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Winter 1994



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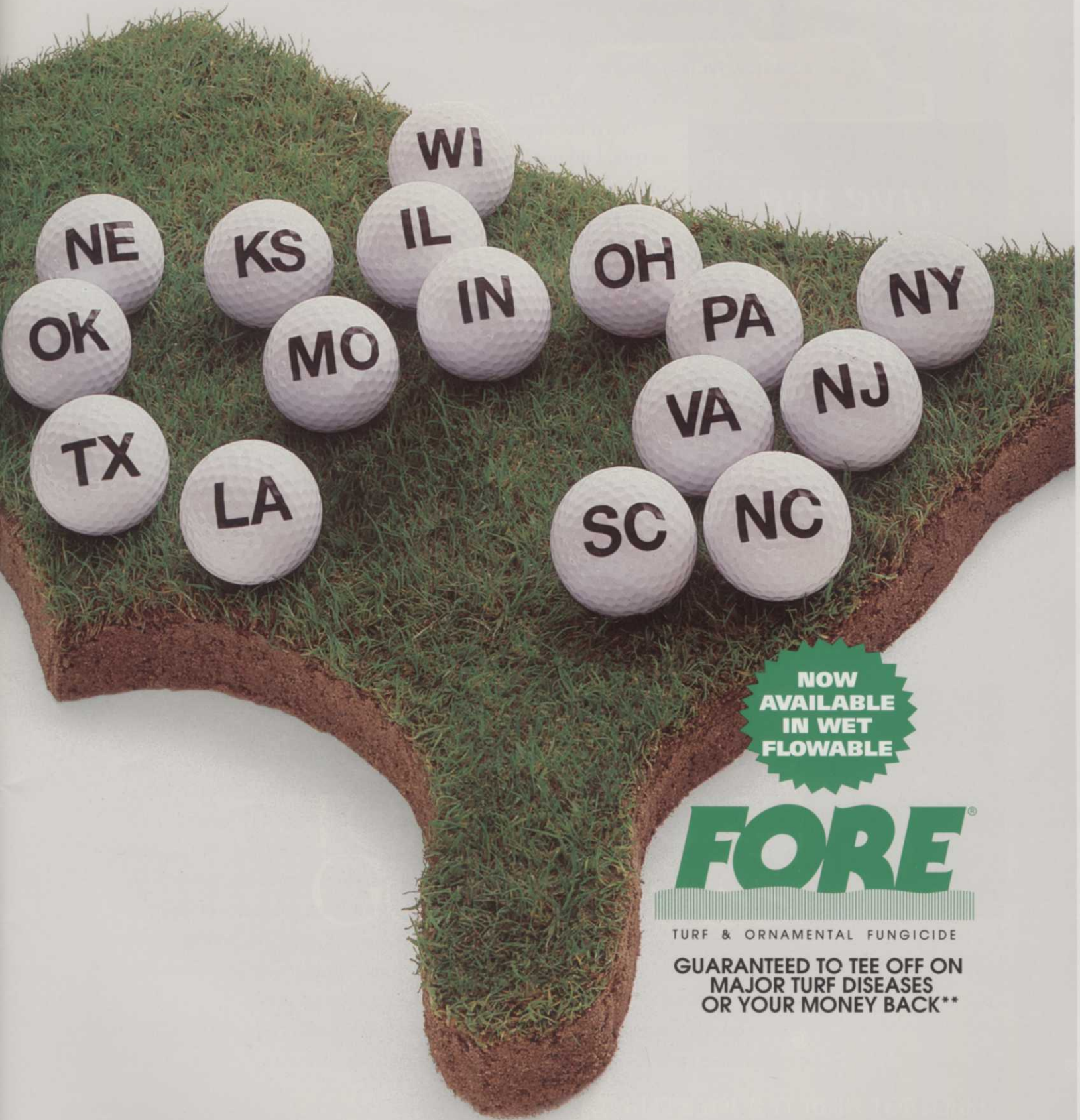
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Years ago, very few people entering the green keeping field were professionally trained and educated, yet they did a great job of running golf courses.

Today, the opposite is true. I do not know of a club that does not look for a college graduate in turfgrass management to manage its golf course. And many are insisting on certified superintendents.

This trend is great for the professional image of golf course management. We are all encouraging our assistants to charge ahead and some people even keep track of how many current superintendents they can claim as one-time protégés.

We are giving out scholarships right and left, which I also think is great, although I would like to see them tied more closely to on-the-job training.

The salary levels for superintendents have increased to the point the field is now attracting a new breed of superintendents, a trend which I do not think is great and will be the subject of another President's Message.

In our quest to elevate the professional standards of golf course

management, have we created a monster?

Recently in Palm Beach County, 75 qualified, educated superintendents applied for one job opening. Given our climate, I don't think the situation is going to get better. I know two good superintendents in South Florida who cannot get jobs because of the competition.

If you were to lose your job today, how easy do you think it would be to find another one? Do you like those 75-to-1 odds?

I know the PGA of America is having the same problem, according to a recent article in Golf Course News.

Should we look into a certification program for Florida? Should we try to elevate the status of assistants? Should we talk to our alma maters about raising their entrance standards and lowering the number of slots? My college — Michigan State — recently took that route.

I have asked Joel Jackson, CGCS, a former FGCSA president who now serves as chairman of the long-range planning committee, to look into the supply-and-demand aspects of our job market. If you would like to serve on that committee, contact Joel. In the meantime, I would like you to think about this problem and send me your proposals (or rebuttals).

It's your job that's on the line... your job and your future.

Have we created a monster?



Paul Crawford

Paul Crawford
President, FGCSA

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As the new year came along and rolled us over, we find that there are many proposed changes under way out at GCSAA. The most important change is not the replacement of upper management at headquarters but instead is the By-law proposals to be voted on at the annual conference in

Dallas.

These proposals were the outcropping of two separate and diverse groups of rank-and-file GCSAA members. From across the country, the standing committee was drawn to Lawrence, Kan. Their mission, to discard old by-law

proposals which had no value and to retain and reword any proposal which had merit and was for the good of the membership. This they did as they came up with their by-law amendment proposals which would then go to another group of GCSAA members, the voting delegates.

