



The Florida Green

Fall 1993



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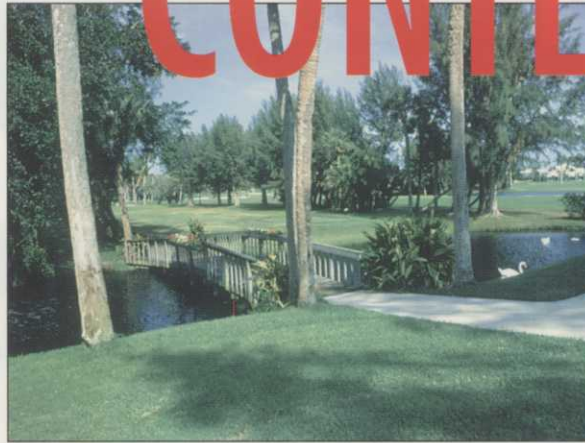
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By the time the symptoms of bermudagrass decline become noticeable, it's too late to control the fungus with chemicals. Cultural practices are the answer, but how many superintendents can keep their greens at 1/4 inch all summer? Chip Lewison collected a dozen difficult questions from superintendents around the state and tossed them at Dr. James Beard.

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each application. You can even use CHIPCO® ALIETTE® to control Pythium and Phytophthora on your high-value ornamentals. Now, how's that for convenience and flexibility? Remember, as temperature and humidity rise, so does



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Have you or your association been asked for a donation lately? Has the FTGA, USGA, FGCSA, GCSAA or some other "A" been ringing your telephone, knocking on your door, showing up in your mailbox or twisting your arm? It seems everyone is out there collecting for his pet fund these days.

And if you think we get hit often, what about the suppliers?

These poor guys see some association board member headed their direction and they bolt the other way. And I'm

not sure I can blame them.

"Paul, you have no idea how many people I gave money to last year. The list seems to get longer and longer every year," said one supplier as I began my pitch.

I proceeded to tell him how important my fund is and how good it is for the whole game of golf and he then agrees to support yet another fund. As he hands me the check, I can see he is getting tired of this routine... and he's not alone.

There has to be a better way.

There is.

A friend in the golf business also owns a small pecan business. He explained that the pecan growers do not have an problem generating money for research and advertising. They have what he called a "check" system in which two or three cents per pound of pecans goes

into a fund.

Look at all the things grown in Florida. Nearly every agricultural product has one or more full-time lobbyists, a huge promotion budget, and a portion of a college campus dedicated to its interests.

What's happened to turf?

A former Commissioner of Agriculture once said that if you cannot eat it, it is not worthy of state agriculture money.

Hold on there! Golf turf is BIG BUSINESS in Florida.

The Turf Survey will prove just how big the business is when it is released in July. And it's time we stand up and get counted. More importantly, it's time for Joe Golfer to start counting.

After all, it's his game that benefits. Not only his game in the abstract, as in "the game of golf," but also the very personal, individual and all-too-tangible round he played this morning.

Could you imagine 50 cents — or even a dollar — a round of golf going to the golf industry for promotion and turf research? We've been imagining it for years but Joe Golfer hasn't been hearing us. It's cheaper to fire the superintendent for poor turf than it is to pay for research that will lead to better turfgrass.

So until Joe gets the message, we'll have to keep on twisting arms.

Hats off to all the affiliated FGCSA chapters for raising more than \$70,000 for turf research through the FTGA and for raising another \$12,000 to pay our share of our part-time lobbyist's fee.

And please don't turn and run when you see me coming. I might just want to say, "Hi!"

*I might
just want
to say Hi!*



Paul Crawford
Paul Crawford
President, FGCSA

“Best overseeded grasses on the putting green were Sabre and Cypress cultivars of *Poa trivialis*”

1992 University of Florida Dormant Bermudagrass Overseeding Trial - Gainesville, FL.

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Cypress is tolerant to shade and damp soils. This unique prostrate growing variety thrives in cool weather and will survive cold weather that will damage turf-type ryegrasses. But most important, Cypress will maintain its dark green color all winter long.



As the weather turns hot in the spring, Cypress will die out naturally as your Bermudagrass begins to grow. Cypress will not choke out your Bermudagrass in the spring as some heat tolerant perennial ryegrasses do.

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Cypress is available alone, or blended with Creeping Bentgrass and Streaker Redtop Bentgrass depending on customer preference.

Table 2. Monthly and seasonal months for turf quality of winter overseeded grasses 'Tildwart' bermudagrass putting green from December 1991 to April 1992 at Gainesville, FL.

Turfgrass	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Mean
Sabre	7.8	8.2	8.4	8.0	5.5	7.8
Cypress	7.2	7.4	7.4	8.0	6.0	7.5
Pinnacle	7.5	7.8	7.3	6.6	5.5	7.1
Premier	7.8	7.7	7.1	6.8	5.5	7.1
Blend #1	7.4	7.4	7.5	7.3	5.0	6.8
Mix #2	7.4	7.4	7.5	6.9	5.5	6.8
GH-89	7.4	7.8	7.9	6.5	5.5	6.8
Southern Select	7.4	7.7	7.0	6.8	5.5	6.8
Mix #1	7.2	7.6	7.0	6.8	5.5	6.8
Leader Board	7.8	7.5	7.0	6.8	5.5	6.8
Medallist	7.1	7.3	7.0	6.8	5.5	6.8
Repall II	7.5	7.4	7.0	6.8	5.5	6.8
Essence	7.4	7.6	7.0	6.8	5.5	6.8
Cowboy II	7.2	7.2	7.4	6.8	5.5	6.8
CBS II	7.3	7.2	7.4	6.8	5.5	6.8
Evering Shade	7.2	7.2	7.4	6.8	5.5	6.8
Penant	7.3	7.2	7.4	6.8	5.5	6.8
Mulligan	7.2	7.2	7.4	6.8	5.5	6.8
PhD	7.3	7.2	7.4	6.8	5.5	6.8
Pebble Beach	7.2	7.2	7.4	6.8	5.5	6.8
Sunrise Primo	7.3	7.2	7.4	6.8	5.5	6.8
Prelude II	7.2	7.2	7.4	6.8	5.5	6.8
Alliance	7.3	7.2	7.4	6.8	5.5	6.8
Patriot II	7.2	7.2	7.4	6.8	5.5	6.8
Turf Seed Blend #1	7.3	7.2	7.4	6.8	5.5	6.8
Competitor	7.2	7.2	7.4	6.8	5.5	6.8
WX-1	7.3	7.2	7.4	6.8	5.5	6.8
WX-115	7.2	7.2	7.4	6.8	5.5	6.8
WXP-83	7.3	7.2	7.4	6.8	5.5	6.8
Turf Seed Blend #2	7.2	7.2	7.4	6.8	5.5	6.8
Palmer II	7.3	7.2	7.4	6.8	5.5	6.8
Essence	7.2	7.2	7.4	6.8	5.5	6.8
Annalee	7.3	7.2	7.4	6.8	5.5	6.8
Blend	7.2	7.2	7.4	6.8	5.5	6.8

All's fair in love and water

Editorial License



Tom Benefield, CGCS
Editor

It is interesting to watch the circus atmosphere around the Everglades Pollution cleanup resolution. All of the concerned parties have been working for several years to come to an agreement on the cost of sharing of cleaning the water from the farming operations in the 'Glades. These parties thought they had a solution in which both the farming and public sectors paid their fair shares.

However, along comes this coalition of quasi-environmentalists who have launched a petition drive to have the farming industry pay all of the cleanup costs. They hope to do this by imposing a penny-per-pound tax on sugar produced in the 'Glades. They feel that the farming industry is the only source of pollution in the glades and thus should be responsible for the cost of the entire cleanup program. They are wrong, of course, but then again truth never has been one of the strong points of the enviro-terrorists.

One of the ringleaders of this coalition is a land developer from Orange County. He is one of those self-righteous environmentalists... you know, the ones who tell you to do as they say, not as they do.

I have to believe that somewhere

along the lines, he has created his share of environmental damage. Taking virgin land and bulldozing all the vegetation, grading, asphaltting and covering it up with concrete is probably not the most environmentally positive use of the land. From a water recharge and water quality viewpoint, his kind of development probably would not win any awards either, not even from his coalition buddies.

But such things matter little to the "environmental coalition." They have their holy war to fight over the glades cleanup and they don't care who joins their side as long as they bring money with them. They certainly don't seem to have a problem bending and twisting their ethics to suit their agendas. They are eager to lash out at agriculture because it is an easy target, not unlike our own industry. Soon they will turn more of their attention to us, as other targets become part of their coalition.

While this coalition is up and running hard with its petition drive "for the good of all" the people in this state, perhaps they should start another petition drive. Maybe the self-righteous citizens of Florida should march under the banner of justice and launch a petition drive to impose a state tax of \$1 per thousand gallons on potable water.

This tax would be placed on every public and private water utility service. The money could be used to clean up the polluted water running out of the concrete jungles in this state. You know, the water which is destroying our lakes,

Continued on page 14 ▶

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1993 FTGA Show

Tampa, Sept. 25-27





FGCSA welcomes turf world to Palm Beach



The Breakers Hotel and Golf Course was the site of the week-long conference.

400 attend International Turfgrass Research Conference; two Floridians named to leadership positions

BY DR. GEORGE SNYDER

IFAS

Fort Lauderdale Research Center

For the first time ever, Florida hosted the International Turfgrass Research Conference, which was held at the Breakers Resort in Palm Beach, July 18-24. This seventh international conference, sponsored by the International Turfgrass Society, had been held in the USA only once before. Other conference sites have been in England, Germany, France, Canada, and Japan.

Four hundred turfgrass scientists and practitioners representing 24 countries were in attendance for this week-long event. Over 150 papers dealing with all phases of turfgrass production and maintenance were presented. Of particular interest were discussions of pesticide and nutrient fate, quantification of surface characteristics of sports fields, and a critical review of xeriscaping.

In addition to the presentation of scientific papers, a mid-week tour was held to acquaint the participants with turfgrass in south Florida. Visits were made to golf courses, athletic fields, equestrian

facilities, and to the Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center. A pre-conference tour visited the research facilities in Gainesville. Fifty-eight spouses participated in a week-long program of activities ranging from a croquet tournament to a tour of south Florida tropical gardens. Social events, which provided time for the participants to get to know each other on an informal basis, included a welcoming dinner, a beach party, and a banquet.

The Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association provided a lot of support for the conference. To help promote the event, the FGCSA assisted with a booth at the last two Golf Course Superintendents Association of America expositions. The FGCSA took the lead in soliciting golf superintendents in Palm Beach, Broward, and Dade counties who provided gratis rounds of golf for ITRC participants. FGCSA Executive Secretary Marie Roberts assisted with the ITRC registration. And several Palm Beach county courses hosted visits as part of two of the conference mid-week tours.

Although the ITRC moves on to an-

other country, and probably won't be back in the USA for many years, several Floridians will continue to play key roles in the International Turfgrass Society. At the 1993 conference, Dr. John Cisar, turfgrass water specialist at the Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center, was elected to the ITS board of directors. Dr. George Snyder, professor of soil and water science at the Everglades Research and Education Center, was appointed ITS treasurer for the next four years. Anyone interested in ITS membership should contact Dr. Snyder. The next ITRC is being hosted in 1997 by Australia and New Zealand. It's not too early to be making plans to attend!

NOTE: *All of the papers presented at the conference are included in the 1021-page International Turfgrass Society Research Journal, Volume 7, which is available for \$65.00 from Dr. R.E. Schmidt, VPI & SU, Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0404 (Tel. 703-231-9796). Dr. George H. Snyder has some copies available locally (Tel. 407-996-3062).*



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Dwight Kummer, GC Supt.
Bay Hill Club, Orlando, FL

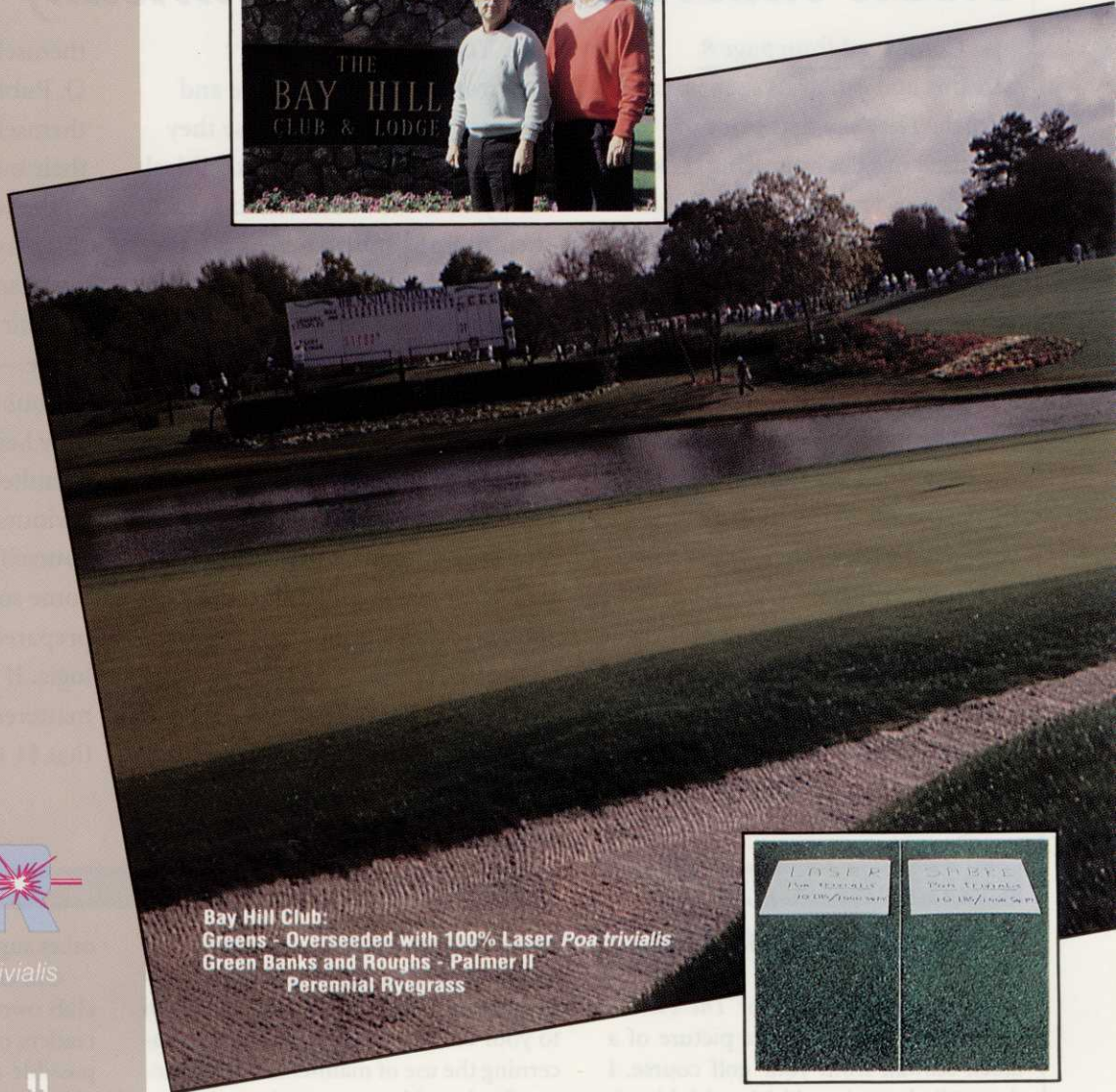


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Apply 100% Laser *Poa trivialis* at the rate of 10-13 lbs/ 1000 sq. ft. mid-fall. For heavy traffic courses, like Bay Hill, that receive 250+ rounds per day, you may want to supplement the original overseeding with an additional 2 lbs/1000 sq. ft. on a weekly basis late December through January.

