50 countries, including members of the FGCSA.



Above, GCSAA President Steve Cadenelli, CGCS (right), and Vice President Bill Roberts, CGCS, cut the ribbon to open the three-day trade show featuring nearly 600 different exhibitors.

On the trade show floor, below, FGCSA superintendents Rick Walker (Orange Lake



Country Club), Cecil Johnston, CGCS (Bangplee Country Club, Thailand, see story next page) and Dan Jones, CGCS (Banyan GC) stopped for a photo by Mike Bailey (Boca Rio GC), editor of The Green Sheet.

Golf Course architect Robert Trent Jones Sr. (above, left) was greeted by Dan Jones during the reception. Dan Jones has been a superintendent on several R.T. Jones Sr. courses, two of them while under construction.

While in New Orleans, the eminent architect received the Don Rossi Humanitarian Award awarded from the Golf Course Builders Association of America.

Photos by Mike Bailey



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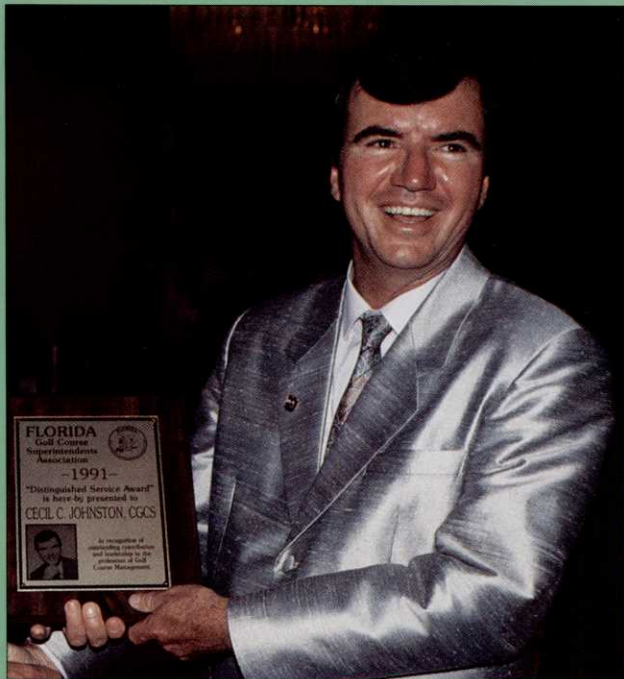


Photo by Mike Bailey

Cecil C. Johnston, CGCS

1991 FGCSA Distinguished Service Award

Personal: age 41; married 17 years to Melanie, no children.

Education: Lake City Community College, A.S. in golf course operations July 1977.

Employment: Green Valley Engineering Co., Ltd., Bangplee, Thailand; manager, golf course operations since May 1990. Avila G&CC, Tampa, superintendent, March 1987-April 1990; assistant superintendent July 1983-March 1984. Feather Sound CC, Clearwater, superintendent March 1984-March 1987. Reliable Rain systems, Apopka, co-owner, May 1980-June 1983. Pelican Bay Sports Resort, Daytona Beach, superintendent, Aug. 1979-May 1980. Sweetwater CC, Apopka, superintendent, Dec. 1978-Aug. 1979.

Professional Associations: FGCSA, president, 1987-88; Florida West Coast GCSA, president 1988-89; Florida Turfgrass Association, speaker 1987 Conference & Show, moderator 1988 Conference & Show. GCSAA member.

Back from Thailand —

Cecil Johnston receives his DSA award

BY KIT BRADSHAW

When Cecil Johnston, CGCS, accepted his FGCSA 1991 Distinguished Service Award during the GCSAA Convention and Show in New Orleans, he also should have received an award for traveling the farthest to be part of this event.

Johnston traversed to New Orleans from Thailand, where he is the manager of golf course operations of Green Valley Engineering Co., Ltd. and responsible for the maintenance of Green Valley CC, Rayong-Green Valley, Chiang Mai-Green Valley CC and Windmill Park CC. He and his wife Melanie have been in Thailand since May 1990.

At a special Feb. 14 reception given by the Florida Golf Course Superintendent's Association in his honor, Johnston was presented with the plaque he was awarded

last August but was unable to accept because he had already moved to Thailand.

Prior to taking this first overseas assignment, Johnston was the golf course superintendent at Avila G&CC in Tampa.

Rain Systems and was golf course superintendent at Pelican Bay Sports Resort in Daytona Beach and Sweetwater CC in Apopka.

Johnston said when he was growing up it wasn't his plan to be a golf course superintendent.

"Although I lived on a golf course for awhile during my high school years, and I played golf a few times, I never really considered a career in golf until much later in life. After attending Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, I dropped out and went to visit my parents in Vermont," he said.

During his stay in Vermont, Johnston decided he enjoyed working outdoors so he attended school to learn the basics of heavy equipment operations.

"I learned how to drive bulldozers, backhoes, loaders and other equipment well enough to find my first job in golf course construction in 1971, building the Quechee Club



Former Lake City Community College students now working in Thailand. Mike Stem, Winsan CC; Cecil Johnston, Green Valley Group; Roger Fink, Laem Chabang CC, Steve Wood, Bang Poo CC. Photo courtesy Cecil Johnston.

In recent years he has also been golf course superintendent at Feather Sound CC in Clearwater, was a part owner of Reliable

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Compare the difference between traditional Thai houses and modern condominiums. Photo by Cecil Johnston.

‘At Pasadena, I met Bud Quandt...’

in Quechee, Vt. After the course was built, I stayed on as irrigation technician.”

Johnston said the other part of his job — running a ski lift in freezing cold winters — was not very pleasant, so he moved back to Florida where he went to work at Bardmoor CC.

But it was at his next position at Pasadena CC in St. Petersburg that Johnston made the decision to be a golf course superintendent.

“At Pasadena, I met Bud Quandt,” he says. “Bud loved being a golf course superintendent and it showed. He wanted me to learn not only about irrigation, but everything about golf course maintenance. He tried to show me how all of the pieces of the puzzle fit together. It was Bud’s enthusiasm and encouragement that helped me decide to attend Lake City Community College and become a golf course superintendent.”

Soon after graduating *summa cum laude* in 1977, Johnston began to be active in golf course superintendents associations.

“My involvement with our associations increased considerably in 1984 when I volunteered to be editor of *The West Coast Wind*, the newsletter of the Florida West Coast GCSA. My second big step was to be appointed external vice president of the FWCGCSA and represent them at the FGCSA meetings.

“**Little did I know** at the first meeting when I made a few comments with a shaky voice that some day I would be president of the FGCSA and also represent them as a candidate for director of the GCSAA.”

Johnston also served as president of the FWCGCSA from 1988-89. He sees tremendous value in his participation in these associations.

“**Being active in association affairs** and serving on committees does more than just help our associations,” he says. “It also helps those who participate function more effectively in their business and private lives. I think it is fascinating to watch how people grow as individuals as they get involved.

“In addition, these organizations give visible proof that being a golf course superintendent is truly a profession, and they provide a network for communication between association members and our suppliers and educational opportunities,” he said.

“For those golf course superintendents who get fully involved with these associations by serving on committees, serving as directors and newsletter editors, the rewards are considerable. The more time and effort a person is able to give to a professional association, the more they grow as an individual.”

Johnston is concerned, however, about those golf course superintendents who do not become involved with these professional associations. “I worry that golf course superintendents who are not association members might make mistakes that will discredit our profession and encourage unnecessary regulations,” he says.

“The right-to-know laws, hiring and firing procedures, underground fuel storage tank regulations, pesticide safety requirements, EPA regulations, water use regulations and many other laws and

regulations are all problems that responsible owners must consider,” Johnston says. “Many golf course owners still prefer to be involved with the business part of their operations and ignore the rest. This is one of the challenges that face today’s golf course superintendents — the education of the golf course owners about the full responsibilities of their operation. Few owners are willing to confront these very real problems that are ever increasing.”