All of the chapters affiliated with GCSAA were asked to send their delegates to a September meeting at GCSAA headquarters. The focus was to let the delegates review the proposals from the previous committee and gain their input on the merits of each. Much was said in those meetings both pro and con with the consensus being the proposals had merit and were worth pursuing further.

The final step in this process was the standards committee reviewing the proposals and voting to send them to the

membership at the annual meeting for consideration.

Why is this so unique and important?

Its importance lies in the process itself. It comes from the new leadership of the GCSAA Board of Directors who have made a commitment to change how the process works. This time around the board was genuine in its search for what the MEMBERSHIP wanted to see changed. If the membership did not think a proposal was good for the association, then it was discarded. This, my friend, is one of the most difficult changes of all — a change in attitude from the elected board. This board says, “We want to hear from the membership and do what is best for the membership.” A mighty change indeed.

I must compliment the people who have had the convictions to see this attitude change through. One of the primary issues facing incoming President Randy Nichols a year ago was that the GCSAA was out of touch with the rank-and-file members. He made this issue a personal goal to change. I believe he has done a tremendous job in this area. It was through his leadership and the work of the entire board that the rank-and-file now consider themselves part of the process, not part of the excess.

Congratulations, Randy. Your year in office has been a truly successful one. The average member will not forget your efforts to give the association back to them. From all of us in Florida, we give a big “Thank You” for a job well done. You were, as the saying goes, “the right man in the right place at the right time.”

Many could learn from your example. May God bless until next time.

*Randy put
GCSAA
back on
right track*

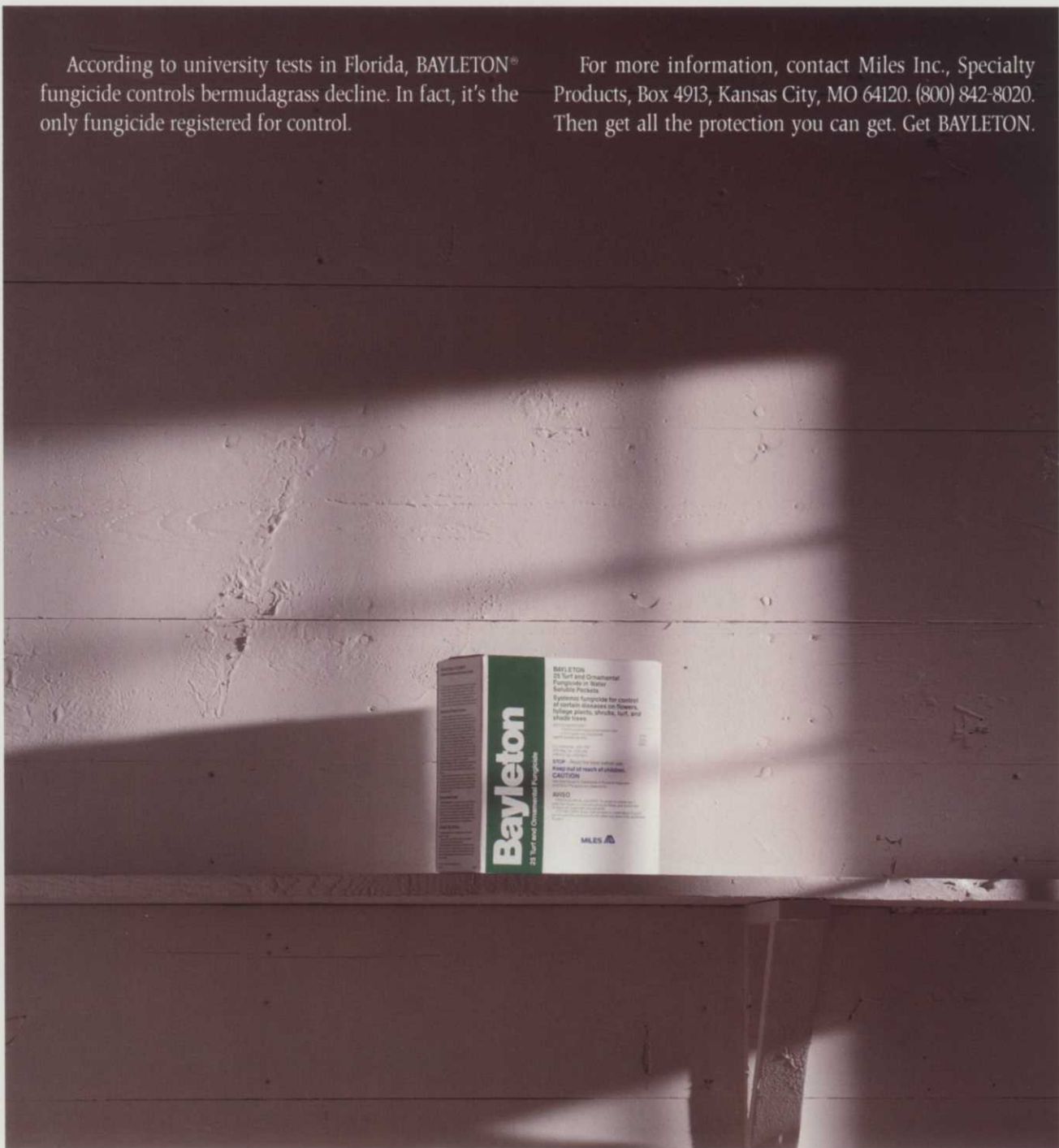
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Tom Benefield, CGCS
Editor

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USGA Green Section's annual Florida educational conferences set for WPB, Orlando March 8, 10



The annual USGA Green Section educational conferences for Florida are scheduled 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. March 8 at the Palm Beach Gardens Marriott and March 10 at the Orlando Marriott.

The fee is \$45 per person for representatives of USGA-member clubs and \$55 per person for others. The price goes up \$10 after Feb. 25. The fee includes lunch.

Featured speakers include Jim Snow, national director of the USGA Green Section; Jerry Pate, professional golfer and golf architect; and Chuck Gast, USGA agronomist for Florida. Co-hosts for both conferences are Roger Harvie, USGA Regional Affairs manager for the Southeast, and John Foy, USGA Green Section director for Florida.