If you want darker color, excellent heat and traffic tolerance, smoother spring transition and proven, tournament-quality performance use Laser for your overseeding program. It worked at Bay Hill, it will work for you.

Note: Laser *Poa trivialis* can also be blended with turf-type perennial ryes, such as Palmer II or Prelude II for Southern overseeding programs.

Noble causes not always politically correct

► *Continued from page 8*

streams and estuaries such as Lake Worth. They say that prior to concrete jungles appearing, Lake Worth was teeming with wildlife and fish. Today it is teeming with motorboats and jet skis and any fish left are unsafe to eat.

Surely this is as noble a cause as the Everglades. Part of the money could be used to properly dispose of the hazardous wastewater generated by the people living in these concrete jungles. Their waste today is dumped offshore only to be found later on the reefs of Florida Bay or washing onto the beaches from Miami to Jacksonville.

Yes this indeed would be a noble cause but not a politically correct

one. You see these “environmentalists” survive and increase in numbers because they know when to be moral and ethical for a just cause and when to keep their mouths shut. There is not the first one amongst them that has the moral fiber and backbone to wage war on the worst of all polluters in this state: the general public. And this is sad. Here we have a state that is going to hell in a handbasket because of a bulging population and the problems it brings while the defenders of the forest sit quietly on their arrows with their heads buried in the sand.

Why is this? Quite simple. To place blame on the general public would be placing blame on

themselves. Placing a tax on John Q. Public would be taxing themselves. As mentioned before, their morals and ethics are like trees in the wind, bending and twisting this way and that so long as their agendas are obtained.

Their next agenda?

We — the golf industry — are on the bubble. Our water rights are not only being questioned but also assaulted by these self-selected saviours of the planet. Prepare yourself for the fight ahead; it will come soon and they will be prepared — but not with truth or logic. If either of those qualities mattered to these people, you’d see that \$1 tax on the concrete jungles.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Please send an application...

Dear Tom:

In your spring issue of *The Florida Green* you had included a picture of a fallen seawall from your golf course. I then called you in mid May thinking it was a picture of our fallen seawall at Tiger Point. I just thought I would send you a copy of our seawall just to show you that you are not alone.

Your article that was with the picture was great. I thoroughly enjoyed it. Please send me an application to join your association. Thank you for your attention. I just thought you might enjoy the pictures.

Sincerely,

John P. Kennedy

Golf Course Superintendent
Tiger Point Golf and Country Club

In defense of contractors...

Dear Tom Benefield,

Your contributions to the Florida Golf

Course Superintendents Association are greatly appreciated by your fellow superintendents. However, we take exception to your recent editorial comments concerning the use of maintenance contractors for the golf course. We do not believe an average member could ever begin to handle the task of contracting a professional contractor. We have been trained to know how to do an effective job in these areas and we would readily recognize if the contractor indeed was professional.

Many golf courses can neither afford the use of the man hours or the equipment that is necessary to perform some of the maintenance practices that you refer to in your editorial. We do not care for your chastisement upon the superintendent profession. Item 9. in our GC-SAA Code of Ethics states that we are to “Abstain from debasement of, or encroachment upon, the professional reputation, practice or employment of an-

other superintendent.”

Our club presidents, greens chairmen, club owners, and general managers are readers of *The Florida Green*. It is very possible that the aforementioned individuals could see your remarks in the editorial and question the management abilities of their superintendent.

We should also recognize the importance of these contractors. Not only do they provide a necessary service but many are supporters of the superintendent associations.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors,
Everglades GCSA

Editor’s comment: *The article was not meant to chastise anyone, either superintendent or contractor. Rather it illustrates a disturbing trend in the management of golf courses which will one day become counterproductive to the profession of the golf course manager.*

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COVER STORY

Photos by Daniel Zelazek

Palm Beach Country

*An emerald jewel
sea passes its*



View from the clubhouse overlooking
Numbers 15, 16 and 18.

Country Club

*Jewel by the azure
diamond jubilee*



BY JOEL D. JACKSON, CGCS

In 1917, legendary golf course architect Donald Ross turned 88 acres of pineapple plantation on Palm Beach into the Palm Beach Country Club. Nestling greens and tees along a coral ridge that bisects the property north to south, he created a challenging 6200-yard golf course that traverses back and forth between the Atlantic Ocean and Lake Worth. That ridge running parallel to the beach provides some

unique elevation changes seldom found this far south in Florida.

This emerald jewel by the azure sea lies like a hidden treasure behind ancient hedges of lush, tropical vegetation like those of neighboring estates.

And it is the mature grounds of the golf course and the estates on Palm Beach that provide a remarkable green belt and habitat on this barrier island. The wildlife inventory on the golf course alone ranges from exotic birds like wild parrots, Peking ducks, and swans to

mammals like raccoons and red foxes.

It is summer now and the course is "officially" closed until November. A few of the year-round residents play occasionally during the summer, so the greens are mowed daily. But a lot of the detailed manicuring and grooming so prevalent and necessary in fall, winter and spring give way to major projects and renovations to the turf and infrastructure.

My visit this day found Paul Crawford, the superintendent, overseeing the

From our wildlife populations, you can't tell me that golf courses aren't good for the environment, especially in urban settings.

installation of a variable speed pump station to further maximize his irrigation efficiency.

In fact, the seasonal improvements accomplished over the past summers read like a veritable "How-To" manual on bringing a classic venerable course of the early 1900s up to modern standards with regard to turf quality and regulatory compliance. Before any major turf improvements were undertaken, Paul asked for and received the support of the board of directors in upgrading the maintenance facility. Paul wanted to provide a proper base of operations for the upcoming improvements to the course itself.

Besides a modern equipment building with ample space, other improvements included replacing the underground fuel tanks with above-ground Convault fuel bunkers. All chemical products are now stored in a stand-alone, self-contained Perm-A-Lock building.

"The board of directors wanted to reduce or eliminate the potential for exposure for the club and insure that our

operation was environmentally friendly," said Paul. "From our wildlife populations, you can't tell me that golf courses aren't good for the environment, especially in urban settings."

Once those key issues were settled, Paul set about to upgrade the turf.

"In 1988, we replanted all of the greens in Tifdwarf," he began, "and then in 1990 we tackled the chore of converting the old Ormond bermudagrass fairways to Tifway 419. The work was done by Rodney Davis and Central Florida Turf. They rototilled, de-mucked, regraded, fumigated, and replanted all of the fairways.

"Since we had to bury the muck we excavated, Rodney and I redesigned some of the water hazards to make them more functional and a little more esthetically pleasing. Next we added a Network 8000 irrigation control system, and as you can see, this year we are installing the Synchro-Flo VSP station.

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Green of number 14, a par-four cut into the ridge that gives Palm Beach Country Club unusual elevation changes for a South Florida course.

***I sure envied those
guys riding those
mowers on the
maintenance crew.
It looked like a
better job than
carrying those
bags!***

“First of all, being located on an coastal barrier island, we don’t have access to a natural source of water so we have to use city water. The VSP will allow the system to run at peak efficiency, which will reduce the necessary running time and save electricity.

“Secondly, the soil under the course does not percolate very well. The Network 8000 will allow me to refine my watering schedules so I can put precisely what I need, where I need it, and in the amounts that won’t cause wet spots or waste water.”

“We have accomplished quite a bit over the past few years, and I really appreciate the vision, patience, and support from the club. We were able to see and agree on the big picture and break it down into a series of projects to be completed one at a time. The one guiding principle was that we were to be always

moving in a positive forward direction.”

Before we get too far, let’s go back to Rochester, Mich., where a young Paul Crawford was lugging golf bags as a caddy at Great Oaks Country Club.

“I sure envied those guys riding those mowers on the maintenance crew. It looked like a better job than carrying those bags,” Paul said wistfully. “When I got my first chance, it was only washing the clubhouse windows at the Wolverine Golf Club, but I got to move on to the crew soon after that. I think I was 16 or 17 at the time.

“When I expressed an interest in making it a career, the superintendent suggested that I should enroll in the turf management program at Michigan State University. I did, and boy there were a few eyebrows raised among my peers and family, ‘You want to go to school to learn to be a greenskeeper?’”

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Working with George was a unique experience... I mean, we would build a tee, grass it, and then George would say, 'Nope! Move it three feet to the left!'

"During my OJT summers, I worked at Harbour Town Golf Links on Hilton Head, S.C. I was assigned as club liaison to work with the PGA Tour tournament, the Heritage Classic. This gave me great experience with tournament prep and TV and PGA operations.

"After I graduated, I returned to Hilton Head and worked a second time with the tournament. This time turned out to be a big turning point in my career. Pete Sesso, the senior advance man for the Tour asked me if I would be interested in taking a job with a friend of his in Florida.

"I said sure!

"Next thing I know he's calling George Fazio and I'm headed to Jupiter Hills Golf Club. Of course I didn't know that I was the 75th superintendent they had! Working with George was a unique experience and I tried to get into his head and see how he was looking at hole layouts. I mean, we would build a tee, grass it, and then, George would say, 'Nope! Move it three feet to the left!'

"While I was at Jupiter Hills, I met Carl Smith. Carl was the superintendent at Palm Beach Country Club at the time,

but he also consulted for George at Jupiter Hills. As our friendship grew, Carl asked me if I would be willing to become his assistant at Palm Beach Country Club.

"He said he would be retiring in a few years and he wanted someone he could groom for the position, if he was willing to serve this apprenticeship so to speak. I agreed, and in 1980 I began my association with the club.

"Carl did retire as planned, and in April, 1982, I became the head superintendent. Those two and a half years with Carl were like a father passing down the family history to a son. He taught me what I needed to know to serve the club. He didn't preach to me and just tell me everything. I had to ask the questions. And when he answered, his wealth of knowledge enlightened me to the real world of turf management."

Paul continued, "Working here has been great! I've had a lot of fun and satisfaction from helping to make improvements to the course, but it is the friendly atmosphere that keeps you really going and enjoying what you do.

"At the club, our pro is a 30-year



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become a crisis... I
think we may be
pumping out too
many turf
students right into
superintendent
positions.**

veteran, as is the bartender, the locker room attendant, the doorman, and on my crew I have 25- and 20-year veterans. There's a reason for that! It is the way everyone is treated and greeted, like a big family. We have problems that come up, but they are brought to my attention quickly and professionally and they are solved the same way.

"There are no hidden agendas here, and I really appreciate that fact.

"As for my staff, I can't say enough for their efforts and loyalty. I want to give special mention to some of my senior veterans; my assistant Paul Szlasa, Joe Kochis, a Penn State graduate, Alfred Mullins, and our equipment manager, Ron Payete. They make it happen and they allow me the freedom to be involved in the association. I know I can rely on them when I must be away.

"This is the time of year when all the guys start getting excited again. The sum-

mer is laid back. We have projects. It's hot. The routines are different. We mow with different equipment at different heights of cut. There's hardly anyone around to see their handiwork. Now, we're getting ready for the fall season."

As we returned to Paul's office, our conversation turned to his role as the current president of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association and his views on the industry in general.

"There is one thing that really bothers me and it may even become a crisis to the integrity of our profession. I think we may be pumping out too many turf students that are heading right into superintendent positions.

"Every profession, from attorney to plumber, has a journeyman phase where the person serves an apprenticeship to really learn his trade. They spend long periods of time, not just a summer, at the elbow of the master craftsman learning

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Palm Beach Country Club

Location: Palm Beach Florida

Ownership: Membership

Management: General Manager, Roberto Milanese; Golf Professional, Bobby Benson; Club President, Sidney Jacobson; Greens Chairman, Mike Stein.

Playing Policies: Members and guests of members.

Designed by: Donald Ross

Opened: 1917

Number of holes: 18

Turf: 90 acres under maintenance.

Greens: 3 acres. Tifdwarf hybrid bermudagrass. Height of cut-1/8" to 3/16" with walking mowers. Overseeding-3# Pennlinks Bentgrass and 3# Cypress Poa trivialis per 1,000 sq. ft.

Tees: 2 acres in Tifway 419 hybrid bermudagrass. Height of cut-3/8" to 1/2". Overseeding - None

Fairways: 22 acres in Tifway 419 hybrid bermudagrass. Height of cut-1/2" to 5/8". Overseeding - None

Roughs: 63 acres in Tifway 419 hybrid bermudagrass. Height of cut-1 1/2". Overseeding-None

Irrigation system: Network 8000 with a Synchro-Flo Variable Speed Pump Station.

Staff: Assistant Superintendent, Paul Szlasa; Crew-10 November to May, 12 May through October.

Turf equipment: 6 John Deere walking mowers, 2 Toro Greensmasters, 1 Toro Parkmaster, 1 Toro 223-D, 1 Toro 450-D, 1 Toro 72" Groundskeeper, 1 Toro Hydroject aerifier, 2 Toro Rake-o-vacs, 1 Olathe riding sweeper, 3 Ford 3910 tractors, 1 300 gal. FMC-John Beam sprayer, 1 150 gal. Hahn Multi-pro sprayer, 5 Club Car Carryall utility vehicles, 3 Daihatsu Lift-tippers

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the trade. Over that span of time, they can learn how difficult problems and situations can be addressed and solved with planning, discipline and charity. They can learn how to communicate with superiors and subordinates in the chain of command.

Growing grass is the easiest part of our jobs most of the time. It's dealing with the curve balls that life throws at you that are the real challenges, and it takes time and experience to develop the finesse necessary to handle those challenges professionally. So I don't think it's too much to ask for a superintendent to spend years on a crew or as an assistant before he assumes the role as a superintendent. It helps keep the profession sound and the image intact.

"I must also express a concern over the direction some of the new golf management companies seem to be heading. I will say this: there are a few very good

companies that hold the superintendent in high regard and make him a key partner in the operation, but in general, I think that management companies are a backward step for the superintendent's profession. A superintendent working for those companies performs the work, takes the blame for mistakes, and doesn't get proper credit or compensation for his efforts and responsibilities.

"These companies are here. They are a sign of the economic times.

"A lot of people are getting into the golf business for the money alone and not for the love of the game and its traditions. It is fortunate that the money has come along, but now that it has, it can attract a whole different type of person.

"If a club is hiring a management company because they think it is absolving them of liability, they are sadly mistaken. And who really wins in this scenario? The club? The superintendent? No it is the



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management company. They are in it for a profit and that comes at someone else's expense!

"A superintendent with a strong foundation in the business who is continually mastering the new technologies, one who is involved, should be able to communicate with his club and prove to its members that he can do the job for the same cost in house."

"Anybody who manages golf turf for a living in the state of Florida should be a member of this association," Paul said. "It continues to blow my mind that we only have 750 A and B members out of more than a thousand golf courses in the state."