This need to educate owners is not only important in the United States, but even more so in Thailand, where the industry is still young. For instance, owner opposition is one of the reasons why there is no Thai GCSA as of yet.

“There are three big barriers to overcome in the golf industry in Thailand before there can be an association,” Johnston says.

“First of all, Thai golf course superintendents do not make very much money and are not regarded as professionals. Secondly, if foreigners like myself are involved with organizing an association, there will be language barriers to overcome and some Thais may be resentful of foreign control. But the biggest barrier is that the golf course owners are very competitive and many do not want their golf course superintendents to share ‘secrets.’

“**Many owners would not allow** their superintendents to participate. However, I think when the business of golf matures in Thailand, we will have a Thai GCSA. There are about 60 courses open now and in five years, there will be 200-300 courses.”

Johnston says that in his nearly two

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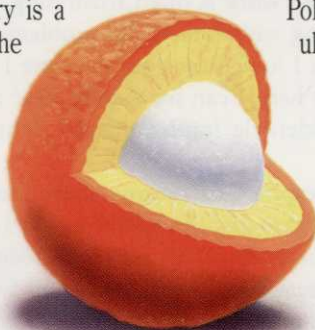
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These Thai workers are picking stones before planting.

Photo by Cecil Johnston.

‘...you can have 40 people working for you for \$10 an hour...’

years of working in Thailand, he has put into practice lessons learned on the golf courses of Florida.

“The most frustrating thing that can happen to a golf course superintendent is that sometimes you have a problem with your turf and you may never find the answer to the problem. When I worked with Jeff Hayden at Gainesville CC, he taught me that with any difficult problem, there is almost always more than one cause and one solution.

“For instance, stressed grass on a green is probably due to a combination of things. Jeff taught me to look for many different solutions to a difficult problem and to use as many solutions as possible.

“At one of our courses in Thailand, we had an unusual problem with one of our greens. We had a mottled green with dark green spots, and fertilizers and micronutrients had no effect. We came to the conclusion we had two different kinds of Tifdwarf in the greens. The grass came from an unknown source in Australia.

“Although the green areas were getting larger,” Johnston says, “we couldn’t wait to see if the greens improved because the course was about to open. We definitely didn’t want to fumigate and replant the green. So we decided to interplant the greens with a known source of American Tifdwarf from one of our nurseries and hope for the best. Our crew of girls took over for one week to stuff the coring holes with the new grass and now every time I visit the course, the greens appear to be improving.”

Johnston says that using this large labor crew is one of the key differences

between operating a Thai golf course and an American one.

“An employee in the U.S. costs \$10 an hour, including unemployment compensation, Social Security, insurance and so on. In Thailand, you can have 40 people working for you for \$10 an hour. That’s right — 40 people in Thailand cost about \$10 an hour. I am beginning to understand how the Great Wall of China and the pyramids in Egypt may have been built!”

Johnston said his primary duty as manager of golf course operations is to encourage the Thai golf course superintendents and general managers to follow through with the programs and procedures he suggests. He also gives recommendations to the owner to improve their projects.

“My work is often frustrating when dealing with immediate problems, but when I look back over the time I have spent here, I can see that we have made considerable improvement,” Johnston says.

Despite frustrations, there are also challenges that Johnston considers to be part of the fun of his job. He and Melanie are learning to speak Thai and he has come to realize that in an international situation you have to expect the unexpected.

“What you may consider agreed upon may change at any moment,” Johnston says. “But I’ve learned that just a smile in a moment of difficulty can open many doors.”

Johnston has no plans to leave Thailand except for occasional trips to the US

for annual GCSAA meetings.

He and Melanie have adjusted to life as expatriates.

“We live in a large cottage next to the house of the owner’s mother, and the owner’s younger sister and her family.” The younger sister and her husband speak excellent English, according to Johnston, which has helped the Johnstons bridge the language barrier. But, he says, he and Melanie are becoming more proficient in Thai.

And conditions have improved over the past two years as well, making life more comfortable.

“When we first came here, there were no other Americans in the golf business. Now there are several, and more are coming every day. Recently we got cable television, which really brought the U.S back to us. We have two channels,” Johnston says. “One channel has CBS, NBC and CNN news broadcasts and also sports. The other channel has American, British and Australian movies and sitcoms.

“Melanie is also keeping busy here, teaching English to the office staff, restaurant staff, owners’ children and others. She sometimes gets homesick but although I love Florida and I miss all my friends, I’m not homesick because I feel very much at home here.”

Johnston said that the future is open.

“I think I would be willing to go wherever the weather is warm, the people are friendly, where bermudagrass thrives and where I can be reasonably happy making the most money possible. For me — right now — I am in that place.”

HERE'S SOMETHING TO REFLECT ON...



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HANDS ON



Tim Hiers, CGCS, presented to
Treasure Coast Chapter FGCSA.

Integregated Plant Management

From a presentation by Tim Hiers, CGCS, to the Treasure Coast Chapter of the FGCSA. Scott Bell, CGCS, and Kevin Downing, CGCS, assisted in providing material for this article.

BY JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

Tim Hiers never leaves you wondering where he stands on an issue. Speaking with the conviction and zeal of a backwoods preacher and the authority and confidence of a corporate officer addressing a shareholders meeting, Tim delivers his message.

At a recent Treasure Coast GCSA meeting, Tim gave a presentation on Integrated Plant Management or IPM as it is known in the turf industry. Originally called Integrated Pest Management, the name has been changed to Integrated Plant Management to reflect a broader scope of turf management. As Tim put it, "IPM is not limited to the use of pesticides. It includes every practical and efficient thing you do to manage turf!" Tim is convinced, that if you are not paying proper attention to safety, training, record keeping, equipment maintenance, and cultural practices, you can't have a very effective IPM program.

In today's environmentally conscious world, it is imperative to demonstrate our knowledge, sensitivity, and concern for proper stewardship of our natural resources. While understanding and implementing an effective IPM program is essential, it is not enough according to Tim.

"All of us in this room are ultimately responsible for the problems we face from the growing concerns over environmentalism! We have participated in our associations, we have attended meetings and seminars, we have read our trade publications, but we really haven't done our share! If we would have worked half as hard for our position as those who work against us, we wouldn't be in this defen-



During grow-in, it was obvious that the steep slopes around this tee were going to be difficult to maintain. One solution, shown below, was to use ground cover (wedelia) which only requires mowing twice a year.



Photos by Tim Hiers, CGCS

Every practical and efficient thing you do to manage turf

sive position we are in right now. I don't know if the people who oppose golf courses and the use of chemicals operate out of ignorance or are just willfully ignorant. I can't tell the difference. The results is still the same.

"Some folks out there share our philosophies, but they don't understand our business. Just because we have some positive results from an experiment that supports our position, it is not enough. I hate to use this overworked cliché, but we do need to become more pro-active. We have to be able to change people's perceptions of our business. At the same time we must understand their positions and provide them with information that

will enable us to find reasonable, sensible solutions to our differing viewpoints."

Tim didn't want the audience to get hung up on jargon and buzzwords when it comes to IPM.

"While scouting, mapping, and threshold levels are sophisticated aspects of an IPM program, the simple task of making sure your mowers are sharp and set properly are just as important! Dull mowers can injure grass blades making them susceptible to disease." This may require an extra fungicide application to control the disease.

Tim continued, "One of the statements I keep hearing from people about

using IPM is that we will have to sacrifice the condition of the golf course. I totally disagree with that comment! There may have to be some concessions to the speed of the greens and the shade of green of the grass, but the quality of the turf and the traditions of the game can be preserved very easily. Members want to brag about the speed of their greens, but they can't putt them. I observe players every day failing to make putts on these greens that they demand to be kept at speeds of 9, 10, or higher. Maybe a few players can negotiate the ultra fast greens, but the majority can't.