FGCSA members will receive recertification credit towards their pesticide licenses and members of the GCSAA, PGA of America and CMAA will receive recertification credits for attending the conference. To receive credit, individuals must have their membership numbers available at the time of the conference.

The agenda:

- 8:00 Registration.** Coffee and Danish
- 8:45 Welcoming Remarks.** Roger Harvie, manager, USGA Regional Affairs; John Foy, director, USGA Green Section Florida
- 8:50 Management of High Sand Root Zone Greens.** Chuck Gast, agronomist, USGA Green Section, Hobe Sound.

9:20 Environmental Research — What We've Learned. Jim Snow, national director, USGA Green Section, Far Hills, N.J.

10:05 Break

10:20 Soil Sampling — Analysis and Interpretation. Dr. Edward H. Hanlon, extension soil management specialist, University of Florida, Gainesville.

10:50 Labor Law Update and Employee Motivation Tips. Whit Collins, president, West Coast Employers Assn., Inc., Tampa.

12:15 Luncheon

1:30 Safe Handling and Storage of Pesticides. Jeff Wharton, environmental manager, United Horticulture Supply, Lakeland.

2:30 Nuisance Wildlife on Golf Courses. Dr. William Kern, assistant extension scientist, Pinellas County Extension Office, Largo.

3:00 Design and Maintenance Perspectives. Jerry Page, PGA Tour golf professional and golf course architect. Pensacola.

4:15 Adjourn

Reservations are limited to 200 in West Palm Beach and 175 in Orlando. Questions should be directed to Roger Harvie, USGA Regional Affairs office in Marietta, Ga. at 404-951-0766 or to John Foy, USGA Green Section office in Hobe Sound at 407-546-2620.

More than 200 see Envirotron become a reality

More than 200 friends of turfgrass showed up in Gainesville Nov. 19 to witness the formal dedication of the Envirotron turfgrass research facility behind Fifield Hall on the campus of the University of Florida.

The one-of-a-kind, state-of-the-art research facility, comprising a rhizotron, greenhouses, a laboratory, classroom and conference space, and living quarters for graduate students, was built for \$700,000 — \$350,000 from the Florida Turfgrass Association matched by a grant from a state capital improvements fund.



Florida golf course superintendents helped raise most of the FTGA's share.

Featured speaker was Steve Melnyk, former Gator golfer and PGA Tour player who now divides his time between run-

ning a golf management firm and analyzing golf tournaments for CBS Sports.

Other speakers included Dr. John Lombardi, UF president; Jim Davidson, UF vice president for agriculture and natural resources; Dr. Terril Nell, chair of the UF environmental horticulture department; Nick Dennis, FTGA president; State Rep. Bob Casey, D-Gainesville; and James R. Heekin Jr., Board of Regents.

The Envirotron will complement the

Continued on page 12



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Dedication ceremony

Continued from page 10

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Florida 2000 symposiums help IFAS focus on shifting economy

BY TOM BENEFIELD

The first-of-its kind meeting was held at three locations around the state in late fall. These meetings were sponsored and provided by the administration of the Institute of Food and Agricultural Science at the University of Florida.

The focus of these meetings was consistent with its title. To provide input to IFAS on the direction the people of the state of Florida think IFAS should be going. A mission if you will as to how IFAS may change its current goals and programs to better serve the citizens of the state.

The necessity of these "town hall" meetings is prompted by the shrinking agricultural population of the state and the large urban sector which demands more attention. The original mission of IFAS was geared to agriculture and production of agricultural commodities. The new mission is likely to take on an entirely new outlook.

The audience in Broward County was immensely diverse with all fragments of urban and rural society represented. From Home Economics educators, to Sierra Club members to grove and nursery operators, everyone had time to state his case.

A recurring theme was the need for more programs to provide help for those who are helping people on the most basic level of subsistence. Nutritional educational programs and job training programs in both large and small communi-



TOM BENEFIELD

Dr. Terril Nell, chair of the UF/IFAS environmental horticulture department, at the IFAS Florida 2000 Symposium in Fort Lauderdale

The original mission of IFAS was geared to agriculture and production of agricultural commodities. The new mission is likely to take on an entirely new outlook.

ties were asked for. Several of these speakers talked of the successful programs already coming through IFAS and the need to enhance and enlarge them. I learned quite a lot from listening to these people who in their own environment were on the front lines working hard to make a difference in their communities.

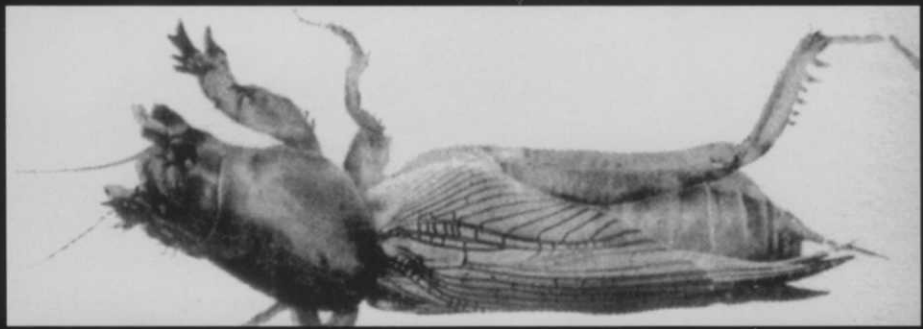
Other topics talked about were how IFAS could do better at their primary mission of helping agriculture. Issues of employee safety training programs echoed around the room as well as requests for IFAS to restaff field and research positions lost in the last three years.

The green industry spoke briefly on our relationship with IFAS through our funding activities. We stressed the need to keep this relationship ongoing and building on it. Our concerns on the much-talked-about IFAS Broward County Research Center land swap with Florida Atlantic University for a parking lot was discussed with UF President John Lombardi after the meeting.

We stated our case for the need to keep the Broward County IFAS research facility in its present location. As we talked, he listened to us and nodded his head in understanding. We left with the feeling that we had gotten our point across. All in all, it was a very positive meeting with everyone getting a chance to share his views.