"Maybe they haven't heard about us or maybe they just need to be approached. I don't know, but I do know that in today's climate we need to be the united voice of Florida superintendents everywhere."

"I don't know exactly what our new membership chairman, Greg Plotner, is planning, but we will be putting on a big push to get everyone signed up."

"By the time my year is up, I hope to see our second FGCSA-IFAS research green well under way in Gainesville, hopefully next door to the Envirotron."

"It appears that the Fort Lauderdale Research Station will not have to relocate and that's good news. The statewide support for that effort has given us the capital reserve to implement the research green in Gainesville. This will give us a green in the northern half of the state which will provide good information for superintendents operating in that climate."

"I look for Jeff Hayden and the Seven Rivers Chapter to help spearhead that project. They did a super job in raising funds for the Envirotron the year, and that's the kind of leadership we need for our success."

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information in the
business and that
would be an asset
to the club.**

"Of course good education is the key for our continued professional growth and development. I want to keep up that tradition and make sure that remains one of the cornerstones of our association."

"And last but not least, I would like to see some new people get involved in state and local affairs.

"Maybe they just need to be nudged or encouraged a little to step forward. It concerns me that a lot of people are afraid to get involved because they perceive it as a big demand on their time. Certainly it does take some time and effort on their part, but with our executive secretary, Marie Roberts, as their right hand, it isn't as difficult as one might think.

"Her task is to assist everyone on the board, and she does a great job. We would be lost without her, because she does help relieve that time burden by doing most of the legwork for us. We provide the guidance and Marie cranks it out for us. She develops a super working rapport with you and gets to know your likes and dislikes and helps you get the job done quickly and professionally. If this sounds like a plug for Marie, it is!"

"When I was asked to come onto the board, I went to my greens chairman, Marvin Schur, and asked him how the club felt about the idea. I told him I wanted to run it by them before I accepted.

"He said that without a doubt they wanted me involved!

"In his profession, he was involved

with his associations and he knew very well that being involved meant I would be at the center of things and in contact with the latest information in the business and that would be an asset to the club. He also knew that it would be a personal asset to me, Paul Crawford.

"They were concerned that I might become overexposed and entertain offers to move, but I assured them that would not be the case. I merely wanted to give something back to my industry, my profession.

"The more you are involved the more you know. The more you know the further you go. It's like fuel. It's easy to sit back in your hole and say the members don't want me involved! That's short-term thinking. The successful members at your club are the ones who are involved in their professional associations. So, ask your members, your committee, your boss! You might be surprised at their answer.

"As for the future of the industry, we all know that environmental and regulatory issues are here to stay. But that's OK!

"Golf course superintendents are masters at making changes and reacting. We're the best at changing hats to accomplish the task at hand. I don't think you'll find a superintendent out there who doesn't support the principle of environmental stewardship. I think we do want laws and regulations based on common sense, good information, and practical application. And that's where we must

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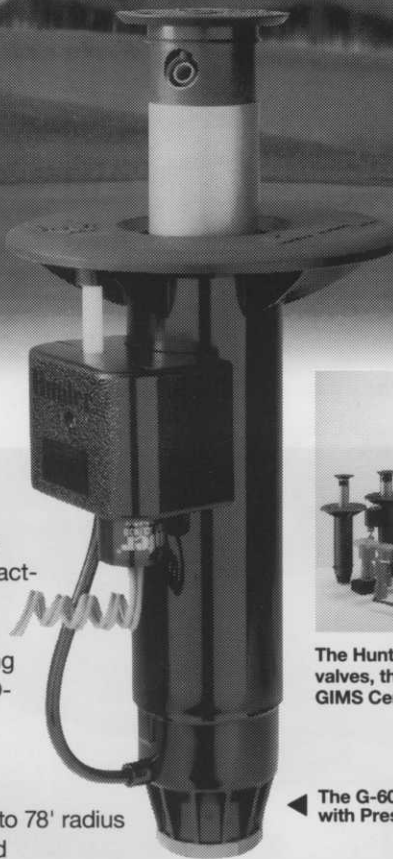
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Paul Crawford

Education: Michigan State University

Professional Affiliations: Florida G.C.S.A. - Palm Beach Chapter; Florida Turfgrass Association; Golf Course Superintendents Association of America; Board of Directors Poinciana Day School

Previous employment: Michigan: Great Oaks C.C., Woverine G.C., and Stoney Creek G.C.; South Carolina: Harbour Town Links; Florida: Jupiter Hills Club and Palm Beach Country Club.

Family: Son, Chris (8 yrs.); daughter Kelli (6 yrs). "No matter what else I do, these guys come first!"

Hobbies and interests: Spending quality time with the kids. Fishing, lobster diving.



Paul Crawford

'These are the guys who make it all happen,'

says Crawford of his crew. From left, Byron Dennard, James Bland, Saul Gomez, Randy Mitchell, Sam McLeod, Ron Payette, Alfred Mullins, Tomas Navarro, Joe Kochis, Alberto Flores, Luis Echevarria, Dan Vazquez, Angel Negron. Kneeling in front is Paul Szlasa, assistant superintendent.

I just want all the superintendents in Florida to come together so we can make it even better.

take an active role and why a united voice is so important."

"Being a superintendent is one of the best professions in the world. The variety of challenges is stimulating. The number of people you meet from all phases of the industry and who play the game is unbelievable. I now have friends and contacts from coast to coast and around the world because of this business. I wouldn't trade this experience for anything. I just want all the superintendents in Florida to come together so we can make it even better."

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Working To Enhance Our World

Managing people is like managing grass, and...

Very rarely does just one thing kill the grass!

BY SCOTT WAHLIN, CGCS

Don Shula's Hotel and Golf Club

Several years ago, a buddy of mine told me a story about a superintendent who was fired because he came in at 9 o'clock on a Monday morning. My friend said that the owner of the club was running around all upset because there were worms on the greens and the person he had hired to assure the health of this investment was nowhere to be found.

I told my friend that I doubted very seriously that he was fired for only one incident. I think it is much more likely that this individual superintendent had dropped the ball on other occasions and this had made the owner finally come to the conclusion that this is it—he had had enough!

It seems to me that many times we try to fabricate easy excuses for failure when there were actually many different situations that led to our lack of success.

I personally have fired employees for being five minutes late. This may seem harsh but, believe me, there was a lot more to it than just one tardiness.

While touring the golf course in the morning, I look for many things. One thing that is easy to spot in the morning is sprinkler heads that are not turning. Normally you will have a green stripe with heavy dew while the dew in the surrounding area is slight.

If I have someone who I am trying to train, I will call them over to show them how to spot and repair a sprinkler head that is not turning. I park the cart outside the area and walk in with the trainee. I show them how to disassemble and troubleshoot the head. We then turn it on to check our work and irrigate the area.

A day or two later I take them back to

the same area to show them how the grass died in the areas where we walked. I explain that, at that point in time, the turf was so stressed that the only thing needed to kill it was the weight of our feet.

I use this story to graphically illustrate to problem employees how close they have come to failure. I do not fire people for being five minutes late, but people who work for me can put themselves in a position where coming in five minutes late will result in termination of their employment. There is a difference.

Supervising golf maintenance employees is a challenge at best.

Factors affecting proper supervision are stacked against the golf maintenance supervisor especially if you consider these against a supervisor in a factory situation: the capabilities and compensation of the employees, the variety of tasks performed, the size of the area where the work is performed and the expected standards.

Many times it is impossible to closely monitor the productivity of an individual or work crew. As a result, we have to make determinations based on what we can see.

If I check on an employee four times in a day and he is not working two of those times, this may be a coincidence. If this trend continues, I do not have the time or inclination to assume that this is purely coincidence.

If this situation occurs I give the employee an oral warning and explain the difficulties in supervising golf maintenance employees. Many times they will protest saying that I saw them the only times they stopped working. I explain that Joe is working virtually every time I see him and I never see his machine parked at the halfway house 15 minutes before lunch. I also say that this is a business like

any other and sometimes difficult decisions have to be made.

If I fire 100 employees in my career and 10 of those were actually good employees, I still got rid of 90 bad ones. How many business decisions do you get where you have a 90% chance of being correct?!

Of course there are times when one situation can kill grass, get you fired or ruin the aesthetically pleasing appearance we are trying to create. To illustrate this I create the following situation and physically show it to the crew.

I set up the hole running near the maintenance building so that there is not one leaf out of place. Just prior to meeting with the crew, I peg a styrofoam cup down to the fairway with a tee. Without fail, every golfer who drives by looks at the cup.

I explain to the crew all the work, planning and effort that went in to preparing that hole. I tell them about all the things they did to create this perfect hole. "Here we have a perfect hole with one 'wart' and what are our customers looking at?" If I am having trouble getting the crew to pick up trash on the course, I also point out how unlikely it is that every golfer will look at a piece of trash while every maintenance worker will miss it!

I bet you thought when you read the title to this that I was going to write about shade, mowing heights, nematodes and the like. And, in a way, I am except I am relating stresses to human relations.

Shade may be equivalent to poor communication, mowing heights to watching the clock, and nematodes to a general lack of vigor or attitude. When dealing with others, just like in turfgrass, it is important that we maximize the positive so that we can endure some of the negative.

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Engineered with an exclusive independent double axis design, this drop pin, tractor-drawn aerator is extremely responsive to turf undulations. Three independent coring heads follow the ground contour both vertically and horizontally over uneven turf conditions. You get deep penetration with twelve (12) 70 lb. castings spread across a 6½ foot aerating swath for those large turf area jobs. Tines are spaced 6 inches on center with a choice of five optional tines to meet your specific aeration needs. It's a simple process to change tines, too, with the inventive one-bolt tine locking system. Each tine is secured with only one bolt for easy installation and replacement of tines.



For highly compacted or unusually uneven grounds, optional rear weights are available. Unlike the traditional over-center line weight boxes used by other tractor-drawn aerators, the 686 cantilevers its rear weights behind each coring head which allows for increased penetration with less additional weight.

The Turf Aerator 686 comes standard with a hydraulic hand pump to lift the coring heads into transport position. An optional Tractor Remote Kit permits you to raise the aerator with the tractor's hydraulic system.

Choose Toro's Turf Aerator 686 for an effective, efficient means to aerate those large area turfs.



Turf Aerator 96 (Model No. 96AER00096)

For smaller or heavily landscaped turf areas, Toro's Turf Aerator 96 will handle the job — tines down! You get deep penetration with seven (7) 70 lb. castings distributed over a 42" swath. Tines are secured with a simple, one-bolt locking system for quick and easy installation or replacement of tines. Slicing blades, closed coring tines and open spoons are the available coring options. The compact Turf Aerator 96 can be drawn by any 16-24 hp tractor with a Category 1, 3 pt. hitch.

Turf Aerator 687 (Model No. 6873P00683)

The Turf Aerator 687 has all the design features of the Turf Aerator 686 except it is designed for use with tractors having a Category 1, 3 point hitch. This tractor-drawn aerator efficiently aerates your large turf areas at speeds of up to 10 mph while aerating a 78" swath in one sweep.

You save time changing tines with the unique one-bolt locking system which positively retains each tine. Tines are positioned every 6" on center with 8 tines per wheel. For varied aeration techniques, choose from slicing blades, closed coring tines or open spoons available in either 1/2" or 3/4" sizes.

No matter which aeration device you choose, you can be assured of deep penetration with twelve (12) 70 lb. castings. Furthermore, a patent pending coring head float system allows each set of four castings to float vertically and horizontally over undulated turf providing an effective aeration performance.

For those tough jobs, optional rear weights can be bolted at the rear of each coring head for even better core penetration.



Optional Tines and Slicing Blades

Today, amongst turf care professionals and homeowners alike, aeration is considered a basic procedure to maintain healthy turf. Core aeration is most widely used. Core aeration uses various tine configurations dependent on soil conditions, compaction, and the specific results desired. Toro provides a choice in coring tines; both closed coring tines and open spoons in 1/2" and 3/4" sizes for all its Turf Aerators.



Another technique of aeration is "slicing". Slicing is often used as a "quick fix" for crusted soil, to break up relatively thin layers of clay and silt and to simply cultivate turf areas. Slicing permits cultivation of more difficult soil conditions, however the agronomic benefits are not as extensive as the results obtained through usual coring practices. Toro provides optional slicing blades for use with Turf Aerators 686, 687 and 96.

Turf Aerator Specifications*

TURF AERATOR 686 (MODEL NO. 686PT00686)

FRAME	Heavy duty tubular steel.
CAST WHEELS	3 sets of 4, each set moves vertically and horizontally. 70 lbs. (32 kg), 13" (33 cm) dia.
AERATING SWATH	78" (198 cm)
TINES	Choice of 1/2" (12.7mm) or 3/4" (19 mm) Open or Closed tines, 4" (10 cm) slicing blades.
PATTERN	6" (15 cm) on center, 8 per wheel.
HITCH	Drop pin, tow type with hydraulic cylinder for lift, hand pump std.
OPERATING SPEED	1-10 mph, (1.6-16.1 km/h)
LENGTH	78" (198 cm)
WIDTH	90" (229 cm)
HEIGHT	Approx. 40" (102 cm)
OPTIONS	Weights: 35 lbs. (16 kg) each, 2 maximum per coring head; set of 6 — Model No. 688WS00688, Tractor Remote Kit, Model No. 68-608-3521.
SHIPPING WEIGHT	1420 lbs. (644 kg)
WARRANTY	1 year limited warranty. (See owners manual for further warranty details.)

TURF AERATOR 687 (MODEL NO. 6873P00683)

FRAME	Heavy duty tubular steel.
CAST WHEELS	3 sets of 4, each set moves vertically and horizontally, 70 lbs. (32 kg), 13" (33 cm) dia.
AERATING SWATH	78" (198 cm)
TINES	Choice of 1/2" (12.7 mm) or 3/4" (19 mm) Open or Closed tines, 4" (10 cm) slicing blades.
PATTERN	6" (15 cm) on center, 8 per wheel.
HITCH	3 pt., Category 1.
OPERATING SPEED	1-10 mph, (1.6-16.1 km/h)
LENGTH	48" (122 cm)
WIDTH	82" (208 cm)
HEIGHT	Approx. 40" (102 cm)
OPTIONS	Weights: 35 lbs. (16 kg) each, 2 maximum per coring head; set of 6 — Model No. 688WS00688
SHIPPING WEIGHT	1290 lbs. (585 kg)
WARRANTY	1 year limited warranty. (See owners manual for further warranty details.)

TURF AERATOR 96 (MODEL NO. 96AER00096)

FRAME	Heavy duty tubular steel.
CAST WHEELS	7, 13" (33 cm) dia., 70 lbs. (32 kg), 3" (7.6 cm) thick; easy mount roll pin every other hole.
AERATING SWATH	48" (122 cm)
TINES	Choice of 1/2" (12.7 mm) or 3/4" (19 mm) Open or Closed tines, 4" (10 cm) slicing blades.
PATTERN	6" (15 cm) on center, 8 per wheel.
HITCH	3 pt., Category 1.
OPERATING SPEED	1-10 mph, (1.6-16.1 km/h)
LENGTH	35" (89 cm)
WIDTH	48" (122 cm)
HEIGHT	Differs with vehicle.
SHIPPING WEIGHT	Approx 600 lbs. (272 kg)
WARRANTY	1 year limited warranty. (See owners manual for further warranty details.)