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of maintenance goes up in proportion to the speed. Shorter blade produce shorter roots which makes the turf prone to disease and wear. We can reduce the amounts of water, fertilizer, and pesticides by using sharp mowers, reasonable heights of cut, and consistent cultural practices. At the same time we can produce a consistent, healthy, playable putting surface."

Tim then commented on a series of examples of IPM practices that reduced the use of water, fertilizer, pesticides and labor. I'll call them Tim's Tips:

OUT-OF-PLAY AREAS

On every course there are areas that are not in play but are grassed and must be maintained. Some are difficult and time-consuming to mow and keep attractive. Here are some suggestions to deal with those areas.

1. Depending on your region, consider the use of ground covers. We use wedelia with its colorful yellow blossoms. Rather than mowing weekly, we mow it twice a year.

2. Don't fight hard to manage turf in dense shade under a tree. Remove the turf. Try mulch and/or shade-loving native vegetation. Ornamental shrubs or annuals might also be an alternative.

3. Consider seeding out-of-play areas with wildflowers. Some temporary watering may be needed to get the plants established. Our wildflower patch was the talk of the club last year. It made a great accent. We did have to hand weed the taller weeds like dog fennel and remove some oak shoots every two or three weeks, but it was at minimal cost.

4. In some dry weedy areas, it may be prudent to install some low-volume irrigation heads and plant turf if the area is easy to mow. This may save labor in the

long run and definitely gets the mowers out of the sand which is quite harmful to machinery.

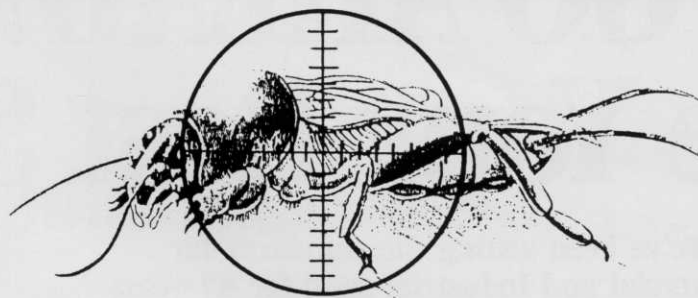
IRRIGATION

1. Don't overwater! Overwatering can contribute to compaction and wear problems which can lead to weed problems. Other negatives: poor oxygen levels in the root zone, nutrient leaching, disease susceptibility, and unnecessary wear and tear on your irrigation system.

2. The new computerized irrigation systems have been very helpful in managing energy costs and water usage. Not everyone has this tool, but everyone can customize his watering practices to be as efficient as possible.

3. Test your irrigation water for pH and overall quality. You may be aggravating your turf maintenance problems and costs. There are additives and filtration systems that may be helpful.

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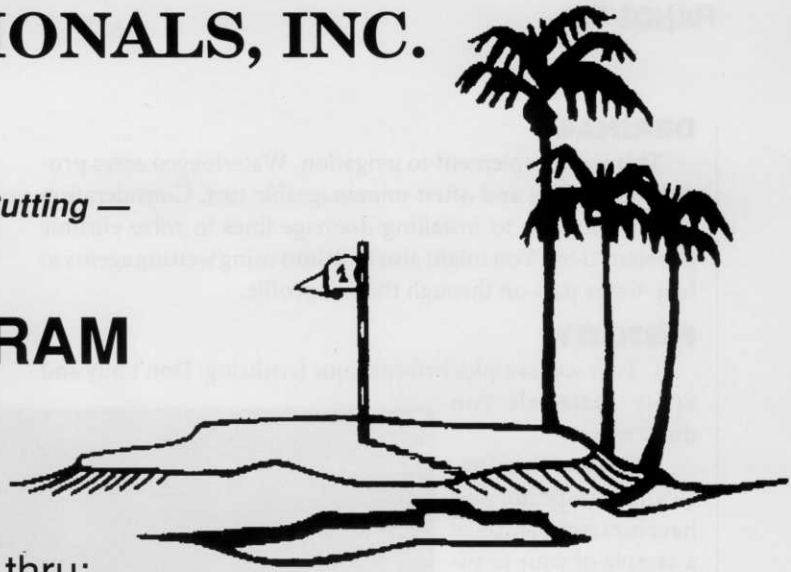
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DRAINAGE

This is a complement to irrigation. Waterlogged areas produce unhealthy and often unmanageable turf. Consideration should be given to installing drainage lines to solve chronic problem areas. You might also look into using wetting agents to help water pass on through the soil profile.

FERTILITY

1. Take soil samples before major fertilizing. Don't buy and apply materials you don't need.

2. Call your local agriculture inspector and have him come and take a sample of your fertilizer purchase. Sometime you don't get what you pay for.

3. Gravitate toward using a higher percentage of slow release fertilizer in your blends. This will help prevent the possibility of nutrient leaching.

4. Make sure your fertilizer spreaders are calibrated.

5. Consider the use of new biostimulant and humic acid products. Some research has shown some surprising results.

TREE MANAGEMENT

Trees can be a very controversial topic at a club. While it may be very desirable and prudent to plant accent trees for aesthetics and screening, it may be equally wise to consider removing trees or thinning out trees that are causing severe turf management problems which translates to higher costs for labor and chemicals to keep the affected areas playable. When tree roots and grass roots are in competition the tree always wins. Here are some ideas to consider.

1. Selective clearing. Remove selected trees that are blocking sunlight and air circulation. To mitigate the removal of harmful trees, plant replacement trees in out of play areas that won't impact the turf.

2. Root pruning. Our root pruner cost \$2,700. It has paid for itself many times over by eliminating the competition between tree and grass roots. I have discovered tree roots that have extended 50 to 75 feet beyond the tree canopy into turf areas. We have achieved some dramatic improvements in turf quality



This shady out-of-play area between the green and the next tee resulted in thin, weak and worn turf. By removing the turf and then adding some timbers for curbing and mulching the area, the only maintenance required is an occasional inspection for weeds.



by pruning the roots of the offending tree. There is a new product out called Bio-barrier which can keep tree roots from encroaching where they aren't wanted. It may be something you want to consider.

3. Pine trees. Pines don't like grass around their roots. Keep the root zone mulched with pine straw. Pines also don't like high pH water.

TRAFFIC CONTROL

Golfers only understand damage they can see. They don't understand the cumulative effect of soil compaction with the reduction of pore space which leads to poor water percolation and poor air exchange.

1. Try to vary traffic patterns using barriers. We use a 4 x 4 timber across the end of our paths, and move it every two or three days. You can also try signs and roping to vary the traffic flow.

2. In severe cases consider redesigning the path.

PESTICIDES

As you can see by all the topics discussed so far, Integrated Plant Management is more than just managing the use of pesticides. Healthy turf requires less dependence on chemical applications. But when chemicals *are* used:

1. Read the product label. Be aware of and abide by all restrictions on the label with regard to operator safety and product rates and application restrictions.

2. Pesticides should be used only by licensed applicators. Your pesticide technician should be sent to productive seminars for continuing education and training.

3. The decision to spray should be carefully considered and based on weather conditions, acceptable pest threshold levels and damage, and pest life cycles.

4. Spot treat problems rather than apply chemicals wall to wall whenever possible.

5. Rotate products used so that pests don't build up chemical resistance.

6. Schedule chemical applications in conjunction with seasonal turf renovations to maximize their efficiency.

7. Consider the use of biocontrol products to minimize use of traditional chemicals wherever possible.

8. Have your club support turf research by including a line item for turf research in the maintenance budget.

9. Check the pH of your spray water. High pH water reduces the effectiveness of your chemicals. A few drops of muriatic acid if needed can buffer your solution.