My hat is off to President Lombardi and the administration at IFAS. Not every university has an outreach program like IFAS. Not every school has the ability to do the things IFAS can do. But the University of Florida has this unique ability with IFAS to develop programs for which their citizens can share. I think the university took a tremendous step in sponsoring these "town hall" meetings. Showing insight and foresight, they are sending a message to the people of the state, saying they plan on doing their job as best they can, but they need our input and we thank them for that.

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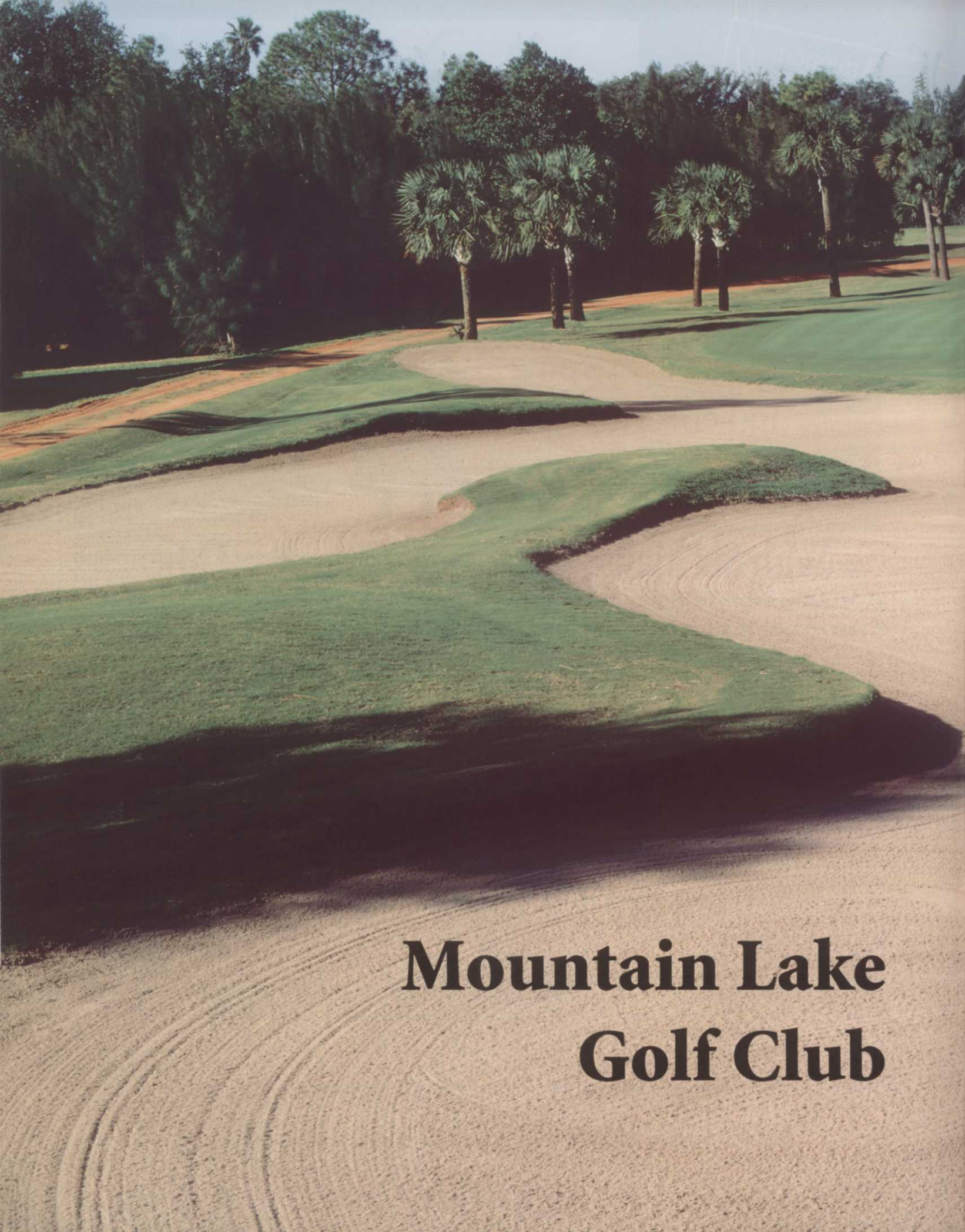
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**Mountain Lake
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A living page from the history of golf in America

BY JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

Viewing the Mountain Lake Golf Club is like looking at a history book of early golf course architecture in America. The men who fashioned the course from the wooded hills in Lake Wales — Seth J. Raynor, golf course designer, and Frederick L. Olmsted, Jr., landscape architect — were pioneering leaders in their respective fields. The book, *The Golf Course*, by Geoffrey S. Cornish and Ronald E. Whitten helps reveal Mountain Lake's unique place in golf's storied past:

“In reviewing the history of golf course architecture it is possible to divide those who practiced it into three groups: those who provided the functional, inexpensive, layouts demanded by their times; those who constructed attractive, enjoyable golf courses that advanced the state of the art; and those who created superior