*Specifications and design subject to change without notice. "Toro" is a registered trademark of The Toro Company, 8111 Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55420.

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Computer helps ask the right equipment questions... and gives interesting answers

BY NORMAN ROBERTS

*Superintendent, South Course
Sun City Center*

An earlier article by Steve McGinnis on computer-aided golf course maintenance scheduling indicated that a new element of the management program was being developed to help with equipment issues. He has moved up to manage the Big Cypress facility in Lakeland and I am now using the computer system he described, which now also helps to manage our equipment.

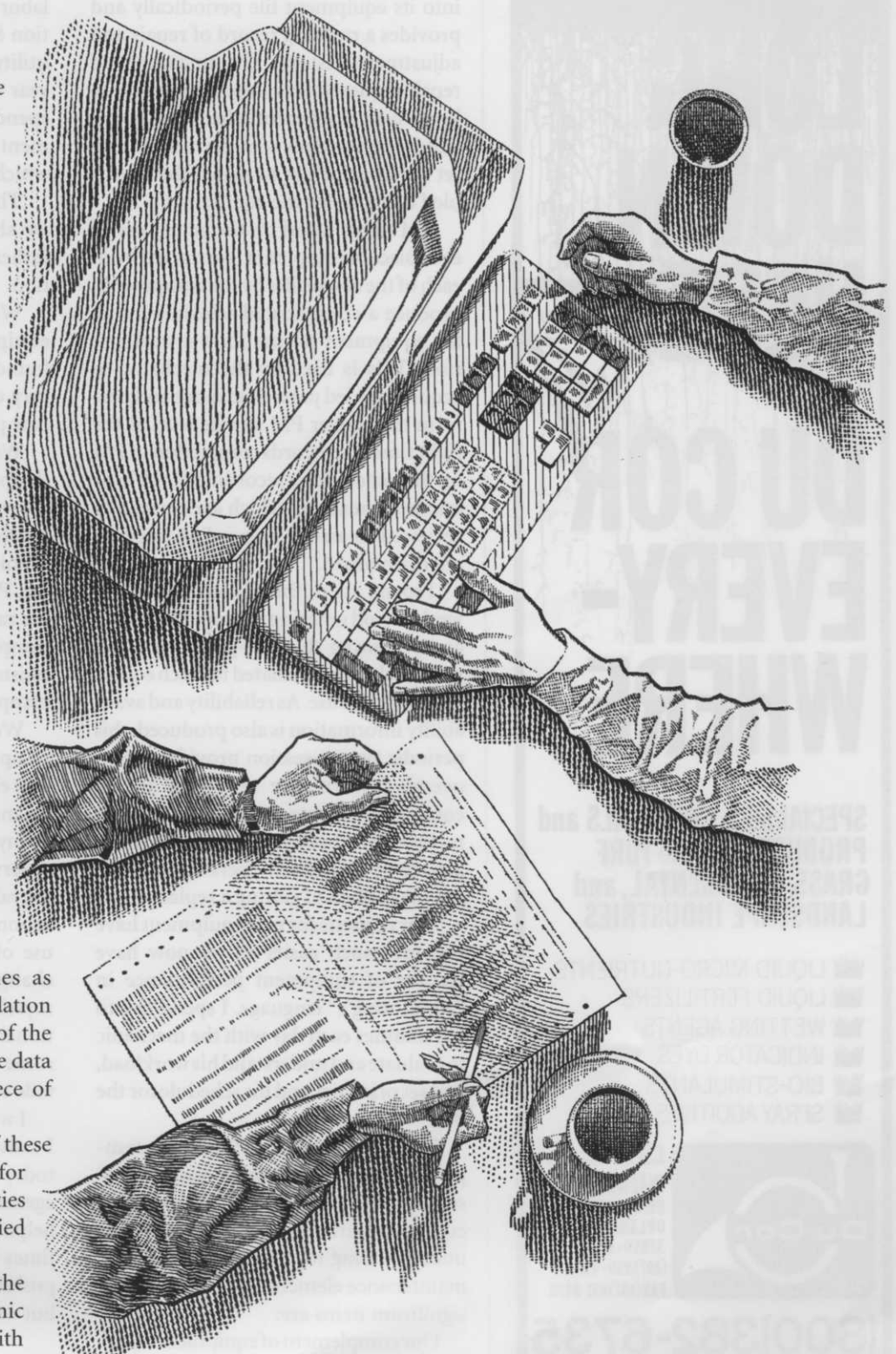
• Our consultant worked with us in gathering information about each piece of equipment we were using, such as:

- The date it was placed into service
- What we originally paid for it
- Where and how much was it used through out the year
- How much fuel did it use for an hour
- How often do we sharpen blades or replace tines
- What are the manufacturer-recommended periodic maintenances
- How much time and parts are needed to do PM
- What has been its repair history and cost.

Typical life/depreciation times as found in the National Golf Foundation and GCSAA studies for our area of the country were stored with the above data into a computer file for each piece of equipment by the consultant.

A book containing printouts of these files was provided to our mechanic for reference regarding the PM activities needed for all time intervals specified by the manufacturer.

A simple form was provided by the consultant for the operator, mechanic or myself to record any problem with



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HEADS UP

We are spending 35% of the value of our equipment each year on keeping it running, which is not very cost efficient.

the equipment and for the mechanic to record the amount of time and parts needed to repair or make adjustments. This repair information is also entered into its equipment file periodically and provides a running record of repair and adjustment history. The uncompleted repair request forms (repair backlog) are kept on an equipment scheduling board which I review daily with the mechanic to set repair priorities to match the scheduled demand for the equipment.

PM needs based on the actual use of each piece of equipment is extracted from each of the above files by the computer to produce a consolidated schedule for all the equipment we use for a 4 week period. This is used by the mechanic to acquire needed parts in advance and perform the proper PM service level at the right time. He records completion of PM on this schedule by recording Hobb's, or odometer readings which are constantly reviewed to assure proper PM intervals are maintained.

I spend about three hours each four-week period entering repair activity data and reviewing the cost-per-hour trend results which is calculated for each equipment item we use. As reliability and availability information is also produced, this periodic system session provides me an overall performance review of all the equipment we use, where I can determine when it becomes too costly to keep a piece of equipment operating and begin the process of getting a replacement.

Our requests for new equipment have become much easier as we now have records of equipment performance in "accounting's" language. I spend five to ten minutes each day with the mechanic to evaluate and understand his workload, and set priorities and his schedule for the day.

This equipment data base, the computer and the consultant have developed some interesting information about our equipment situation which brings a new understanding to managing this course maintenance element. Some of the most significant items are:

Our complement of equipment if pur-

chased new today would cost over \$500,000. If sold today we would get less than \$200,000.

Our equipment R&M parts, labor, and labor burden (Soc. Sec., benefits, vacation & holiday, management, space and utility allocations, etc.) budget for the year comes to about \$70,000. We are spending 35% of the value of our equipment each year on keeping it running, which is not very cost efficient.

There are some equipment items that we should rent or contact for service, rather than own, due to their low utilization.

We have conducted some major equipment refurbishments and have found that some of them have not been very cost-effective when compared to a new procurement.

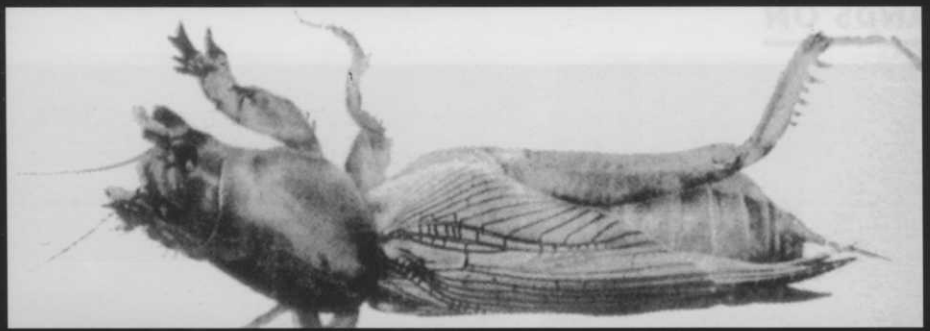
We are spending more labor hours sharpening equipment than either making repairs or doing PM.

We need just over 40 hours of mechanics' time each week to do sharpening, PMs and repairs at our present failure rates of obviously an old equipment complement. We have a mechanic and assistant on board, so we must have some manpower available.

We have used this computer-aided equipment management system for the past eight months, four months of start-up and tuning by Steve and four months by myself. As you can see from the above observations, we have a number of things to evaluate and resolve within my organization and with my management. Initial use of this system has produced some changes in my operation and educated myself and my management. An additional six months of use should firm up some answers and most likely will provide some new questions.

I was totally computer illiterate when I came on board four months ago, and today find the computer and the management system to be my friend. It is helping me get my job done in these times where we all are trying and being pushed to become more cost effective but maintain the quality of our results.

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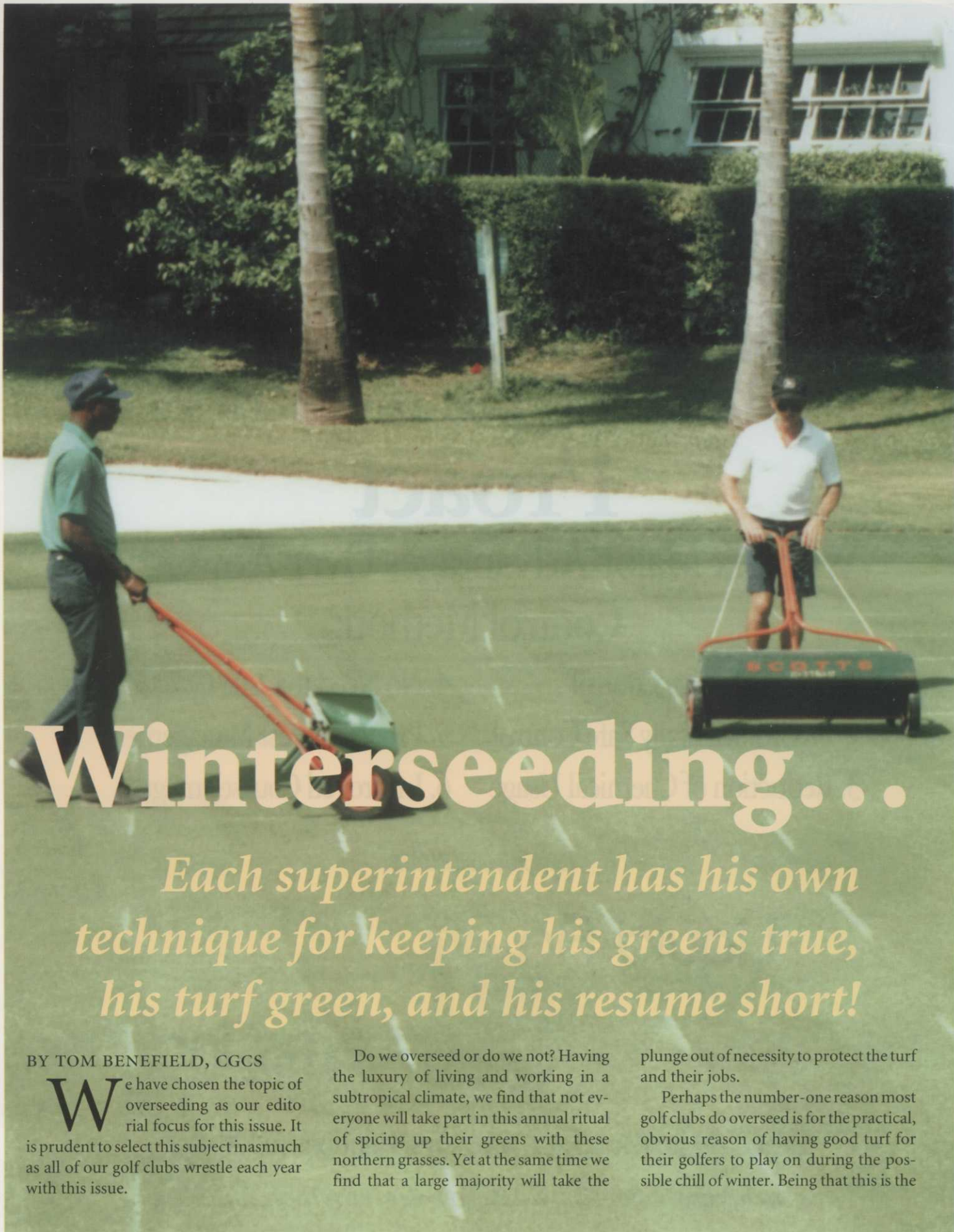
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Winterseeding...

Each superintendent has his own technique for keeping his greens true, his turf green, and his resume short!

BY TOM BENEFIELD, CGCS

We have chosen the topic of overseeding as our editorial focus for this issue. It is prudent to select this subject inasmuch as all of our golf clubs wrestle each year with this issue.

Do we overseed or do we not? Having the luxury of living and working in a subtropical climate, we find that not everyone will take part in this annual ritual of spicing up their greens with these northern grasses. Yet at the same time we find that a large majority will take the

plunge out of necessity to protect the turf and their jobs.

Perhaps the number-one reason most golf clubs do overseed is for the practical, obvious reason of having good turf for their golfers to play on during the possible chill of winter. Being that this is the

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busiest time of year in our wonderful state, it is prudent to insure that the greens are colorful and playable while the masses are in town.

The next most important reason is marketing. It is a time-honored tradition that green grass sells real estate like nothing else can. Hence every golf course which is driven by real estate sales (which is nearly every golf course built these days) will seed everything it has. For these people it means survival and the extra money is an excellent investment.

What we have done for this issue is to reach out to the rank and file superintendents across the state to get their programs to let them tell you in their own words how and why they do what they do.

A Change of Pace

In the past I have overseeded with 80% Gator ryegrass and Sabre *poa trivialis* with excellent results.

However, I was looking for an alternative to the disruptive overseeding procedures at the start of our golf season. Researching alternatives via fellow superintendents and various seed suppliers, I decided to give 40% Cobra creeping bentgrass and 60% Sabre *poa trivialis* a try. Last year this proved to be an excellent blend providing truer and faster putting surfaces while not creating as much stress at or slightly below 1/8 inch height of cut. This blend also held up well to the heavy play during the season (45,000 mostly in-season rounds last year).

Our preparations at The Venice Golf and Country Club consisted of verticutting and applying a preplant fertilizer one week prior and topdressing four days prior to overseeding.

Following this, we allowed the greens to grow for two days so the seed would have a place to settle in case of rain.

October 27th we applied two pounds of bentgrass and three pounds of *poa trivialis* per 1,000 square feet. Three weeks later we applied a second application of seed to complete our overseeding.

Each time following seed application, we syringed for about five days. After this period the moisture level during the day was adequate with only an early-morning syringe ahead of the mowers. Mowing was delayed for two days after seeding and then without baskets for another week at 5/32-inch. We lowered our height of cut to 1/8 inch three weeks after the second seed application.

Our maintenance program consisted of 1/2 pound of nitrogen every other week, groomers twice a week (after establishment), spiking once a week and a light topdressing every three-four weeks. Insecticide and fungicide applications were made if "favorable conditions" existed.