10. Scouting and mapping of actual pest populations can help plan your spot treatment applications and save wasted travel time by your operator.

11. Ron Andrews of the Grand Harbour Club achieved significant mole cricket control in his fairways by hand-applying Oflanol or Orthene to nymph tunnels with a one-gallon sprayer during the spring hatching period. To achieve this 60% to 80% control he estimated he only treated 4% of the total fairway area.

SUMMARY

There are some very sincere people, who out of ignorance or willful ignorance are very vocal about their opposition to the golf industry. We have to be able to talk to these people and educate them about what we do, and about the positive benefits of golf courses in their communities. In order to speak accurately and confidently about what we do, we must go about our business professionally. We cannot proclaim ourselves good stewards of the environment if we aren't good stewards of our own maintenance operations. Attention to details and sound management practices are the cornerstones of a good IPM program.

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Turf Industry Roundup

Waterworks features two Florida superintendents

Aquatrols has featured two Central Florida golf course superintendents in the January issue of *Waterworks*: **Keith Van Hook** at Mountain Lake CC and **Jim Rowland** at Lake Wales CC. Both use the company's **AquaGro•S** wetting agent to combat problems caused by the sandy soil of Florida's Ridge.

Charles R. Nash has been promoted from business manager to business director for ICI Professional Products. **William D. McClellan** is the company's new national technical director, replacing **Richard Gouger**, who retired March 1, and **Doug Mills** has been promoted from turf products manager to communications manager.

Susan Samudio and **Mark Sellman** have been promoted to associate breeders for **Jacklin Seed Co.** Samudio worked with perennial ryegrasses and Sellman continues to work with fine fescues.

Bob Henderson has been promoted to manager of controller operations for the **Rain Bird** companies. A graduate of Brown University, Henderson will continue as plant manager for Clemar Manufacturing Corp. in Claremont, Calif. **Ed Eduok** has been appointed senior forecaster for Rain Bird's agriculture, golf and parts markets. **Dirk Lenie** is the company's new managing director of sales and marketing for the golf division and **Bob Finkenbiner** is one of his new product managers. **Roy Straight** has been appointed plant manager of Anthony Industrial and

June Kubota is a new marketing assistant in the golf division.

James B. Smith is the new general manager of **Ceres Products Corp.**, based in Azusa, Calif.

George Hamilton will coordinate **Penn State's** two-year turfgrass management program. He replaces **Dr. Joseph Duich**, who has retired. A graduate of the turf program, Hamilton earned a master's degree in agronomy from Penn State and has been in charge of the university's Landscape Management Research Center since 1982.

Kerry Haigh, has been promoted to senior director, tournaments, by the **PGA of America**. The 32-year-old native of England had been director of Tournament Operations. **Jorge Quintero** has left his own development consulting firm to become the association's director of golf course development.

The January **PGA Merchandise Show** in Orlando attracted 27,774 buyers, an increase of more than 4,000 over last year's record-setting attendance. More than 2,000 buyers came from foreign countries. Addition of space at the Peabody Hotel across the street from the Orange County Convention Center enabled the number of exhibitors to increase to 707.

Robert Trent Jones Sr. received the GolfCoruse Builders Association of America's Don Rossi Humanitarian Award.

Paul Fullmer, who has guided the development of the American Society of Golf Course Architects as executive secretary for 22 years, has been named the 1992 winner of the organization's **Donald Ross Award**.

John R. Sullivan, CCM, general manager of the Grosse Point (Mich.) Yacht Club, was elected president of the **Club Managers Association of America** at the organization's annual conference Jan. 16. Other new officers are Richard Kolasa, Tucson, Ariz., vice president; William Schulz, Houston, secretary-treasurer. National director from Florida is **Jay DiPietro**, Boca West CC. 🦘

New Products

Lesco has released **Legacy**, a low-growing turf-type perennial ryegrass for overseeding. **Aquatrols** has reformulated AquaGro•S soil wetting agent and renamed it **AquaGro 20•S**. **Turf-Tec International** has a new field **tissue test kit** for nitrate-nitrogen in turfgrasses. The company's new **Verti-Slicer** aerifies a course without materially disturbing play. **Standard Golf's** 1992 catalog includes several products designed to satisfy specific superintendent requests, such as a debris rake that picks up pine needles and other small objects.



Charles R. Nash



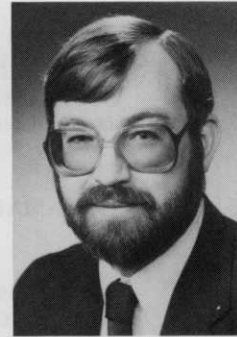
William D. McClellan



Doug Mills

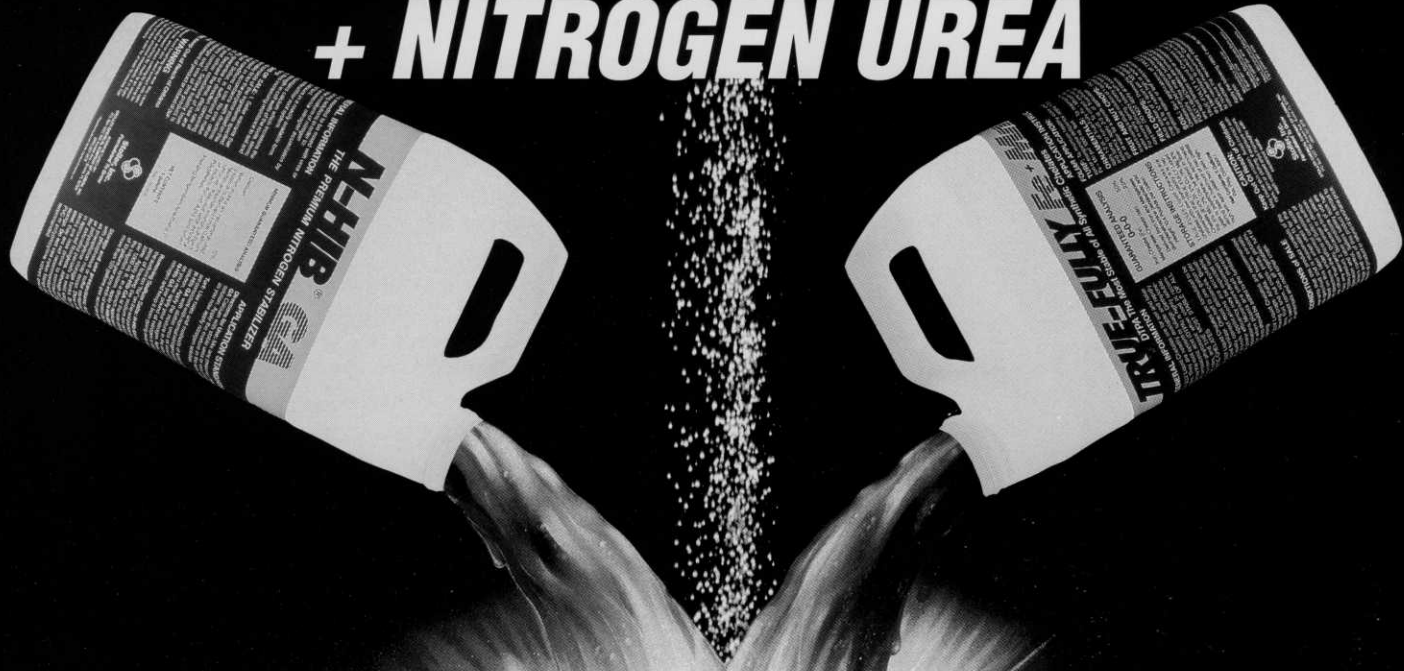


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Greenward

A compendium of news and opinions about government, golf and the environment

An update on new state legislation affecting turfgrass

NOTE: *The following report by Dr. Tom Latta, chairman of the Florida Turfgrass Association External Affairs Committee, is edited from a mail-out five weeks ago to FTGA members. Many changes have occurred since then and may continue to occur when the Legislature meets in special sessions. The Update notes were added on March 13. The FTGA External Affairs Committee will bring you a legislative recap in a future issue.*

It is not appropriate for an employee of a club to publically speak out on sensitive issues which might affect the operation of the club without the approval and support of the membership and officers. However, as a taxpaying citizen, you do have a right to express yourself to your elected officials concerning pending legislation which can have a disastrous effect on common sense turf management.. — Joel Jackson.