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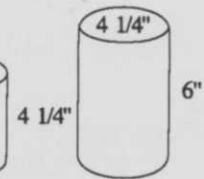
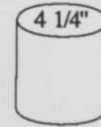
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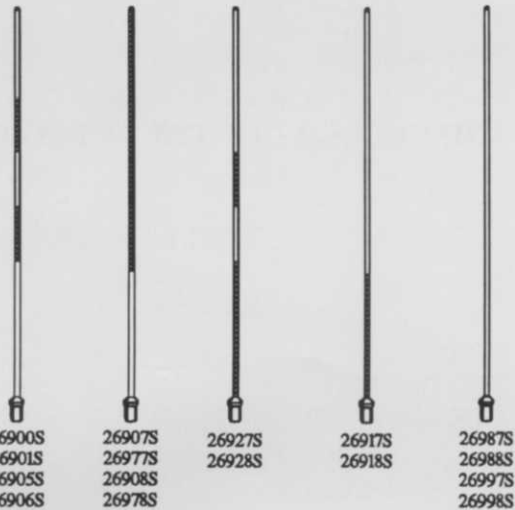
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| 26928S WHT/BLK OLDE STYLE STRIPE | \$11.50 |
| 26978S BLACK/30" YELLOW BOTTOM | \$11.50 |
| 26988S YELLOW | \$ 9.50 |
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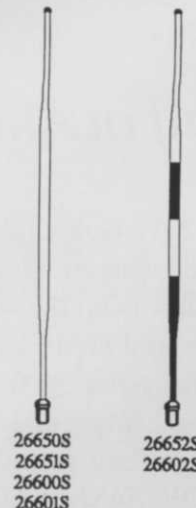
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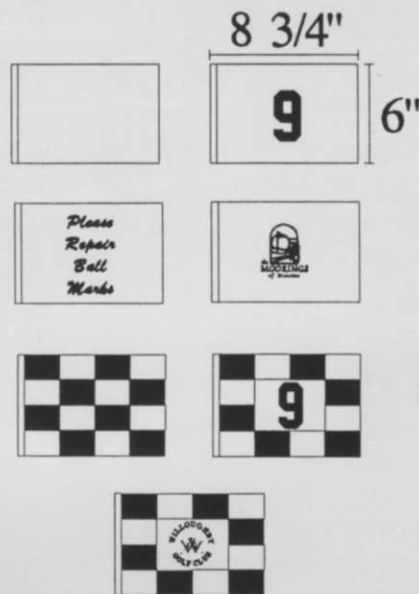
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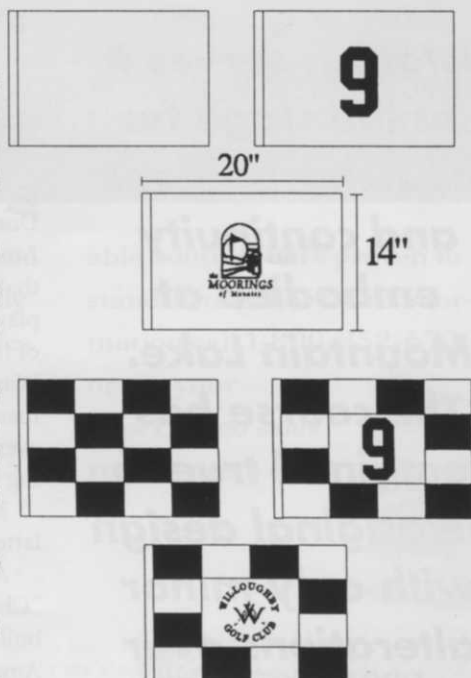
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3 COLOR	\$ 9.75
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CUSTOM EMBROIDERED	
UP TO 6 COLORS	\$16.00
CHECKERED PLAIN	\$ 9.50
CHECKERD NUMBERED	\$10.50
CHECKERED CUSTOM SCREEN PRINTED	
1 COLOR	\$12.00
2 COLOR	\$14.00
3 COLOR	\$16.00
4 COLOR	\$18.00
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Landscaping at Mountain Lake was done by Frederick L. Olmsted, Jr. whose father laid out New York's Central Park. Note the use of native vegetation to frame the hole.

History... serves to set the stage for the rich traditions and continuity embodied at Mountain Lake. The course has remained true to the original design with only minor alterations over the years.

► Continued from Page 17

designs, often pioneering trends in the process.

"Little credit has been given to the first group, the functional designers like Tom Dunn of Britain and Tom Bendelow of America. They provided scores of courses that enabled legions of newcomers to play the game. The second group consists of the accomplished designers, men like Wayne Stiles and Seth Raynor. They were masters of their craft, creating above-average courses and occasional outstanding layouts..."

Mountain Lake certainly falls into the latter category.

According to Cornish and Whitten, "Charles Blair Macdonald is credited with building the first 'classical golf course in America (at Southampton, on New York's Long Island... -ed.), one which would eventually compare favorably with the championship links abroad and serve as an incentive to the elevation of the game

in America.' Before undertaking the project, he made careful studies of the site and demanded that only experts in their field be involved in the construction of the project. He hired local surveyor Seth Raynor to serve as construction engineer. After eight years of planning and two years of actual construction, The National Golf Links of America was completed. Raynor proved to be so invaluable that he would construct all the courses later laid out by Macdonald."

"Raynor constructed not only all of Macdonald designs, but he did some 60 designs of his own. He became a designer in 1915, but was most prolific after World War I... He played the main role in remodeling the Chicago Golf Club, which had been credited entirely, but incorrectly, to Macdonald. Other Raynor originals include (Mountain Lake in 1917), the Country Club of Fairfield and the Greenwich Country Club both in Connecticut, and the Yeaman's Hall Club of Charleston, S.C.... Raynor was respon-

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Mountain Lake Golf Club *Lake Wales*

Management: Robert Krumm, president; L. Patton Brown, greens chairman; H. Palmer Wood, general manager; Paul Tessier golf professional; Steve Ciardullo, superintendent.

Playing policies: Members and guests of members.

Design/Construction: 18-hole, links-style layout designed by Seth Raynor, constructed by Frederick L. Olmsted Jr.; opened 1917.

Greens: Average 6,000 sq. ft.; 12 in Tifdwarf, 6 in Tifway 328 (scheduled for replanting to Tifdwarf); cut 1/8" to 5/32" in the cool seasons; 5/32 to 3/16" in summer; greenspeed 9.0; overseeding Pennlinks bentgrass @ 7 lbs per 1,000 sq. ft.

Tees: 2 acres featuring possibly the state's first island tee on 8th hole (pictured above); mixture of Ormond, common and Tifway 419; cut 3/8"; overseeding: perennial ryegrass blend @ 20 lbs per 1,000 sq. ft.

Through the green: 100 acres mixture of Ormond, common and Tifway 419; cut 1/2" to 1 3/4"; overseeding 40 acres in perennial ryegrass blend @ 450 lbs per acre.

Croquet courts: 2 regulation courts 105'x80' maintained on same program as greens.

Irrigation: Toro Varitime II controls with Toro 680 double row coverage.

Maintenance staff: 14 including Steve Cardullo, superintendent.; Joe McHaffie, asst. supt.; Thomas Hicks, head mechanic (Lake City); Rick Stapleton, assistant mechanic; Marlin Carter, spray technician; Wendell Elliot, irrigation technician.