This year I will seed a little earlier to



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So instead of trying to talk them into overseeding, I accepted the challenge of that first year to go through the winter without the protection of seed on the greens.

allow for slightly earlier coverage (mid-December last year).

Our membership was completely satisfied with our overseeded greens last year and it seemed to require less work than in the past.

*Troy Smith, Golf Course Superintendent
The Venice Golf and Country Club
Venice/Suncoast Chapter*

Why we don't overseed

What makes being a golf course superintendent so interesting is that each course is unique and the members, owners, or players all have their own ideas of what they would like their golf course to look like and how it should play to make the game more pleasurable for them.

When I first came to the Bradenton Country Club the greens committee chairman told me that they did not overseed their greens and the membership wanted it to stay that way. I had come from a course that overseeded every year and as far as I knew everyone else in our area at that time overseeded as well.

This for me was a new challenge.

When I asked why the members didn't want the greens overseeded, their first answer was the puttability of the greens. In those days common rye was the seed of

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We put the *poa trivialis* down with a walking rotary spreader and let Mother Nature dictate whether the Tifdwarf bermudagrass or *poa trivialis* will dominate.

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Next there was no disruption in their play, no grow-in time, no spring transition.

And finally, there was the cost.

These were the basic reasons I was given and they all were valid in their own way. So instead of trying to talk them into overseeding, I accepted the challenge of that first year to go through the winter without the protection of seed on the greens.

Well, it was one of the warmest winters that we had seen in a long time and everything went really well. But not every year was as good as that one and over the years we have developed a program to get us through those tough winter months.

We begin in September by cutting back on our verticutting program. This allows the turf to develop a thin thatch layer which protects the grass by making it more wear tolerant and helps keep it a little warmer on those cold nights and the grass doesn't spike up as much.

We do continue our light topdressing on a biweekly schedule. Our fertilizing program changes in what material we use. We go from using slow-release nitrogen sources to the quicker, more readily available nitrogens which help give us color and growth.

However what really helps us maintain our color through those cold winter days is green dye. For no matter how well they roll or how quick they are, if your greens do not have that color, the members are not satisfied. The secret is to put color on them, but make it look natural.

What works best for us is applying light amounts of dye and doing it more frequently; that way you can maintain a more constant color. We use one to one and one-half gallons per acre and always apply it while the turf has its own natural

color, of course being a private club and not having members play on those really bad days is a big help. Also, I know not overseeding wouldn't work for everyone, but for us the members are happy.

Jim Svabek

*Golf Course Superintendent
Bradenton Country Club*

Try not to overseed, but...

Although the overseeding of greens has proven to be a controversial issue over the years in South Florida, the bottom line to me is that each superintendent must do what is in the best interest for the particular club. At Seminole Golf Club, our main goal is not to overseed the greens each year.

In that Seminole is a Donald Ross-designed seaside links-style golf course, the membership feels the greens should be maintained as natural as possible with only the perennial warmseason Tifdwarf bermudagrass. Donald Ross intended for Seminole to be a bump-and-run, shot-making-type golf course requiring firm approaches that usually are not consistent with overseeded greens.

On the other hand, severe weather the past two winter seasons has convinced us that an alternate plan of "interseeding" *poa trivialis* will be used if needed.

By "interseeding", we put the *poa trivialis* down with a walking rotary spreader and let Mother Nature dictate whether the Tifdwarf bermudagrass or *poa trivialis* will dominate.

We do not perform any preplant maintenance practice or raise the mower height to favor the *poa trivialis*. If the weather is abnormally cool and/or wet, the *poa trivialis* will dominate. Warm and dry weather will favor the more dominant Tifdwarf bermudagrass.

Again, our main goal has been to favor

the Tifdwarf bermudagrass as the dominant putting surface.

We keep *poa trivialis* on hand because of its quick germination, ability to tolerate low mowing heights and, most importantly, its quick transition out in warm weather which allows the Tifdwarf bermudagrass to dominate.

In terms of fertility, due to the fact that we want the Tifdwarf bermudagrass to be healthy and aggressive going into the winter months, we apply a balanced N-to-K fertilizer with intervals based on weather conditions. For example, the frequency will be longer during warm weather and shorter during cooler weather with normal applications of 1 pound N and K per 1,000 square feet.

As you know, fertility has a definite impact on the speed of the greens. For this reason, we are evaluating the greens daily to consider fertility, disease, irrigation, mowing height, topdressing and any other maintenance practice which hopefully will give the members the best greens possible based on weather conditions.

We overseed all our tees during late November/early December with *poa trivialis*. Again, we simply put the *poa trivialis* down with a walking rotary spreader on an as-needed basis to fill in any weak or shaded areas and in particular on all par 3 tees to allow for good turf during the winter months. As warm weather returns, we strongly promote bermuda 419 recovery as the dominant turf on the tees.

Hal Hicks

Golf Course Superintendent
Seminole Golf Club

Water is critical

Being in Palm Beach County, we have the option of seeding or not seeding our golf course. However we take the prudent approach and seed both our tees and our greens. On our tees we use a blend of ryegrasses which hold up to the high traffic and on the greens we will use a bentgrass variety.

The first step in our overseeding procedure is to cut back on the nitrogen in our fertilizer program some three - four weeks prior to overseeding. However, during this period we will put out one



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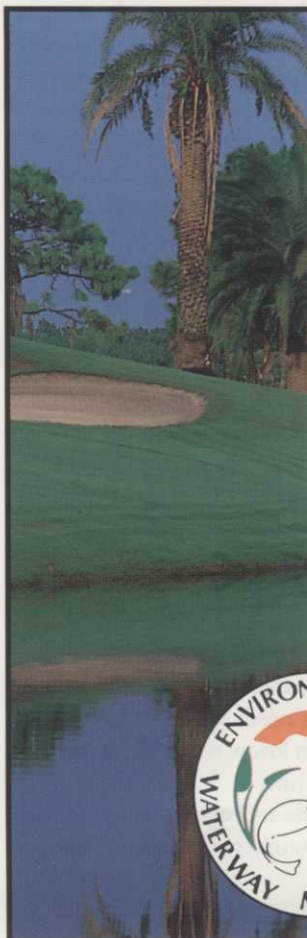
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application of sulfate of potash magnesia in order to raise our potash levels.

Water during this time period is also critical. You don't want to over- or under-irrigate the turf. To over-irrigate will allow the soil to be ripe for diseases, which could hurt the young, tender seedlings when they come up. To under-irrigate will create a soil so dry that the seedlings will have to compete with the base grass for the water applied. Soil moisture is a big key to success.

Days before overseeding we will verticut the greens until we remove approximately 50% of the leaf mass. This will have two effects. It will slow down the aggressive base grass and it will allow the seeds to fall into the mat area where it will be safe from possible washing away by rainfalls.

Before putting down the seed we apply at a curative rate Chipco 26019 for the various leaf diseases which are in the soil and waiting for conditions to get right before exploding. Trust me: with the warm, humid weather and lots of water on the turf, the conditions *will* get right.

Next, we apply a preplant fertilizer of 5-30-20 to assure adequate phosphorus at the rooting zone. Then the big event — applying Penneagle bentgrass seed in two directions at 4.5 pounds per 1,000 square feet. We immediately topdress and carpet drag in the soil to insure good seed-to-soil contact.

At this point we simply baby-sit them. Water them lightly and frequently for the next five days. Once they start popping up we will turn down the water frequency until eventually we are syringing just hot spots.

Remember the old saying, "Put them to bed dry and wash them in the morning" and disease should be of little problem.

*Jerry Redden, CGCS
Greenview Cove Country Club*

Everything but the fairways

Overseeding time is just around the corner and it seems as if it was just yesterday that the golf course finally had a good and healthy stand of bermudagrass.

At Tampa Palms G&CC, we overseed everything but the fairways. Greens are

overseeded with a poa triv/bentgrass mix, while tees, tee banks and roughs are overseeded with a perennial rye blend. This particular combination has been very successful in providing us with a very desirable putting surface during the winter months.

Golfers like the semidormant fairways that not only are a sharp contrast to the overseeded roughs, but also do not create the so-called "flyer lie."

The overseeded roughs help high traffic areas maintain their playability during the winter and also help to contain the golf ball on the course. Anyone who has played The Palms knows how important that is!

In preparation for overseeding, we make our final application of nitrogen approximately 30 days prior to our overseeding date. Fairways are sprayed with a pre-emergent herbicide to prevent germination of ryegrass in these areas. Also all trap faces are sprayed with a pre-emergent product. This procedure gives us some contrast and it also greatly reduces our labor over the winter months by not having to flymo these areas.

Height of cut in the rough areas is gradually lowered to 1 inch and at this height we can get a good stand of ryegrass to germinate. Roughs are overseeded using a Lely spreader calibrated to 300 pounds of seed to the acre. Tees are done with hand spreaders that are calibrated to 20 pounds per 1,000 square feet. The areas are double verticut and scalped prior to throwing the seed.

Greens are lightly verticut and top-dressed prior to overseeding. The sand on the greens allows the applicators to see where they are going and avoid getting lost. Seeding rates are 4 pounds of bentgrass and 8 pounds of poa triv per 1,000 square feet. After the seed is down, a starter fertilizer is applied and then the greens are watered.

During the germination period, syringe cycles are done throughout the day. Notices are posted informing the golfers as to why this needs to be done. We also try to let them know when the syringing will be going on.

All golf carts are kept on the cart paths for approximately two weeks following

Golfers like the semidormant fairways that not only are a sharp contrast to the overseeded roughs, but also do not create the 'flyer' lie.

overseeding. This allows us to syringe as needed without carts damaging the newly overseeded areas.


After the two-week period of all carts staying on the paths and frequent light cycles, the overseed is weaned off the syringing and carts are allowed to return to the playing areas.

Mowing heights are raised and the cutting units are checked daily to ensure that a sharp edge is being maintained. As the overseeding matures, an application of nitrogen is applied to improved color and density. Eventually the turf is mature enough to mow at a lower and more desirable height of cut.

Overseeding is not an easy job, but an essential part of a good turf management program. One must find what works the best in his or her particular region as there are many different methods when it comes to the overseeding process. With a plan of action and a little good luck, your overseeding will be a success.

*Greg A. Plotner, CGCS
Tampa Palms G&CC*

As you can see, there are many and varied opinions on the present state of overseeding. It also is evident that we as golf course managers are getting more pressure to have great greens year round but especially during the winter. The use of bentgrass and poa trivs are replacing the ryes on the greens surfaces as superintendents try to obtain that superior putting surface his members can be proud of.

One thing is for sure as our members get better educated on the coolseason grasses and what their limitations are, the golfing public is the winner. 

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Figure 1. As the disease progresses, the roots become short and completely rotted and may appear totally black in color. Entire plants may die resulting in an irregular thinning of the grass and eventually bare patches may develop.

Bermudagrass decline

BY DR. MONICA L. ELLIOTT

Plant pathologist
University of Florida, IFAS
Fort Lauderdale AREC

Chemicals alone won't control this root-rotting fungus

Bermudagrass decline is a destructive root rot disease caused by the fungus *Gaeumannomyces graminis* var. *graminis*. This fungus grows on the root system, invades the root vascular system (xylem and phloem) and thus debilitates the plant due to lack of water and carbohydrate movement between roots and leaves.

In combination with other stresses (for example, low mowing height, nutritional deficiencies or imbalances), above-ground symptoms will develop during the late summer and fall months if environmental conditions are conducive for disease development.

Initial symptoms of this disease may

include the appearance of irregular yellow (chlorotic) patches ranging in diameter from a few inches to a few feet. A general chlorosis and necrosis (dead tissue) are first observed on the lower leaves.

Foliar lesions, such as leaf spots, are absent.

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discolored with dark-colored lesions present on the roots. Associated rhizomes and stolons may have lesions also.

As the disease progresses, the roots become short and completely rotted and may appear totally black in color. Entire plants may die resulting in an irregular thinning of the grass (Figure 1) and eventually bare patches may develop.

As a general rule, the outer margins (clean-up pass) of a putting green exhibit the disease symptoms first (Figure 2). Correct diagnosis of the problem will require having a sample analyzed by a plant diagnostic clinic such as the Florida Extension Plant Disease Clinic in Gainesville (904-392-1994) since severe nematodes or *Pythium* species may cause similar damage.

I have been examining cultural and chemical methods for controlling this disease using the portion of the FCGSA Otto Schmeisser Research Green that is planted with Tifgreen 328. This area is maintained as a "normal" putting green mowed at $\frac{3}{16}$ inch six times each week during the summer.

Fertility during the summer months (May through October) is 6 pounds each of nitrogen and potash per 1000 square feet with $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of each applied every two weeks. Phosphorus is applied twice each year in May and October. Micronutrients are applied with each nitrogen application as they are a component of the fertilizer blend currently used (Harrell's 12-0-12 with Polyon TM polymer coated urea). The area is verticut and topdressed with an 80/20 mix

approximately once each month.

Experiments conducted in 1991 were initiated after moderate to severe above-ground disease symptoms were apparent (Figure 1). These experiments indicated that fungicides alone had no curative effect on this disease and that the best cultural treatment was simply to raise the height of cut.

In other words, once the above-ground symptoms are observed, it is too late to apply fungicides to control *G. q. graminis*, as the fungus has been attacking the root system for weeks or even months.

Contact fungicides may be useful to prevent secondary leaf diseases and to control the algae that usually develops in the areas where the grass thins and/or dies.

Experiments conducted in 1992 and 1993 were designed to examine preventive controls of this disease.

In one experiment, I evaluated all currently registered systemic fungicides and fungicides expected to be registered shortly for bermudagrass. Three preventive rate applications were made at 28-30 day intervals beginning the end of April.

In another experiment, fertility (N, P, K and Mn — individually and combined) was increased.

In addition, a 6-foot wide strip of the area was cut at $\frac{1}{4}$ inch rather than $\frac{3}{16}$ inch for the entire summer. The primary discernable difference among all treatments (fertilizers and fungicides) throughout the duration of the experiment was the better quality associated with the grass strip cut at $\frac{1}{4}$ inch rather

I realize that superintendents cannot maintain their Tifgreen putting greens at $\frac{1}{4}$ inch all summer and early fall, but fungicides alone will not stop the disease from developing.

than $\frac{3}{16}$ inch (Figure 3). No symptoms were ever observed on this higher cut of grass. Thus, as was observed in 1991, the higher height of cut is extremely important in preventing and eliminating the disease.

I realize that superintendents cannot maintain their Tifgreen putting greens at $\frac{1}{4}$ inch all summer and early fall, but fungicides alone will not stop the disease from developing.

If you have Tifdwarf putting greens, the same principles apply in terms of raising the height at least $\frac{1}{32}$ inch greater than your normal mowing height.

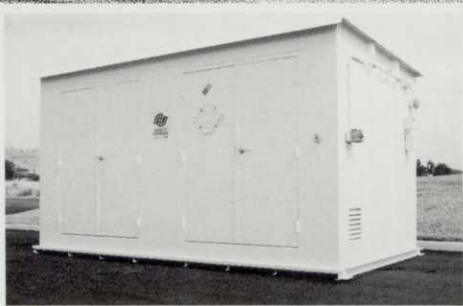
Cultural practices must be used in addition to any preventive fungicides. As soon as you observe any stress or initial symptoms, raise the height for a few days. There are ways to maintain speed — double cut, topdress, roll.