BY DR. T. M. LATTA
CHAIRMAN, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, FTGA

Many bills introduced this year have the potential to affect turfgrass interests. This summarizes the major issues.

Fertilizer Bill

Senate Bill 1520 (Senator Souto) This is a major rewrite of the existing fertilizer bill. The major controversy covers the fee for registering a fertilizer. (Fee hikes are in the wind. The State has no general revenue money to support such programs. The current thought is that fees raised by the activity must support the costs of the activity.)

Pesticides

House Bill 2431 and Senate Bill 1430: That part of the Florida Pesticide Law dealing with applicator certification is up for sunset review this year. The Senate is dealing with the issue narrowly: reenact the applicator certification language in Ch. 487. The House of Representatives took a much more ambitious

approach, and rewrote the entire Pesticide Law as PCB RR 92-19.

If anyone has read Ch. 487 recently, you know what a confusing statute it is. Definitions appear in multiple locations, there is little consistency or flow to the language because the statute was created at different times in different Legislative bills. This product by the House Regulatory Reform staff is a major consolidation, and is an excellent effort. Surprisingly, there has been little controversy so far about the House bill, despite some language, long sought by people in the industry, making clear that the Department of Agriculture has exclusive State regulatory authority over pesticides.

[UPDATE: A major controversy has erupted over pre-emption and the outcome is uncertain at this writing.]

Preemption. You've undoubtedly heard the Supreme Court decided in the Casey, Wisconsin case that FIFRA does not preempt local regulation of pesticides, including pesticide use. Enacting regulations on use was up to the states (as long as these do not conflict with or expand upon Federal regulations. Bottom line: states can do what they want.

Florida law has been silent on the subject of exclusivity. Some departments, water management districts, regional planning councils, cities, and other government organizations attempt on occasion to regulate pesticide use through permits, development orders, licenses, etc. This year we made a major effort to get this regulatory authority clarified by having the statute declare unambiguously that the Department of Agriculture and the Florida Pesticide Law provide the sole regulatory framework for pesticides. The reasons for this are threefold:

1. If local jurisdictions can establish conditions of use, they have an obvious registration function. Their demands for additional data, backup and support upon manufacturers will impose an additional cost burden on registrants. It also weakens the registration functions of both the Department of Agriculture and EPA. Manufacturers will not know who has the final authority governing product registration. The inevitable consequence will be the withdrawal from Florida of products and registrations we desperately need.

2. Pesticide users should know the rules of the road and these rules should not change with every county or city line. Also, city and county regulations are often under-publicized (in ordinances) or completely hidden (in permits, occupational licenses, or other file drawer documents). It will be almost impossible for a person to know the rules of pesticide use, or how to comply with them. Furthermore, a pattern of infractions could checkmate the use of pesticides, even by conscientious professionals.

3. Regulatory decisions on pesticides should be made in a scientific forum, not driven by public hysteria, emotion, political posturing, or grandstanding. Often, unfortunately, local public policy discussions on pesticides are carried out in newspaper headlines, rather than in reasoned technical discussions. This opens a tremendously fertile ground for abuse. Preempting pesticide use regulations to the State level helps ensure (but does

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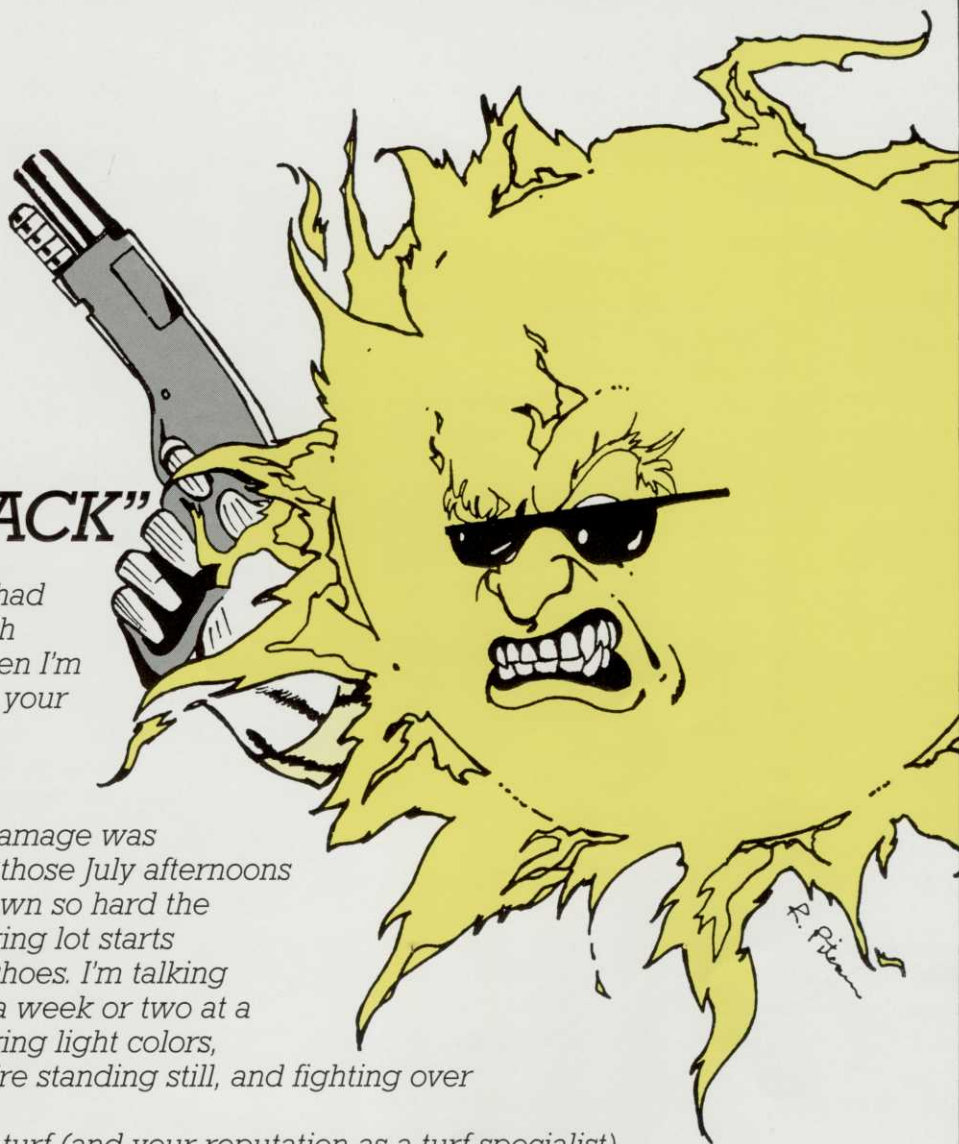
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not guarantee!) that decisions are predicated upon scientific data and objective analyses of risk, rather than emotion.

In my view, this language is critically important for the future of pesticides in the state.