Equipment: 4 John Deere walk mowers; 1 Toro 3000 diesel triplex; 1 John Deere 2243 triplex; 2 Toro 5100D fairway mowers; 1 John Deere 305 5-gang pull-behind mower; 1 John Deere 2263 trim mower; 1 Toro 325D rotary mower; 1 John Deere 200-gal. sprayer; 1 John Deere bunker rake.

Utility vehicles: 3 John Deere Gators; 2 Club Car Carryalls; 3 tractors; 1 flat bed truck.



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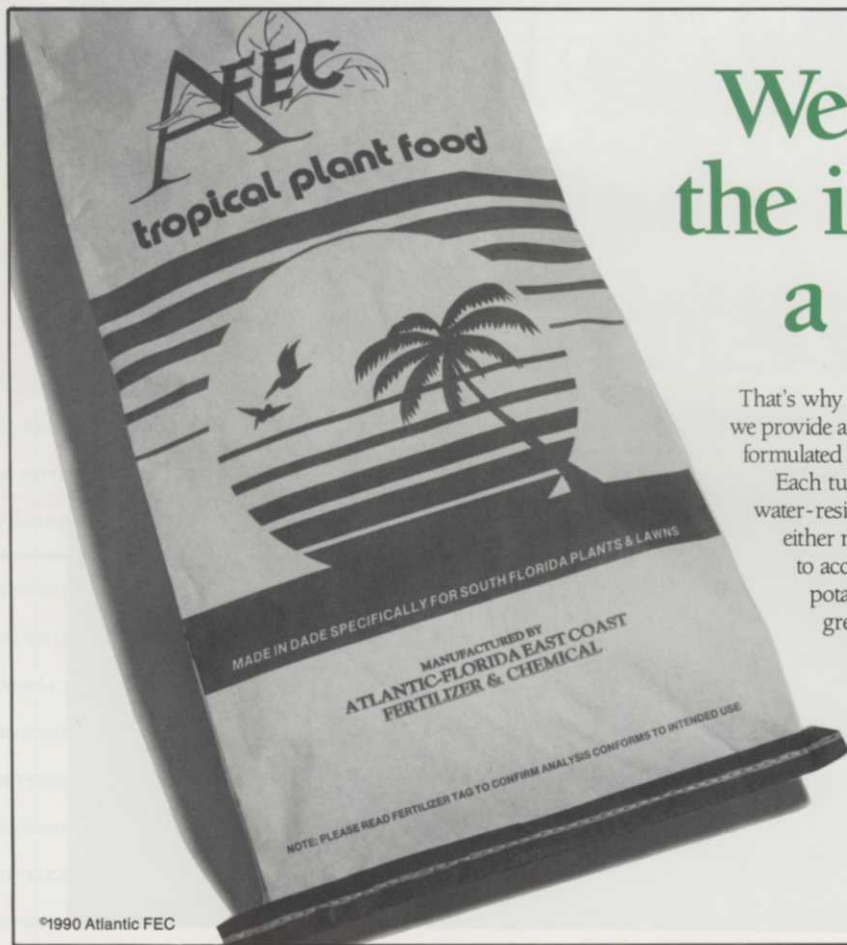
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Bok Tower, centerpiece of nearby Bok Tower Gardens (also designed by Olmsted and his father), can be seen between the trees at right. Frequent concerts on the Tower's world-class carillon enhance the peaceful, park-like setting.

The genius of Olmsted lay in his uncanny ability to pick the ideal location for the key trees on every hole. Over the years, the trees have not intruded on the design or shot values of any hole.

sible for luring Charles Banks and Ralph Barton into the field of golf design. He met and retained Bank on the Hotchkiss School of Salisbury course project and Barton joined him after working on the University of Minnesota course as a volunteer construction supervisor.”

“The team of Raynor, Banks, and Barton along with C.B. Macdonald went on to design and build the excellent Yale University Club. It was to be Raynor’s last effort, for he died of pneumonia in 1926.”

Another world-class architect, Alister Mackenzie, ironically owes one of his most notable courses, Cypress Point, to Raynor’s passing. Referring to Cornish and Whitten we find, “The founders of Cypress Point had not originally retained Mackenzie as their architect. They had hired Raynor, who had done the nearby Monterey Peninsula Country Club course. But Raynor died and although he had left preliminary plans for the course, they were never used.”

While we have digressed a bit into

history, it serves to set the stage for the rich traditions and continuity embodied at Mountain Lake. The course has remained true to the original design with only minor alterations over the years. Noted architect Brian Silva, who is an expert student of the old masters’ designs, is consulted if any alterations are to be discussed. The only major concession to passing time has been the conversion of the original greens to Tifdwarf bermudagrass. The original putting surface contours have been maintained even during that process.

The park-like flavor of the early, turn-of-the-century courses is majestically portrayed as the rolling fairways of Mountain Lake wind their way through the mature trees. In fact, the members and residents refer to the property as “The Park.” It is the stately trees, especially the oaks, that help define and frame the golf holes and course boundaries. Their placement and installation over 76 years ago was a masterpiece of genius by the other half of the combination that brought