Explain to the members and players why you feel it is important to increase mowing height. Stress the need to raise the height off and on throughout the summer so the grass will not decline.

Bermudagrass Decline is a root rot disease and not a leaf disease. Grass can easily recover from a leaf disease. However, once the crown and root system of the plant dies, the plant will not recover, resulting in the bare patches of soil often

*Correct diagnosis of the problem will require having a sample analyzed by a plant diagnostic clinic such as the Florida Extension Plant Disease Clinic in Gainesville (904-392-1994) since severe nematodes or *Pythium* species may cause similar damage.*

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If you feel you must use a systemic fungicide, follow the directions completely and do not overuse these products.

observed. Emphasize that a little inconvenience during the summer means there will be grass to play on this fall and winter.

Superintendents and golfers must realize that both Tifgreen and Tifdwarf are over 20 years old. The grasses have not changed, but the maintenance practices and amount of play have changed dramatically. The primary maintenance change, due to the demand of the golfer, has been the decrease in the mowing height. Without leaf tissue, the plant cannot produce carbohydrates to sustain itself. Without a viable root system, there will be no leaf tissue. A simple but important lesson to remember and to emphasize to the golfer.

If you feel you must use a systemic fungicide, follow the directions completely and do not overuse these products. During the 1991 curative experiment, when the fungicides were used after severe symptoms had developed, the curative rates of the registered triazole fungicides actually slowed recovery of the grass. Again, the emphasis should be placed on cultural practices for disease prevention and control rather than chemical practices.

Acknowledgements: Appreciation is expressed to RSI Inc. (DeBra) for providing the greens mower and turf utility cart, Harrell's Inc. for providing the fertilizer and Golf Agronomics for providing the topdressing material. In addition, we would like to thank the supporters of the FGCSA — especially the SFGCSA chapter's annual Turfgrass Exposition — who provide the salary for Marcus Prevatte for maintenance and research on the green.



Figure 2. As a general rule, the outer margins (clean-up pass) of a putting green exhibit the disease symptoms first. Correct diagnosis of the problem will require having a sample analyzed by a plant diagnostic clinic.



Figure 3. The primary discernable difference among all treatments (fertilizers and fungicides) throughout the duration of the experiment was the better quality associated with the grass strip cut at 1/4 inch rather than 3/16 inch.

Split label rate into 3 equal applications for best results with DMI fungicides

1 Assuming the 30-day waiting period has been observed, what types of effects do DMI fungicides have on overseeded bermudagrass greens?

"We did the work on fenarimol at College Station. We found the best annual bluegrass control was to split that label rate into three equal applications made at two-week intervals.

"We tested some fairly high rates and never found any toxicity in perennial ryegrass on either Tifgreen or Tifdwarf bermudagrass. With a rough bluegrass, there was initial thinning of seedlings even at label rates. However, there was never enough damage to cause concern, since adequate turf was formed rapidly."

Even a 10x rate showed no post-emergence activity

2 What rates of a DMI fungicide would be too excessive use on bermudagrass greens prior to overseeding?

"We didn't see any problems on bermudagrass or perennial ryegrass — over three years of studies on both research plots and golf courses (real world golf courses in Waco, Tex.), from a 2x rate.

"I had one study where a research associate made an error on calculation. He made a 10x rate mistake. Even at 10x the label rate, the bermudagrass was only about 50% thinner and it recovered fully within a year.

Even at 10x the label rate, the bermudagrass was only about 50% thinner and it recovered fully within a year.



Dr. Beard answers your questions

Chip Lewison, superintendent at Dunedin CC, gathered questions from superintendents around the state and put them to Dr. James Beard, recently retired professor at Texas A&M University in College Station, Tex., for a one-time question-and-answer clinic.

"So at a 2x on bermudagrass and perennial ryegrass under our conditions in College Station, fenarimol did not cause a problem over a three-year period.

"In one study we applied fenarimol at two-week intervals from August through the entire winter. It showed no post-emergence activity of any kind on the *poa annua* - it behaved strictly as a preemergence herbicide in these winter overseeding studies."

Activated charcoal may not be a solution to pesticide residue

3 Some people are wondering if we should apply activated charcoal to our greens once every year or two to aid in "flushing" some of the pesticide residues that may be accumulating. Do you have any feelings on this matter?

"I've never had that question asked before and I really don't know of research to provide the answer.

"The charcoal is only going to be effective on certain pesticides, not all of them. Only certain chemical groups are absorbed onto the charcoal particle surface.

"Also, this charcoal will continue to absorb certain chemicals. This might force one to use higher rates of certain pesticides to get pest control in future years until the charcoal surface has become

saturated.

"Thus charcoal may not flush the pesticide residues out; rather it is trapping them and the organic chemicals until they eventually degrade or are displaced.

Five-year old charcoal layer

4 Will that layer stay there from year to year?

"I've seen distinct charcoal layers in greens five years later."

Layer stays, particles move

5 So the charcoal may not go anywhere?

"No, I didn't say that. There might be some charcoal particles leaching downward, depending on the root zone physical and chemical characteristics and the intensity of leaching."

Some rooting problems

6 What are your studies showing concerning the use of preemergence herbicides on root development of bermudagrass?

"We just finished a series of studies with six preemergence materials on rooting of bermudagrass and St. Augustinegrass. One two-year study involved repeat applications compared to a nonrepeat program. The chemical group where most of the rooting problem ap-

It makes the job of the turf manager somewhat more difficult, but also places demands on the owners to hire knowledgeable, well-paid superintendents, with the capability to successfully accomplish this management approach.

peared was the Dinitroanlymes.”

Broad spectrum approach may no longer be appropriate

7 Would we be better off using more broad-spectrum pesticides instead of combinations of single-acting pesticides?

“The broad-spectrum approach has traditionally been used whether we are talking the control of disease, insects, or weeds.

“Point in fact: with environmental issues and the activists’ microscope golf is under today, we should be accountable on the environmental issues. Thus the trend to more narrow-based, target-specific controls using only as much pesticide as is needed to control a particular pest problem.

“This approach is more costly, involves continuous scouting and proper diagnostic interpretation and timely application of the proper material by a professional.

It makes the job of the turf manager somewhat more difficult, but also places demands on the owners to hire knowledgeable, well-paid superintendents, with the capability to successfully accomplish this management approach.”

Cold storage not necessary on established cultivars

8 Do you believe in cold storage of bentgrass seed for a year prior to overseeding in warm season climates?

“Essentially all seeds — much less in ryegrasses but certainly in bluegrasses — contain a certain amount of a germina-

tion inhibitor in them at the time of harvest. In general, this seed-germination inhibitor is short-lived.

“Typically, by the time the seed goes through the harvest, cleaning, bagging, shipping operations, the inhibitor has been degraded and is no longer a problem in terms of planting that same year with the seeding rates used.

“Whether some of these newer bentgrass cultivars will have a seed dormancy problem requiring extended storage is unclear.

“Along this same line, it takes a minimum of four years before one really knows whether a new turfgrass cultivar possesses superior traits relative to its weaknesses over the long term.

“Most of the new cultivars have not been tested for four years in multiple locations or areas. Unfortunately, many of the new cultivars are being promoted and sold throughout the country.

“I’ve been in the turfgrass business 35 years and have seen a lot of turfgrass cultivars look good in year one, two or three. The soil and turf ecosystem is not fully stabilized or come into balance and the thatch has not built up, so one really does not yet know the true stress tolerance, pest resistance, or susceptibility and overall longterm performance.

“It takes four years at a minimum to obtain relative data, which is what researchers should be concerned with.”

Too early for results on first sound algae research program

9 Are there any good, effective controls for algae on USGA spec or modified spec greens?

“Currently, Dr. Jeff Krans, one of my

former students now at Mississippi State, has an elaborate study on algae — types of algae species around the country.

“He finds six to eight algae species on a single putting green that rotate one to the other as the dominant population over a growing season. This may explain the erratic control and rapid recovery of algae areas.

“It is too early to have all the answers yet, but it’s the first algae research program based on sound science. He is approaching the problem the right way and I look forward to some good information from this research.”

Tifway off-types due to contamination, not mutation

10 Can you comment on the problems being raised about Tifway bermudagrass contamination? How true are dwarfs being grown today? Is mutation possible or is contamination more likely the problem?

“Always keep in perspective that the potential for mutation percentagewise, is very, very small. The appearance of off-types in Tifdwarf is appearing far too frequently to be a mutation.

“For the most part, the off-type cause is either from the purchase of plant material that is already contaminated or is planted on a site that was previously contaminated with another berm udgrass.

“You’ve got to treat greens with methyl Bromide. In Texas there have been a lot of situations where they are treating existing greens with glyphosate and replanting. It doesn’t work and is a major source of off types.

“Off types also could be carried in on golf cleats, and equipment. There are

many other ways for it to contaminate greens.”

Gibberelin will green it right up under certain conditions

11 Can you offer a strategy to keep non-overseeded Tif-dwarf color up during the winter months? What about bringing it back once the color goes down?

“Nitrogen helps at temperatures above chill stress or above 55-60 degrees. The other is gibberelin to correct chill stress or stress below 55 degrees. I’ve had one master’s thesis done in this area.

“In south Texas or south Florida, where the soil temperatures stay relatively high, dropping low on certain nights causes low-temperature discoloration. If you treat the next day with gibberelin, particularly with Tifdwarf, it works very well.

“Gibberelin will green it right up.

“The key is whether the soil temperature there is warm enough so that re-growth and chlorophyll synthesis starts again right away. If the soil temperature remains too cold — especially if the site is too far north or the cold air mass has extended farther south — the gibberellin is not going to help during a long-term period of cold temperatures below chill stress.”

DNA technology is there, but is it worth the time and expense?

12 Do you think Dr. Grasshof’s DNA testing (University of Tennessee) is reliable?

People are very concerned after four or five years now as the problems associated with non-certified grasses (in Florida) continue to leave doubts as to their authenticity and contamination potential.

“I have not done any DNA cultivar characterizations myself, only isoenzymes characterizations, but his program looks promising.

“The technology is there. It is a matter of developing the specific application.

“It involves great expense for the development and equipment. One just doesn’t go into a lab and run a few tests. It requires the efforts of a trained bio-

I’ve been in the turfgrass business 35 years and have seen a lot of turfgrass cultivars look good in year one, two or three. The soil and turf ecosystem is not fully stabilized or come into balance and the thatch has not built up, so one really does not yet know the true stress tolerance, pest resistance, or susceptibility and overall longterm performance.

chemist who must perfect the routine but specific procedures over a period of three to six months.

“It involves an art dimension as well as science.

“The same is true when running starch gel or electrophoretic acrylamide gel cultivar characterizations. As it is rather expensive, these technologies may only be justified when civil action is deemed necessary.

“More significantly, the I.D. techniques may assist growers to assure genetic integrity and purity in their cultivars. This may very well be its most important role.”

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**Florida GCSA
Distinguished
Service Award**

- 1985 *William Wagner*
- 1986 *Tim Hiers*
- 1987 *Dan Jones, CGCS*
- 1988 *Mark Jarrell, CGCS*
- 1989 *Tom Burrows, CGCS*
- 1990 *Kevin Downing, CGCS*
- 1991 *Cecil Johnston, CGCS*
- 1992 *Joel Jackson, CGCS*
- 1993 *Fred Klauk*

Fred Klauk honored for distinguished service to profession

BY SCOTT BELL, CGCS

This past August at the 1993 Crowfoot, Fred Klauk received the Florida Golf Course Superintendent's Association Distinguished Service Award.

The receipt of that award topped a 20-year career that started in the sand bunkers at Palm Beach's Lost Tree and that is presently at the famous Tournament Players' Club at Sawgrass. Fred received this award not so much for the time that he has spent working directly with the Association but rather for the time that he has spent "behind the scenes," enhancing the view and the role of the golf course manager in major golf events, within his own



Fred Klauk, superintendent of the TPC at Sawgrass, posed for this 1990 Florida Green photo by high school buddy Daniel Zelazek.

PGA Tour and with the media that covers the golf world.

Fred has also given back to the business ten golf course managers, nine assistants, one PGA Tour agronomist and one tournament director. Some of these men started working for Fred as bunker rakers during the Honda Classic or the Player's Championship. Some were 15 year-old kids that played on local golf teams and worked the tournament not so much for the pay but for the experience of witnessing first hand the operation of a professional golf tournament. Through Fred's guidance these kids have worked part-time, summers, on the job training and after college until they have been hired as golf course managers or assistants.

Fred grew up in North Palm Beach where he and his brother Glen played golf for Riviera Beach High. One day Fred went by the Lost Tree Club where he met the golf course manager Lou Oxnevad. Fred applied for a laborer job and Lou told him to report the next day.

Fred spent the summer raking sand, digging holes and mowing grass as well as playing golf. Fred realized that he loved working on the golf course and he decided that he wanted to be a golf course manager. Fred applied to the University of Florida where he was accepted into Professor G.C. Horn's golf turf program.

While in college Fred tried to make the Florida Golf Team however, as good a golfer as Fred is, he could not break into

the starting five which happened to include guys named Koch, Bean, and three other All-Americans.

Fred met his wife Peggy while in Gainesville. They were married in 1972 after Fred finished school.

After Fred completed his schooling he took the assistant's job at Johns Island Club in Vero Beach, where he worked with Pete Dye during the construction of the North course. Fred managed the North Course while Charlie Jarrell managed the South.

While working at Johns Island, Fred heard of a job opening in Boynton Beach at a club called Pine Tree. Fred sent off a resume and weeks later he received a call to meet some gentlemen from Pine Tree. Fred Klauk was a kid in his early 20s when he walked into the interview.

The man doing much of the interviewing was a guy named Sam Snead.

In spite of the intimidating presence of the golfing legend interviewing him, Fred got the job. He inherited a golf course overrun with goosegrass and crowfoot. To make matters worse, the course was not the hardy Tifway 419 that so many of us are used to, but mostly Or-

mond bermudagrass.

The golf course irrigation system was an old manual system that Fred had to replace with an automatic system. He did all of this work "in House." Fred developed a plan to get rid of the tremendous weed population while at the same time keeping the turf healthy.

While at Pine Tree, Fred developed a technique for overseeding with bentgrass that he still uses today, that has produced beautiful greens that won him praise at Pine Tree and on the PGA Tour. Pine Tree was voted into the *Golf Digest* top 100 courses. While at Pine Tree, Fred served on the Palm Beach GCSA Board as director and as secretary/treasurer.

Fred also established his reputation as one of our association's best golfers. In 1981 and 1982, the Florida team won the GCSAA Golf Tournament with Fred on the team. Since then Fred has represented Florida at the GCSAA many times.

After eight years at Pine Tree, Fred moved to The Tournament Players Club at Eagle Trace. When Fred joined the staff, he came in just as the course was grown in. Lee Bladen, who at the time worked for Westinghouse Development,

had grown in the course and was leaving for Naples to build Pelican's Nest.

Fred took over and prepared the course for the 1984 Honda Classic. Eagle Trace became the first course to go from dirt to a televised tournament in one year. Many people's hard work paid off and the tournament was a success.