Chemically Sensitive Persons. Another concern with the pesticides bill is the protection of chemically sensitive individuals. An amendment was offered (turned down in Committee) which said:

“Registry.. .the Department shall provide all certified applicators with the names, addresses and notification parameters and other necessary information regarding the persons on the Registry for Pesticide Sensitive Persons, as established in Section 482.2265 (3). Any certified applicator must notify the person on the Registry at least 24 hours before applying a pesticide, or having pesticides applied by an employee or other person pursuant to his authority, to: (1) A property adjacent or contiguous to the specified resident’s property of the person on the Registry, or (2) A property within the notification parameters, as established pursuant to Section 482.2265(3) (d), of a person on the Registry needing extra distance notification.”

Again, this is an over simplistic approach which imposes a burden on all certified applicators on behalf of (currently 24) persons on the Registry, whether or not the certified applicators need to be certified to use the pesticide

The wording requires 24 hours advance notice of all spraying, limiting your ability to respond quickly to a disease outbreak. It establishes no conditions or classes of sensitivity; the only criteria is contiguous property. A sensitive person living on the fourth floor of a condominium by Hole 15 would get 24 hours notice before you could spray fungus on the first green.

I talked to the sponsor and committed to work with chemically sensitive persons to establish fair and equitable rules for their protection. However, we feel that the protection levels should be tied to medically demonstrable conditions and situations. We do not want reasonable protection to become a weapon for anti-pesticide forces to prohibit pesticide use.

Just an observation by the External Affairs Committee. We have been working with the pest control industry on the pest control legislation for the past several years, where this issue has continued to come up. We face a group of energetic, dedicated individuals who truly believe they are systematically being poisoned by exposure to pesticides in their environment. I don’t know anyone who wishes harm to these people, or who would be unwilling to modify his pesticide use or use practices in order to accommodate a genuine medical problem. The difficulty, of course, is to separate genuine medical problems from psychological problems or political problems. We will continue to work on this issue sincerely and honestly, but it is very, very challenging.

Pest Control

(HB 2341 and SB 0078) The House Regulatory Reform Committee has made a major rewrite of the pest control statute, Ch. 482. FPCA, FTGA, HRS and other interested parties have been working for the better part of a year to come up with a consensus. They have.

The bill moves several regulations now in the rules into the statute. These include provision for yardmen to do limited spraying if the customer/homeowner provides the materials and the sprayer. It also provides for registration of lawn maintenance people in a special category, allowing them to do limited spraying:

“to make applications of herbicides for controlling weeds in plant beds and to practice integrated pest management on ornamental plants using the following materials: low toxicity insecticides that are designated with the United States Environmental Protection Agency signal word “CAUTION” only, or insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, or bacillus thuringiensis (BT) formulations. Application equipment used by a person certified pursuant to this section shall be limited to portable, hand-held, 3-gallon compressed air sprayers or backpack sprayers with no more than 5-gallon capacity and may not include power equipment. Certification under this section does not authorize pesticide application to turf.”

This is a major compromise allowing lawn maintenance people limited spray authority, providing they are individually certified. It is the result of a long negotiation between the Lawn Management Association and the Florida Pest Control Association. We believe the compromise position is fair, equitable and workable.

Preemption. The bill also has strengthened the preemption language in the current law to clarify that the statute is intended as *“comprehensive and exclusive regulation of pest control in this state. The provisions of this chapter preempt to the state all regulation of the activities and operations of pest control services, and no local government or political subdivision of the state may enact or enforce ordinances regulating pest control except for the requirement of a local occupational license pursuant to the provisions of chapter 205.”*

This preemption language has been opposed by local governments (particularly counties) in hearings before the House Regulatory Reform Committee. On the House side, the preemption language stayed in the bill.

However, on the Senate side, Senator Forman (Broward County) proposed (and vigorously supported) an amendment striking all preemption language. The amendment passed. The Senate version of the bill (GB 78) is moving on to its next committee without any preemption language.

Senator Forman’s action is a tremendous blow to consistent regulation of pest control in this State. Everyone is trying hard to get preemption put back in the bill, but it’s going to be a tough fight.

Chemically Sensitive Persons. The pest control bill also expands and clarifies the regulations governing the registry of chemically sensitive persons. This covers only “persons with documented pesticide sensitivity” certified by an authorized specialist physician.

To get on the list a person must provide documentation of pesticide sensitivity, including the pesticide or pesticide class to which the person has a sensitivity; or a physician’s statement indicating the person is currently under a physician’s care for a

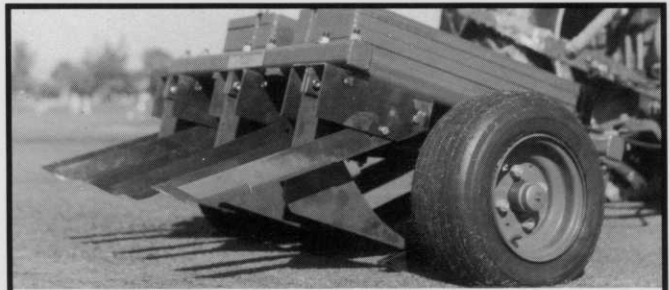
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diagnosed physical or mental condition that the Department has designated warranting inclusion on the registry; or has been certified by a physician to have an ailment or condition that would be significantly aggravated by normal pesticide application.

Persons desiring to be placed on the registry must pay an initial fee of \$50 and an annual renewal fee of \$10.

Persons on the registry shall get at least 24 hours advance notification of a pesticide application to a lawn or plant bed or exterior foliage on property contiguous with or adjacent to the primary residence of the pesticide sensitive individual.

Some persons may be qualified as hypersensitive on a case-by-case basis and receive advance notice at a greater distance, however no distance greater than one-half mile from the outside boundaries of the pesticide sensitive person's property. The greater distance notification also is limited in its application only to the pesticides or pesticide classes to which the person has a documented sensitivity. Notification can be by mail, telephone or personal delivery.

Persons on the Pest Control Notification Registry must provide HRS with the addresses of the properties or residences that fall within the contiguous, adjacent or special distance parameters for notification. HRS will supply this information to pest control operators.

The statute also contains very specific wording limiting the liability of the pest control operator.

Posting. Lastly, the statute provides explicit parameters for signs to be placed on lawns after spraying. This wording was in the rule and has been moved to the statute. The controversy stirred up by this bill (in addition to the preemption issue) include registration of lawn maintenance personnel, opposition by pesticide sensitive individuals, and the size (4" x 5") of the post-spray notification sign (they wanted 8-½" x 11").

This bill took an effort by the Pest Control Association and a number of the major companies in the industry. FTGA participated in the later discussions, particularly focusing on the registry of chemically sensitive persons and the preemption language.

[**UPDATE:** The pest control legislation has now passed both houses. A compromise on preemption (for pest control only, not pesticides) was reached: Regulation of pest control services and pesticide applications by pest control operators is preempted to the state, but local government is given considerable authority to regulate such local issues as storage, containment, zoning, hazardous materials regulation and well-field protection. The final wording will be published in a forthcoming issue.]

Pest Control (again !) and Golf Courses

Those of you who have read Ch 482, the Florida Pest Control Law, know that a pest control license is not required for applications to agricultural areas. Agricultural areas are defined as an area:

"(a) upon which a ground crop, trees or plants are grown for

commercial purposes;

(b) where a golf course, park, nursery or cemetery is located; or
(c) where farming of any type is performed or livestock is raised."

The original version of PCB 92-14, offered by the House Regulatory Reform Committee staff, would have changed the definition of agricultural area to read... *"(b) where a park or nursery is located,"* removing **golf courses** and **cemeteries** from being excluded as agricultural areas.

We first saw this proposal in December, and instantly opposed it. The provision had been offered as a way to require golf courses and cemeteries to post notices after spraying, as they are public places. However, the revised definition would have "back doored" all golf course operators under the Pest Control Law, a tremendous burden.

We convinced the House staff to deal with this issue in Ch. 487, the Florida Pesticide Law, rather than approach the issue of posting in such an oblique fashion. Fortunately, they agreed with this suggestion. Golf courses and cemeteries continue to be considered as agriculture and are exempt from certification, as pest control operators. One for the good guys.