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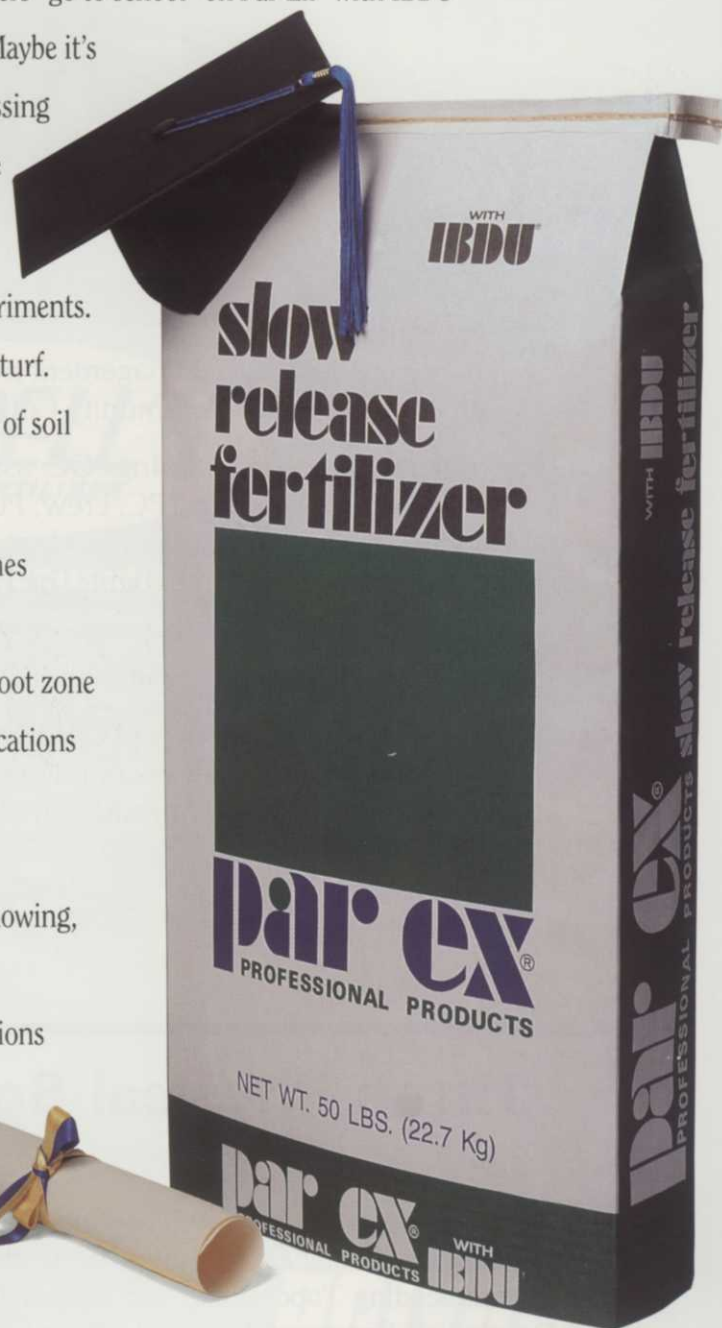
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Steve Ciardullo Larchmont, N.Y.

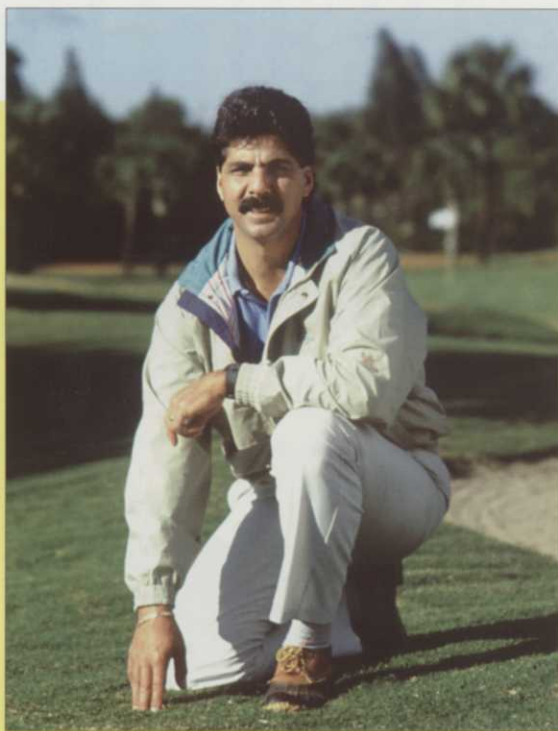
Family: Wife, Debby;
daughter,
Madison, 3.

Education: AA in
business
management
from Broward
Community College; turf management program by Dr.
Max Brown at Broward Community College.

Previous employment: Coral Springs GC, assistant
superintendent; Eage Trace TPC, crew; Pelican's Nest GC,
superintendent (assistant superintendent, construction);
Hunters Ridge CC, superintendent; The Forest CC,
superintendent.

Hobbies and interests: Family, golf, hunting and fishing.

Professional affiliations: GCSAA; FTGA (Funding and
Endowment, Turf Certification committees); FGCSA
Everglades Chapter (former president); FGCSA Ridge
Chapter



**Tradition and
continuity have
also been the
hallmark at
Mountain Lake.
There have been
only seven
superintendents in
the club's history.**

Mountain Lake to life.

Frederick Olmsted, Jr. was just as masterful in his craft of landscape design as Raynor in golf design. Olmsted came by his talent by studying the efforts of his father, who is credited with designing Central Park in New York. The genius of Olmsted lay in his uncanny ability to pick the ideal location for the key trees on every hole. Over the years, the trees have not intruded on the design or shot values of any hole. It actually appears like the course was designed and built through a stand of mature trees.

Tradition and continuity have also been the hallmark of the staff at Mountain Lake. The head landscaper recently retired after 52 years of service. He was the hunting and fishing guide for "The Park" when it was first developed. The first superintendent, Harvey Linderman, retired after 40 years of service. There have been only seven superintendents in the club's history. The working atmosphere is so congenial and professional that the previous superintendents who didn't retire, left reluctantly.

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Wood storks and other wildlife are common sights at Mountain Lake, which lies along the west side of the Central Florida Ridge, Florida's major topographical feature.

That brings us to the present superintendent, Steve Ciardullo.

Steve began his love affair with golf as a 12-year-old caddy in Larchmont, N.Y. "I was big for my age and the caddy master made me swear I would say I was 14 if anybody asked," Steve said with a grin, "I loved it. I caddied year round, even in the winter. A kid could make good money in the winter if he was willing to put up with the cold weather. I worked as a caddy all the way through school until I was 17 or 18."

"I remember one spring, just as the season was beginning, the superintendent — Dominick Dimarzo — stopped me one day and asked me if I would like to work on the maintenance crew that summer. He told me that if I would commit to working for him for four or five summers, he would ask the club to sponsor me at nearby Farmingdale College to major in the agriculture program.

"Well, I passed up his offer. The image of becoming a golf course superintendent at that time wasn't all that great. Hey, I was a 17-year-old kid full of vinegar. Isn't it ironic how things turned

out? If I'd been a little smarter, maybe I could have gotten a quicker start in this business!"

Steve's entry into the business may have been delayed a while, but he had several excellent tutors along his road to success.