During his first year at Eagle Trace, Fred spent a lot of time educating his staff and encouraging them to seek high goals. He stressed that hard work and education were the keys to success in the golf business. He challenged staff members to go to night school for turf classes and he stressed the importance of the superintendent's associations.

The TPC Network was in its infancy at that time and Fred stressed the importance of the golf course manager's role in a company that was run by golf professionals.

During Fred's first televised tournament, I can remember him climbing the tower at the 18th green to talk to the NBC announcers at the time, Lee Trevino and Vin Scully. He wanted to make sure that they understood how much work was involved in putting a course together and



Working with Fred Klauk, right, is the equivalent of a college education, say many of the golf course managers and assistant managers who have trained under him in one capacity or another.

he wanted them to understand how important the golf maintenance staff is in the operation of the club or the tournament.

Fred made himself available to any media person who would listen, not to blow his own horn but to stress the importance of the golf course manager. Fred is probably responsible for getting the golf course manager's name announced during most televised tournaments. Eagle Trace was voted into Golf Digest's top 100 courses.

Fred felt that the business had been good to him and he loved the game so he tried to "give back" by helping others. Fred had a problem during the Honda Classic.

Although Eagle Trace has only 36 bunkers, many of them are quite large, sometimes running the length of a fairway. The waste areas were acres in size.

Fred made a call to the golf coach at Coral Springs High School and he recruited many of the members of the golf team to rake traps during the tournament. This pool of labor became a source of weekend helpers, summer workers, and part timers.

At least four kids worked the Honda Classic as teens only to keep coming back during the summers or on weekends. These guys then went on to college for turf management and now they are assistants working throughout the country.

Out of the original part-time staff that worked the first Honda Classic at Eagle Trace, three are now assistants and one — Tom Vlach — is the golf course manager at Ekana Golf and Country Club in Oviedo. Out of the original full-time staff from the first Honda Classic, four are now golf course managers and two others are assistants. Two others had been Fred's assistants at Eagle Trace but they changed careers.

In 1986 Fred was transferred to Ponte Vedra, the home of the PGA Tour.

For the first couple of years Fred battled bentgrass greens all summer long until the Commissioner and the Policy Board allowed him to convert the greens back to Tifdwarf in 1988. Because of Fred's involvement in the "Player's Course" and the fact that the "Fifth Major" is held on it, Fred has gotten to know many of the

THE FRED CONNECTION

Superintendents who have worked for Fred Klauk

Steve Ciardullo

Mountain Lake, Lake Wales

Ron Moore

Hunter's Ridge, Naples

James Leiseberg

Pelican's Nest, Naples

Scott Bell

Bent Pine, Vero Beach

Ron Wright

LaGorce, Miami Beach

Gene Baldwin

Hidden Hills, Jacksonville

Tom Vlach

Ekana Golf & CC, Oviedo

Tim Webb

Fountainbleau CC, Miami Beach

Scott Jamros

Turtle Creek, Rockledge

Bob Clarkson

LaCosta Golf & CC, Carlsbad, Calif.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS

Bill Tully

LaGorce, Miami Beach

Dan Tully

Hinsdale CC, Chicago, IL

Tom Tully

Stonebridge CC, Aurora, IL

Roger Moore

Hunter's Ridge, Naples

Ed Fagnan

Kelly Green, Fort Myers

Greg Williams

Canterwood CC, Gig Harbor, Wash.

Jay Reister

Oak Bridge, Sawgrass

Brian Moore

Ravines, Jacksonville

Rip Phillips

Hidden Hills, Jacksonville

OTHERS

Jeff Haley

PGA Tour Agronomist, Ponte Vedra

Brett Shelton

Tournament Director, Birmingham, AL

players. He speaks to them when they are playing the course.

As with any job, he fields ideas and suggestions from the golfers. The difference with Fred's job is that the golfers are some of the world's best or the golfer's name might be Beman or Dye. Fred's ability to provide such fine tournament conditions year after year, and his relations with the Tour Players has won him respect from the PGA Tour Staff, the players, and the Commissioner.

Our association is very fortunate to have one of our best in that position. The more that the players on tour know about the golf course manager's role the better. When they are playing our courses, or designing new courses, if the Tour player knows the importance of a good superintendent, the more likely that he will acknowledge us. Commissioner Beman certainly respects Fred. When the Commissioner has an idea about the course,

he calls Fred for his input. When Fred has an idea, he calls the Commissioner.

In 1990, Florida was recovering from the record cold temperatures during Christmas week. The stadium course was still getting its usual heavy play and Fred had expressed to me during the GCSAA conference that he was uncomfortable with the condition of his course.

More cool, rainy weather followed and by late March when the tournament rolled around, a couple of the greens were not perfect as the players expect and a number of them complained to the press.

As it usually happens, the press and the players overreacted and reports were coming out that the course was not in good shape. Greg Norman and Curtis Strange were highly critical and they voiced their complaints to the press who broadcast the story all over the world.

All of us have had complaints about our courses from time to time. How many

of us have had Greg and Curtis and the national golf media criticize our courses? Fred endured it.

During Saturday of the event the course had sustained 2 inches of rain and the tournament was halted with many groups still on the course. Fred was asked by NBC to appear on the air with Bob Costas to discuss the course conditions. Costas's questioning was not the sugar-coated variety reserved for presidential briefings in the Rose Garden.

Costas asked hard questions about the condition of the course and the policies of the Tour. Nothing like answering policy questions about your bosses on national television.

Fred represented the PGA Tour and golf course superintendents very well presenting a professional image and maintaining his cool under fire.

As if the interview were not enough, Fred had his course to deal with as well. He had 60 staff members to motivate to do their jobs in spite of all of the negative

comments. What's more, he had to get the staff working at 4 a.m. Sunday.

The staff had to prepare the course for the rained-out Saturday players and then turn around, with a one-and-a-half-hour head start, prepare and mow the course for the Sunday golfers. Just to make the job even more challenging, many of the sand and waste bunkers needed to be pumped out and raked.

The PGA Tour, the Commissioner and Fred had some damage control to do. The "bad greens" that the players had complained about were really two or three greens. Any poor conditions were related to the weather and the heavy traffic during overseeding and leading up to the tournament.

Fred recommended that the amount of play needed to be restricted during the overseeding period and during the two-week period before the tournament. The Commissioner agreed to restrict the amount of play. The course reacted and looked great during the tournament. In

1991 the players voted the TPC at Sawgrass the best-conditioned resort course on the Tour.

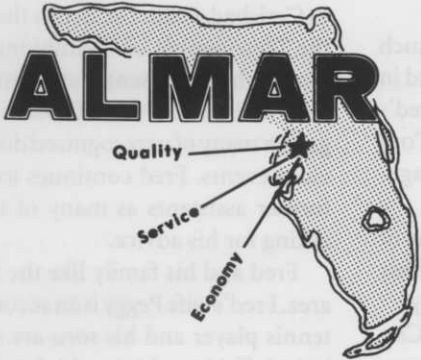
Some of the best testimonial about the influence of Fred on the golf business is the number of superintendents and assistants that Fred has guided into the business. At present there are approximately 10 golf course managers and nine assistants who have worked for Fred.

Many started as high schoolers, others worked for Fred during OJT. Everyone who has worked for Fred has benefited professionally and personally.

Deane Beman once told Steve Ciardullo of Mountain Lake in Lake Wales, "that working for Fred was the equivalent of four years at a major university."

Steve agreed with Deane Beman in that he valued his education from Fred as his college degree. He said that Fred not only taught him when to do things but also why you do it. He credits Fred with influencing him to strive to become a golf

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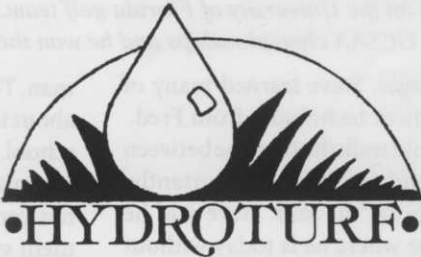
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Fred Klauk may not have been able to beat out Andy Bean or Gary Koch for a starting slot on the University of Florida golf team, but he did lead the FGCSA team to two GCSAA championships and he won the 1990 Crowfoot.

course manager. Steve learned many of his management techniques from Fred.

"Fred could walk the fine line between being a friend but more importantly, being your boss," he said. Steve said he would not be where he is today without Fred's influence.

The most persistent of Fred's past employees would have to be Ekana Golf & Country Club's Tom Vlach.

Tom started to work for Fred in 1985 at the ripe age of 14. Tom was on the local high school golf team and he was raking bunkers and filling divots for the Honda Classic. After the tournament, Tom felt a void because he was not working at the club. He convinced Fred to give him a job on weekends and during the summer.

Fred influenced Tom to go to college to get a turf management degree. Tom continued to work for Fred during the summers after Fred had moved to Sawgrass.

When Tom graduated from college, he turned down higher-paying assistant jobs in order to work for Fred as a fore-

man. Tom claims that he learned as much about the business from Fred as he did in school. Tom was impressed with Fred's organizational skills and that's what Tom has carried over into his own management system.

Tom calls Fred the Bobby Knight of golf course management because of his determination to do the job perfectly.

Scott Jamros graduated from Lake City CC and has worked for Fred for six years. Scott went to work for Fred in 1987. He was a college student but he was unsure of what career path to take. He liked to play golf and he thought that he might like to work in the golf business but he had no direction. Fred encouraged him to work hard and to go to Lake City Community College.

Scott worked OJT for Fred where he and many others learned about construction, drainage and management. Scott said that one summer Fred had four OJTers working at the TPC doing projects. Scott said that when you OJT'd for Fred, you did not just mow grass, you

did projects. Scott was also impressed with the way that Fred would "go the extra mile for his staff."

I too had the pleasure and the good fortune to work for Fred at Eagle Trace. After I was transferred to the TPC at Monte Carlo in Fort Pierce, I still had the luxury of falling back on Fred for help or information. Fred taught me to be proud to be a golf course manager and to work hard at it. He encouraged me to be active with the superintendent's associations.

He taught me not to go home until the job is complete.

At the time that I worked for Fred, the golf course manager was not as well respected as we are today and Fred taught me to work well with other people in the business such as golf professionals or club managers.

Fred Klauk's service to the golf course management business has been tremendous. He has influenced many lives and many careers and he still continues to do so.

Recently, while Fred was receiving his Distinguished Service Award at the Crowfoot, his assistant at TPC was accepting the golf course manager's job at LaCosta in Carlsbad, Calif. LaCosta is the home of the Tournament of Champions.

Fred has represented superintendents very well in the PGA TOUR and he has gotten many of us recognized during televised events. Fred continues to help his former assistants as many of them call asking for his advice.

Fred and his family like the Sawgrass area. Fred's wife Peggy is an accomplished tennis player and his sons are very athletic. Jeff, 15, and John, 14, have become very good junior golfers. Both boys have shot career lows of 67 this summer and John had his first hole in one. Fred, can you shoot a 67? Jason, who is 8, likes tennis and soccer and he is just now starting to play golf.

Fred Klauk has served the industry well. He has given unselfishly to the industry, to his employer, to his employees and to his assistants. Fred continues to maintain one of the Tour's best conditioned golf courses and if he keeps practicing he might beat Jeff and John at golf.

**1993 FGCSA
President's Awards**

Hugh Bebout
Dick Blake
Don Delaney
Karl Jacobs
Ed Ramey

***'I was the first
GCSAA Director to
be nominated and
elected from the
floor of the
annual meeting. I
was president of
the GCSAA in
1971-72.'***

***The FGCSA President's Award
for Lifetime Service was
established in 1990 to honor
those superintendent pioneers
who were instrumental in
state and local affairs but who
may no longer be actively
involved in the FGCSA.
Qualifications include 20
years or more of service to the
turfgrass industry, 10 of which
were as a superintendent .***

Thank you, Mr. President!

***Dick Blake has led three statewide
superintendents' associations, and the
national organization, the GCSAA***

BY JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

When the President of the United States steps down, he historically retains that title and, as a measure of respect, is addressed as "Mr. President" for the rest of his life. I think Dick Blake has earned that courtesy after serving his peers as president of three different state or regional associations and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

That record of service is but a reflection of the sense of duty, loyalty, and hard work that a young lad from Wilmington, Mass. learned from the Marine Corps after graduating from high school. Those values have led Dick through a long, rewarding career in golf turf management and into his current semi-retirement work as a sales representative with Growing Technologies, Inc.

"After I mustered out of the Marines, I was interested in pursuing a career in wildlife management at the Stockbridge School of Agriculture," said Dick in a recent interview. "There were no openings in the class I needed, so I took a course in turf management. The program was under the tutelage of pioneering turf professor Lawrence S. Dickinson, and he got me so interested in this field that I switched majors.

"It was a good time to be getting into the business. We had instructors like Geoffrey Cornish teaching classes. We

were the first generation of the new breed of superintendents that got a strong educational background in turf management principles as well as practical experience in the field.

"Upon graduation from Stockbridge, I started my career working for the Mitchell Brothers Corporation, which was a family of superintendents and architects. I spent one year with them building and renovating golf courses in New England.

"I then worked in succession at Whittinsville C.C., Concord C.C., and Salem C.C. All three were designed by Donald Ross. I was at Whittinsville for eight years. We then moved to Boylston, Mass. for 13 years at Mt. Pleasant C.C. After that, I did an eight-year tour of duty at Woodstock (Vermont) Golf and Tennis Club which was part of the Rockefeller Rock Resort chain.

"In 1965, I joined the Rhode Island Superintendents Association, eventually serving as president. After that, I joined the New England Superintendents Association and worked my way from newsletter editor to president in 1970.

"I began my service on the GCSAA Board of Directors in 1967. I was the first GCSAA Director to be nominated and elected from the floor of the annual meeting. I was president of the GCSAA in 1971-72.

"Those New England winters began

to get a little hard to take, so we moved to Florida in 1982. I started the Florida portion of my career at Card Sound G. C. and worked my way up the coast to Quail Ridge and eventually to my last duty station, Bocaire Country Club.

“Sometime around 1984 or 1985 I attended an FGCSA Board meeting and started asking questions. The first thing I knew, Tom Burrows said the best way to get the answers to those questions was for me to be secretary/treasurer of the association.

“A few short years later I assumed my fourth association presidency in 1987.”

“I have made a lot of friends in Florida and I really appreciate the honor the association has bestowed on me with the President’s Award. My service to the Florida Association has been an enjoyable experience buoyed by the support of fellow board members and our executive secretary, Marie Roberts.

“In the early days of my association work in New England — and even with GCSAA — we didn’t have any staff support. We did all the paperwork ourselves. Elaine, my lovely wife of 40 years, helped me tremendously with those efforts. She also managed to raise our six children and they, in turn, have blessed us with eight grandchildren.”

Asked to reflect over the past, present and future of golf, Dick had these observations:

“I always enjoyed being involved in the construction or rebuilding on golf courses. It gave me a lot of personal job satisfaction to add something to a course. I especially liked to plant trees.

“Now when we visit New England and I visit some of the courses where I worked, it is very satisfying to see the mature trees and the effect they have on the courses. I also have enjoyed watching the growth and development of over 30 superintendents that worked with me over the years. It’s nice to see them progress and take their place in the service of our industry.”