Reorganization — Dept. of Agriculture

Internal organization changes: grouping all divisions under one of three deputy commissioners renaming the Division of Inspection to the Division of Agricultural Environmental Services. (This includes feed, seed, fertilizer and pesticides activities.)

Biodiversity

House Bill 751 (Representative Kelly) Senate companion bill (doing the same thing) sponsored by Senator Weinstein from Coral Springs.

These bills proclaim biological diversity as a public policy goal and establish a task force to establish a "biodiversity task force" in the office of the governor to develop a *"State strategy for conservation of the biological diversity of this state with substantial attention given to education programs, enhanced intergovernmental coordination, information collection and dissemination, incentives to agribusiness and private land owners, incompatible state land uses, preservation of endangered, threatened and special concern species and habitats, and public and private participation."*

We see this as a "feel good" bill, and yet another example of government bureaucracy to create rules and regulations, this time in the name of "biodiversity." Proponents obviously feel otherwise.

Muck Removal

Senate Bill 2176 (Senator Dantzer). Allows removal of organic muck and detritus material down to the mineral subsoil without a dredge-and-fill permit; prevents the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund from levying any charges for removal of this organic goop from state lands. Common sense bill, but questionable chance of passage this year.

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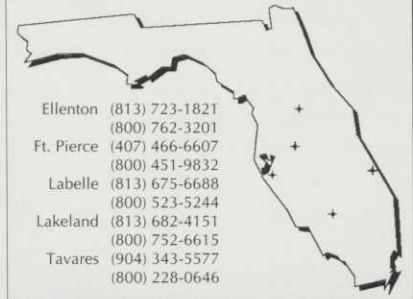
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[**UPDATE:** This provision is moving forward, having been amended to other bills, but the final resolution is uncertain.]

Environmental Reorganization

Senate Bill 1878 (Senator Dantzler) Merges the Department of Environmental Regulation and the Department of Natural Resources into a single department. This won't fly this year, and is one of many bills on the general subject of environmental reorganization. Everybody wants to change the status quo, but there's no consensus on how it should be changed.

Senate Bill 1794 (Senator Kirkpatrick) Reorganizes environmental activities. Merges Bureau of Aquatic Plants into the Game and Fish Commission. Merges DER with Game and Fish Commission in a fuzzy structure with many difficulties (GFC has constitutional status; all other departments report to the Governor or Governor and Cabinet). This bill renames DER as the Department of Environmental Protection and folds in almost all of the Department of Natural Resources. It also creates the "inter-governmental task force on environmental efficiency" which would study the idea of creating a Department of Fish and Wildlife and further reorganizing the Department of Natural Resources out of existence.

House Bill 1903 (Representative Harris) Provides for fees on first landing for foreign vessels (boats or aircraft) to finance additional agricultural inspection; provides for registration of aquatic plant nurseries; transfers aquatic plant nursery inspection from DNR to DACS, eliminating duplication. The bill has passed both Senate and House Ag committees, and goes to Finance and Taxation, and to Appropriations.

[**UPDATE:** Fees have been removed from HB 1903 but aquatic nursery transfer is still alive. Other reorganization bills change daily, or are mired down. Significant change is unlikely this year.]

Aquatic Weed Control

Senate Bill 1438 (Senator Thurman) with companion **House Bill 435 (Representatives Chuck Smith and Mackey)** This reorganizes the Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Aquatic Plants, sending its research activities to IFAS, its regulatory and permitting activities to the water management districts, creating the Aquatic Plant Advisory Council.

All are good moves. A similar bill didn't go anywhere last year, and I don't know the likely fate of this bill. It's yet another environmental reorganization bill, but with a difference: it responds to a real problem.

Call Senator Thurman and Representatives Smith and Mackey and tell them you support this. If we get a little public enthusiasm, there is a chance it might go through.

[**UPDATE:** No action taken yet on this bill. Call anyway and applaud the effort.]

Members of the FTGA External Affairs Committee are: T.M. Latta, chairman, Mark Jarrell, Nick Dennis and Brian Combs.

April Is National Lawn Care Month; practice 'Grasscycling'

April is the month when people all across the country begin tending more than 25 million acres, using more than 61 million power mowers, and spending about a billion hours a year mowing the nation's lawns, parks and sports turf areas.

That's why the Florida Turf Grass Association (FTGA) and the Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA) support the establishment of April as "National Lawn Care Month."

Through National Lawn Care Month the FTGA and PLCAA hope to create an understanding of the environmental, as well as the recreational and aesthetic, benefits of maintaining healthy lawn grasses.

Lawns help replenish the oxygen supply, prevent soil erosion, increase water retention in the soil, build top soil and even act as evaporation coolers to reduce surrounding air temperatures.

From a less scientific point of view, the care of lawns has become a recreational activity for many Americans, considered more of a hobby than a chore. Indeed, it may be one of the few opportunities we take to exercise and spend time in the sunshine.

The FTGA will be joining the annual Earth Day observation on April 22 to promote "grasscycling" as an ecologically-sound answer to the problem of over-burdened landfill.

"Grasscycling" is a term coined to signify a public awareness campaign about home recycling of grass clippings. With 6,000 landfills expected to close in the next five years and fewer new landfills being opened because of strict licensing procedures, a potential crisis in waste management is on the horizon.

Waste management is the subject of many recent articles promoting recycling and environmentally safe methods of preserving our fragile ecosystem. One of the easiest and most effective ways to prolong the life of our landfills is by recycling clippings and leaves in our own yards, estimated to comprise about 20 percent of landfill material.

According to university research, grass clippings are 85 percent water, so they deteriorate rapidly, returning 20 percent of their nitrogen to fertilize grass roots.

Therefore, clippings can be left on the lawn with no ill effects.

Contrary to popular lawncare "folklore," thatch problems are not caused by grass clippings. The accumulation of dead grass roots on the surface of the soil is actually caused by improper mowing techniques. Mowing more than one-third of the grass blade height causes some of the root system to die. Yet mowing only one-third of the height minimizes shock to the grass and prevents the death of the roots.

When following the one-third rule, every mower is a mulching mower because the clippings are short enough to break down quickly.

If a rainy season or a vacation trip interferes with the one-third Rule, then a mulching mower can make long clippings into short ones by holding them in the mowing chamber longer.

DESIGNED FOR OVERSEEDING WINTER GREENS

TRANSITION MADE EASY

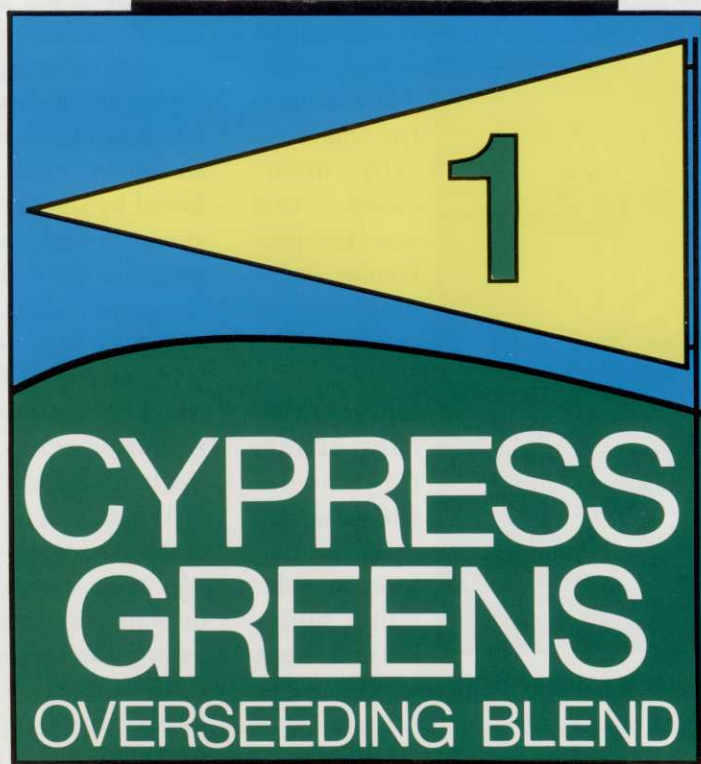
We've taken Cypress® Poa trivialis, the darkest commercially available Poa trivialis and blended it with Creeping Bentgrass and Streaker Redtop Bentgrass to create the finest winter overseeding blend... Cypress Greens®

Each variety in Cypress Greens® has been chosen to take advantage of their enhanced genetic characteristics and a natural growth cycle that compliments the dormancy period of your Bermudagrass greens. Cypress Greens® Overseeding Blend will provide the smoothest fall and spring transition you have ever experienced.