“I’ve always been an environmentalist at heart, stemming from my early interest in wildlife. I have always tried to influence people in the safe and proper use of pesticides. One of the things I’m proud of was the legislation we developed while I served on the Conservation Committee

‘It is necessary to remember that humans are part of the environment too. Their needs and survival are just as important as the snail darter and the spotted owl.’

and Planning Board in New England.

“It is necessary to remember that humans are part of the environment too. Their needs and survival are just as important as the snail darter and the spotted owl. Facts and common sense need to be at the heart of the regulations that are formulated for the protection of the environment.”

“One of the most pressing issues I see facing superintendents today is job security. There is far too much turnover in superintendent positions. Clubs need more continuity so they can develop some good programs and make positive progress.

“This merry-go-round approach to changing club presidents, greens chairman, and greens committees annually just creates turmoil and usually results in turning over the superintendent’s position rather than establishing good working relationships.”

“For people entering this profession, I

must say they cannot be thin-skinned. They should expect to work long, hard hours and pay their dues before becoming a head superintendent. While they are paying their dues, they should develop business management and people-handling skills.

“I strongly urge they also take public speaking and business writing courses. Communications is a key part of the profession today. I also recommend they read a book called *Developing Your Executive Abilities*. It really helped me see the big picture a little better.”

Dick enjoys his work with Growing Technologies, Inc. It keeps him active and involved with an industry he has helped lead and shape. When he isn’t working he enjoys photography, historical reading, and traveling. A trip out west and to Alaska is in the planning stages right now. Enjoy the trip, Dick, and from all of us, thank you, Mr. President!



Dick Blake, right, with GCSAA President Gerald Faubel, CGCS, left, and FGCSA President Joel Jackson, CGCS, at the 1990 Poa Annuia Classic in Naples. Blake is a past president of both organizations.



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1993 FGCSA
President's Awards

Hugh Bebout

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Don Delaney

Karl Jacobs

Ed Ramey

Native son shines in Sunshine State

BY JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

Golf course superintendents come to their profession by many paths. Don Delaney's path was short and direct. It ran from the back door of his home in Avon Park, where he was born, right into the second tee of the Rivergreens Golf Club.

The golf course was his playground when he was a kid, and it became his weekend and summer workplace as a high school student.

Don was very involved in junior golf and dreamed of someday becoming a professional on the PGA Tour. Dreams are sometimes tempered by reality. When the necessary level of golf skills didn't develop, Don found himself in the school's guidance counselor's office making other plans for college.

Don told the counselor he liked working outdoors and he loved golf. The counselor looked through his stacks of literature and came up with a course catalog from Lake City Community College, home of an outstanding Golf Course Operations program.

Don's first OJT summer assignment was working for Arlin Grant at the Innisbrook Golf Club and Resort near Clearwater.

"It was my first exposure to a large, first-class golf operation," Don recollected, "It really opened my eyes to the possibilities in this business, and that helped motivate me through the rest of my schooling."

In 1973, Don graduated with an Associate of Science degree in golf and landscape operations, and began his career with a two-year stay at Sea Pines Plantation on Hilton Head Island, S.C.

He returned to Florida and was the superintendent at Seven Springs Golf Club in New Port Richey for four years.

He moved south to St. Petersburg where he served for nine years as the manager of golf and landscape operations for the Isla del Sol Golf Club and the Ventura Golf Club in Orlando.

Don's service to the FGCSA began as he served on the board of directors of the West Coast Chapter.

That involvement led to six years on the FGCSA board serving several terms as a director and rotating through the chairs of the executive committee. He was president of the association in 1983-84.

Don also served for four years on committees of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. His work on the longrange certification plan helped lay the groundwork for the successful Certified Golf Course Superintendent program.

One of Don's greatest accomplishments for the FGCSA was organizing the voting delegate concept. It took many long hours to secure the participation and proxy votes of the many GCSAA members scattered over the nine or ten chapters throughout the state. With this bloc vote, Florida became a stronger voice in the future of the GCSAA.

In 1988, Don made a career change within the industry. He left Isla del Sol to become the Turf Division sales manager for Zaun Equipment Company in Longwood.

From this vantage point Don offers some valuable but unfortunately troubling observations about the superintendent profession.

"When I was active in the FGCSA and GCSAA, I was surrounded by people who were motivated professionals in this business. It is easy to get comfortable and think this is the way everybody is con-

'I was honored that my contributions were remembered and appreciated. The award also told me that my former peers were telling me that I still had credibility with them and that is very special and important to me.'



Don Delaney



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Club	Address	Position	Years
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2) _____

If approved, I promise to uphold and abide by the By Laws and Code of Ethics of the FGCSA.

Date: _____ 199__ Signed: _____

(Signature of Applicant)

MAIL APPLICATION and \$70.00 DUES TO: 1-800-732-6053.
 FGCSA Office, 1760 NW Pine Lake Dr., Stuart, FL 34994.

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ducting business: professional... dedicated... complying with regulations... attending seminars... continually getting educated.

"I have to tell you that I'm getting a different picture when I visit some golf courses. I see careless and unprofessional operations that are downright scary from equipment maintenance to chemical handling. The image of the professional superintendent that has made such great strides recently may be getting set up for a fall if some of these people don't clean up their acts."

"I also see the growing trend of club owners and members trying to shift all the responsibility of running their clubs onto a management company. This is of course weakening the superintendent's position. They become less powerful and less responsible in the decision making process.

"Purchasing decisions are placed in the hands of a regional manager and bottom-line profit for the management company is placed above quality of product and service. This results ultimately in a decline of the condition of the course.

"Unless the management company is dedicated to quality, and there are precious few who are, they will not attract a strong, versatile, well-trained superintendent. That kind of situation will tarnish the image of the superintendent profession.

"This trend does not bode well for a profession becoming saturated with more turf graduates. Twenty years ago, I left school and took a job as an assistant superintendent. The superintendent left for another job and I was promoted to head superintendent at the tender age of 19!

"I had no business being a superintendent at that age, but I managed to make it because there weren't that many trained people out there beating the streets.

"These turf schools have been turning out students for 20 years. Everybody's educated now. It's going to take a longer time to reach that goal of becoming a head superintendent.

"A new graduate who really loves this profession will take a job as a spray tech, an irrigation tech, a crew foreman, or whatever. Then they need to get involved

into their local superintendent associations and start learning the ropes from the top superintendents in their area.

"The superstars will rise and be recognized, and the others will be weeded out."

"I want to thank the Central Florida Chapter and the FGCSA for my President's Award. I got pretty choked up when Chuck handed me that plaque.

"I had to give Chuck some information for the presentation so it wasn't a surprise. But when the time came to give

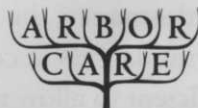
my prepared acceptance speech, I couldn't get much out of my mouth except, "Thank you."

"What made it special to me was that I had left the superintendent side of the business, and I was honored that my contributions were remembered and appreciated. The award also told me that my former peers were telling me that I still had credibility with them and that is very special and important to me."



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Oct. 16 issue of
Golfweek

It's overseeding time, and for the first time in my 20-year career as a superintendent, I'm not overseeding!

For most Sun Belt courses, which have a winter golfing season instead of snowmobile races, overseeding of greens is not an option, but a necessity to ensure that golfers putt on grass instead of dirt. The bermudagrass greens found on the majority of southern courses

turn brown and go dormant during the winter, except in the southernmost regions, such as South Florida.

Overseeding with a cool-season grass, such as perennial rye or bentgrass, provides green color and a growing putting surface while providing protection to the dormant bermudagrass until temperatures warm up.

These grasses are more familiar to winter visitors from the North, so many of them expect and/or demand overseeded greens while they are down South.

Predicting weather is extremely risky, so even in South Florida many superintendents choose to overseed as insurance against the cold. Even if temperatures never get low enough to cause dormancy, the slower growth rate of bermudagrass in cool weather may be insufficient to allow recovery from heavy winter traffic. Greens could get beat to dirt even in a mild winter on small, poorly drained greens subjected to 250 rounds a day. The decision to overseed is given careful consideration,

based on an evaluation of factors at each club.

For instance, in my case (at the private Palm Beach National Golf & Country Club in Lake Worth), the compelling criterion to overseed for the past 14 years has been based on cold weather concerns. Actually, my greens were so contaminated with various bermudagrasses that the uniformity and consistency of overseeding was a vast improvement, and judicious use of fertilizers and activated charcoal have been able to negate the effects of cold snaps during a typical winter. In this area, the non-overseeded clubs have educated their members to accept the occasional cold-induced purplish color of Tifdwarf bermudagrass.

Many resort or daily-fee courses feel their clientele want bright green tees and greens no matter what, so overseeding is standard operating procedure.

The reason I decided not to overseed this year is because we rebuilt four more greens this summer. I now have 14 of 20 greens rebuilt to larger size, better drainage and excellent, consistent Tifdwarf. I no longer need to overseed to hide my Heinz 57 mongrels. Other important factors in my decision were the cost savings of not overseeding, and the elimination of the disruptive three-week overseeding establishment period.

I am confident that I am making the right decision given my circumstances, but I'm still nervous about the uncontrollable weather factor. (The armchair superintendents at my club will let me know in mid-season if they think I made the wrong decision.)

Wish me luck.

**Wish
me
luck!**

**Mark
my words**



Mark Jirrell
Mark Jirrell, CGCS



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Lake City Alumni raise \$5,000

The Lake City Community College Alumni Association held its annual fund-raising golf tournament in Tampa this year with great success. Played on the challenging TPC at Cheval golf course, over 100 alumni and friends turned out for the event. Jim Curry from the Class of '81 won the low gross honors with a solid 75. In keeping with past years, the Class of '81 also took the team title for a record 12th straight year.

The highlight of the events centered on the cocktail reception that night. At the reception co-chairman David Cheesman presented John Piersol, coordinator of LCCC Golf Course Operations Program, with a check for \$5,000 from proceeds generated at the event. This money will go into the college endowment fund.

If you missed this year, next year's tournament will be held on Sept. 17 prior to the FTGA Conference in Fort Lauderdale. If you didn't receive any information on this year's event, please call us at 813-886-0001 and we will make sure you get added to the mailing list. Or you can contact one of the committee members listed below. Once again, thanks go out to all who helped to make this year's event the best ever, especially Cindy Clayton and all the student volunteers.

Also, a very big thank you goes to our sponsors who were generous with their support. We encourage all our alumni to support these companies which help us and the college.

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Walt McMayon
Tim Cann



Ceding to Overseeding

► *Continued from page 72*

inexpensive and you can make points with the Budget Committee, but the Greens Committee will have your hide when the weeds germinate along with the rye. They will also not appreciate the green speed which is now up to a plus two.

The golf purists who want the best genetically engineered, sleekest, fastest greens will use a mixture of German bentgrasses sold under the tradename, "Mercedes Bents". Other courses seeking quick greens in the winter will use a variety of rough bluegrass called *Poa trivialis*. It is neither "rough" nor

"blue". The FTC should look into this clear case of false advertising.

When to overseed? Re-read Murphy's Laws. Break out the ouija boards and tarot cards. Call Madam Sophie for a crystal ball reading. Dial the Psychic Hotline. Send a prayer request to Oral Roberts. Subscribe to the Farmer's Almanac. Tune in the Weather Channel. Cable Willard Scott. Write Sidney Omarr for your horoscope analysis.

Folks this is the mystical, magical realm of fortune tellers, tournament schedulers, and superstitious superintendents. It is Final Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune all rolled up in one toss of the dice, except Alex Trebek and Pat Sajak don't have to face the music when disaster strikes. Mother

Nature rules!

And so, from the seed growers in the Willamette Valley in Oregon to the seed sowers on golf courses in sunny Florida, I leave you with:

*When all is said and all is done
And the seed is on the ground
The course is set, the die is cast
Into the season we are bound*

*No looking back, no second guess
'Tis time for firm determination
For sunny days and balmy nights
And prolific germination*

*A successful season I wish for you
And in the spring this proposition
That if you did your job and did it well
Nature grant you a smooth transition*



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I think William Shakespeare, CGCS said it best when talking about his own Hamlet Country Club, "To overseed or not to overseed? Aye, that's the question. Whether 'tis

nobler to be greener than thy neighboring golf course in the winter or to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous transition in the spring?"

But before that

question can be answered Will and his boss must answer a few other budget busting queries: Whether to overseed at all? How much of the course to overseed? What type of seed to use? When to overseed?

Whether to overseed at all? This question is often asked by stingy Budget Committees, and Greens Committee members who hate the inconvenience of establishment and transition. After all, there was only one mild frost last year. The greens went off color for only one day, and they never got to wear their "I Love Golf" wool sweaters from St. Andrews.

At this point, you politely remind them that the country club they belong to was once an orange grove which was frozen to the ground one lovely Christmas Day by an unpredictable Siberian Express in an otherwise mild winter! You tell them that you must overseed in self defense and for the prevention of professional suicide.

This tactic works well if they are well mannered, sensitive people. If not, just

post their names on the club's bulletin board as those who refused to let you overseed. In addition, you might also name names in a full page ad in the local newspaper. The third step in this approach is to update your resume.

How much of the course to overseed? If you're selling real estate, have a big ego, have a fat wallet, have lightweight mowing equipment for your fairways, have control over tee times and the weather, have a modern irrigation system with excellent coverage, have good drainage on the course, have an understanding membership, have a membership that goes north for the summer transition, have lots of employees, and are envious of the course that does, why not overseed wall to wall?

If you answered "no" to at least two of the above conditions, you might want to consider limiting your overseeding to just greens and tees. You might tell the "wall to wall" faction that the cost of the seed is only about one third of the total cost to maintain the overseeded turf. When they have to back up their demands with dollars they might think twice... or they might just give you the dollars!

What type of seed to use? Do not use bird seed! It has millet and sunflower seed in it and they really slow down the putting speed. Stimpmeter readings for millet are minus five.

Do not use annual rye seed from Scotty's or Home Depot. True, it is

Ceding to Overseeding!

A light-hearted look at managing your course with a split seasonality.

Green Side Up



Joel D. Jackson
Joel Jackson, CGCS

Continued on page 71 ◀

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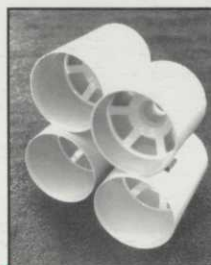


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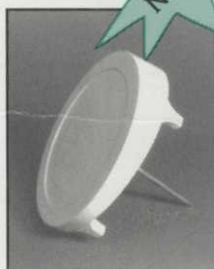
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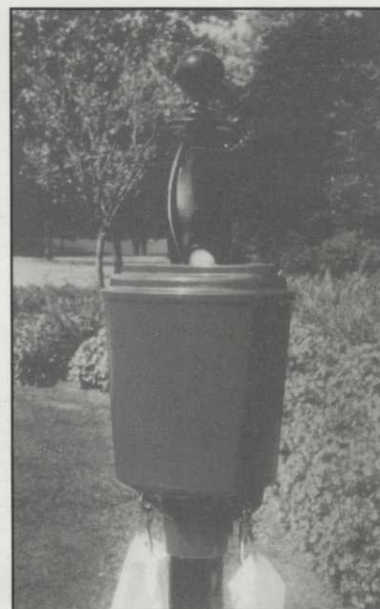
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