Cypress® Poa trivialis establishes fast and can be cut close immediately. As your Bermudagrass goes dormant, Celpril coated Cypress® will provide a dark green turf with no interruption in play. You won't have to raise mowing heights or stop play to let the grass become established.

Cypress® Poa trivialis performs well before the Bentgrass becomes fully established in mid winter...to provide the smoothest putting surface available.

As the weather turns hot in the spring Cypress Greens® Overseeding Blend will die out naturally as your Bermudagrass begins to



grow. Cypress Greens® will not choke out your Bermudagrass in the spring as some heat tolerant perennial ryegrasses do.

In addition to dark green color and fine texture, all varieties in Cypress Greens® Overseeding Blend are cold and shade tolerant and perform well on damp soils. Each variety will prosper with close mowing.

This winter, overseed your Bermudagrass with Cypress Greens® and keep your greens in prime uninterrupted playing condition all season long...Your golfers won't notice the transition.

COMPONENTS IN CYPRESS GREENS

Poa trivialis

Cypress® or Sabre 50-70% *

Creeping Bentgrass

Seaside, Penneagle
Pennlinks, Penncross 10-25% *

Streaker Redtop Bentgrass 10-25% *

* Formulation varies according to preference.
Celpril Coated for fast establishment.

SEEDING RATES

of cool-season turf grasses overseeded on Bermudagrass greens

Variety	Seeds/lb.	Seeding Rate
		(lbs./1000 1000 sq. ft.)
Cypress®		
Poa trivialis	2 million	10
Cypress Greens® Overseeding Blend		7
Ryegrass Blend	265,000	30
Streaker Redtop Bentgrass	4.8 million	5
Creeping Bentgrass	6 million	5

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It is mind boggling to watch the convoys of triplex and five-gang mowers proceeding up and down the fairways and roughs like precision flying units.

It's that time of year when the center of the golf universe can be found in the rolling hills of northeast Georgia. A time when the legends of the links, the wedge wizards and putter princes meet on the emerald fairways of Augusta National to do battle for the Masters championship.

Who among us golfing mortals has not wished that our humble courses could abound

in such splendor as seen in the majestically manicured turf amid the spectacular backdrop of blazing color provided by the blooming azaleas, camellias, dogwoods, and wisteria.

While pictures on television tantalize and tempt

our senses, only a visit to the grounds can give you a full appreciation and understanding of what it takes to produce such a display of perfection.

I have made three visits to the Masters Tournament using the privilege of free admission accorded to Class A Golf Course Superintendent members of the GCSAA. Often heralded as the toughest ticket in sports, the general public is admitted first-come first-served for the practices rounds for a nominal \$10 fee. There is a daily limit, and they do sell out, even for the practice rounds. If you're a golf course superintendent, you should really plan to visit for at least one day and see the operation first hand.

And just what will you see?

Well, I don't want to give away the magician's secrets, but I think it's fair to reveal that the picture perfect stripes and checkerboard mowing patterns aren't done with smoke and mirrors. They are accomplished

by an army of volunteers consisting of area superintendents and turf industry suppliers. We have played a few rounds of golf at nearby courses during our Masters pilgrimages, and we never get to meet the superintendents because they are over at Augusta National mowing Amen Corner and having a ball being part of the greatest show in golf! How would you like to have a crew like that?

It is mind boggling to watch the convoys of triplex and five-gang mowers proceeding up and down the fairways and roughs like precision flying units. The mowers are then followed by squads of draggers, whippers, and sweepers who scatter every visible grass clipping. Combine this array of equipment and manpower with a couple of Boy Scout troops with trash bags and it's little wonder the place is immaculate. Of course, anyone who visits Augusta National is so impressed with the reasonable prices and flawless operation that to litter would be heresy.

When contemplating the perfection of Augusta National's condition and wondering why your course can't look like that, it is important to remember that they are closed from the first of June until October. All project work is done at that time and the course doesn't have to be kept in top playing condition. How many times do you try to do projects and keep the course open at the same time? Budgets don't seem to be a problem either. With a national membership, and healthy revenues generated by the tournament, funds are available to maintain the tradition of excellence.

Speaking of tradition, it doesn't take long to feel the ambience and history of the Masters as you walk around the course trodding in the paths blazed by Sarazen, Nelson, Hogan, Palmer, and Nicklaus.

And you can't really appreciate how much elevation change there is from the clubhouse down to Amen Corner until you've made the climb in person.

I invite you to come to Augusta National and feel the magic. Experience the beauty. Savor the inspiration. Dispel the myths. Be a part of the history.

The Masters: the Magic and the Myths

Green Side Up



Joel D. Jackson

Joel D. Jackson, CGCS
Editor

We're Just As Dependable.

As a leader in the turf industry, Nucrane Machinery knows the questions to ask to assist you with your equipment needs. Our service and exclusive dedication to the golf turf industry allows Nucrane to provide a quality of service unmatched by any of its competitors. As sure as the sun rises, Nucrane Machinery will continue to be a dependable, reliable organization you can count on.



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LESCO PRE-M

a proven performer at Pinehurst

Brad Kocher, Director of Golf Course Maintenance at Pinehurst Resort and Country Club, and LESCO PRE-M go back to the beginning. That was in 1986 when PRE-M first became available. Brad had joined Pinehurst in 1984 and started a battle with goosegrass in fairways and roughs. He began winning in 1986 when he added LESCO PRE-M 60DG to his arsenal of control products.

Now, after five years, he's well satisfied that LESCO PRE-M has passed every test and has proven its effectiveness. "My assistant Bob Farren and I watch what the market has to offer and we continue to use PRE-M," he said. "Based on the results of university testing, we use the split application method with the first application in late March or early April and the second during the first two weeks of May.



Bob Farren

Brad Kocher

"This is the first year we've used it as a band around the overseeded fairways," he said.

"We don't see any problems

in the area where we spray PRE-M but I see a lot of germination outside of that band. We spray right up to the collar of the green without any problems. This gives us an instant edge and looks neat right off the bat.

"PRE-M enables us to realize a

clean delineation between overseeded fairway and rough at the time of germination. We do not have to wait for bermuda dormancy followed by non-selective post emergence spraying".

Brad uses PRE-M on all seven courses at Pinehurst, which is more than 500 acres. "We haven't found any negative effects or visual evidence of root inhibition as far as devel-

oped bermudagrass is concerned," Brad said.

"Because of the effectiveness of PRE-M and the fact that we don't have to worry about its short or long-term use on ryegrass, we can guarantee the best rye on the fairways during March, April and May, our busiest months of the year," Brad said.

"I kind of wish PRE-M had been available when I was in Florida," he concluded.

To find out more about PRE-M, contact your LESCO sales representative, visit a nearby LESCO Service Center, or call (800) 321-5325. In Cleveland, 333-9250.



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