"I had the great fortune to work for Lee Bladen and Fred Klauk at the Eagle Trace TPC course. Lee was the first to open my eyes to the possibility of a career in golf course maintenance. He was a master at fine-tuning a budget and getting the most out of every dollar. After Lee left and Fred took over, there was no doubt in my mind that I wanted to become a golf course superintendent.

"Fred was one of the finest examples of a first-class professional that I have ever seen. I think his management programs revolved around teaching everyone everything about their jobs. He never seemed to lack the patience to stop and tell you why something had to be done.

"I was taking turf management classes at night with Dr. Max Brown at Broward Community College. During the day, I would question Fred about the subject

Folks who want to be really successful should work for a couple of good superintendents to compare styles and philosophies. I think there is a real danger for young men to take that first superintendent's job too quickly.

matter from the night before, and he would help me make the transition from the textbook to the real world of turf.

"I suppose the best testimony to his patience and professionalism is that fact that there are seven or eight superintendents or assistant superintendents in the business today. We were all on that crew at that same time."

"I like to think of myself as a pretty well-rounded superintendent at this stage of my career. I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the impact that Buddy Carmouche has had on my development. When I moved to the Naples area, I met Buddy and we became good friends and golfing buddies.

"Buddy taught me how a superintendent must be able to communicate with members and owners. There are times when our positions can be thrust into the middle of club politics. Buddy showed me the value of patience, diplomacy, and common sense. Those aren't things you learn in turf school!

"Sometimes I don't think people realize how much more education there is to get after you get out of school. Folks who

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(It's about time.)

'While we have been idealistically pursuing better management practices, we have been taking a beating in the political arena. Environmental issues are being bandied about emotionally in Tallahassee without the benefit of facts.'

want to be really successful in this business should work for a couple of good superintendents to compare styles and philosophies. I think there is a real danger in the business for young men to take that first superintendent's job too quickly. If he gets in over his head and gets fired, he can get a bad tag put on his reputation that may follow him in the business."

Steve has spent the majority of his career in southeast and southwest Florida. He has found some fundamental differences in turf management between the southern part of the state and the central region.

"Back in Fort Myers, if you asked me what is the number-one turf problem in the state, I would have said mole crickets! I have to tell you that up here nematodes have moved to number one on my list. We still have a pretty large variety of products to use on crickets, but our arsenal on nematicides is limited and in danger of getting smaller all the time.

"The other two big differences are the rainfall and temperatures. Along the coastal areas, rain showers were more frequent and obviously the temperatures were warmer. The guys down south haven't had any nights below 50 degrees. I've already had 10 nights below 50 and several below 40 and a light frost two weeks ago!"

Steve is also making an adjustment to the different style of club management at Mountain Lake.

"I really like the working atmosphere. It is very organized, patient, and professional. I report solely to the greens chairman on matters relating to the condition of the golf course. Period. No discussion.

"The greens committee's number-one function is communications.

"At the meetings, the committee discusses concerns of the members and what they would like to see. In return, I keep them abreast of conditions, maintenance schedules, and projects so they can inform the members.

"I work with the general manager on

budgetary expenditures and other general matters of the operation.

"If it sounds simple, it is! The members know what they want and they work with you to solve any problem that might arise."

What are some of the unique challenges of managing a nearly seventy-seven year old golf course?

One thing in Steve's favor is that the soil on the course percolates very well, so drainage has never really been a problem. When asked about shade problems from the mature trees, Steve had a wonderfully simple answer.

"When I first started, I was concerned about some weak turf areas obviously caused by shade. My fears were quickly put to rest when I found out the members already understood that you couldn't expect perfect turf to coexist with dense shade. The value of the trees to the beauty of the course offsets the small isolated areas that are affected.

"The only other challenge I have is managing the tee and fairway turf. There is a mixture of Ormond, Common, and Tifway 419. In the winter, when we are overseeded, the problem isn't evident; but in the summer months the different grass varieties don't respond equally to the same management practices. Since the number of rounds drops off dramatically in the summer, it is not a major concern to the club.

"We do have the final phase of the greens conversion to Tifdwarf planned for this year. That will keep us busy. We also plan to rework the bunkers. We will maintain the original design. We just need to resod some of the bunker faces, add new sand, and replace any clogged drains. The integrity of the original design has been and will always be maintained.

"I love the layout of the course. There is such a variety of holes with each category of par having long and short holes. I can't imagine anyone not having to use every club in the bag when they play the

course.

"The course is a links-type routing with the 10th hole as far from the clubhouse as you can get.

"When the course was being built they realized they could only have nine holes ready for the announced opening. So, they built holes one through six and then 16 through 18 to get the players back to the club. The remaining nine holes, seven through 15, were opened in 1918.

"The necessary change in routing resulted in a par 71 layout. It has to be one of the most challenging par 71s I have ever seen."

Steve has been active in the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association and the Florida Turfgrass Association. He is a former president of the Everglades Chapter. He is currently serving on the FTGA's Funding and Endowment Committee and the Turfgrass Certification Committee.

"We have always been committed to raising monies for turf research and that, of course, must continue. However, while we have been idealistically pursuing better management practices, we have been taking a beating in the political arena. Environmental issues are being bandied about emotionally and politically in Tallahassee without the benefit of the facts. It is just as important for us to support our lobbyist so he can educate the legislators as it is for us to continue to find better ways to grow turf. It must be a two-pronged approach. The new Turfgrass Economic Impact Survey will help open a few eyes about what the golf industry means to the state of Florida."

Meanwhile, it is obvious what Mountain Lake means to Steve.

"I don't have to generate a lot of paperwork in my job. My responsibilities dictate that I spend more time on the course. I really like that. I get to work closely with my staff and that is important to me. This position has let me get back, literally, to the grass roots of the business."

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Good landscaping need not be dramatic. Native plantings in non-play areas not only reduce maintenance costs but also create a natural setting for the residents.

Landscaping the course



14 professionals share their philosophies for 'painting with plants'

BY TOM BENEFIELD, CGCS

As the editorial focus for the winter issue of the *Florida Green*, we have chosen the subject of landscaping of the golf course. At first glance, many superintendents felt uneasy about writing on this subject. However, after thinking the subject through, superintendents realized that there are many facets of their varied programs which were really landscape-oriented.

Everyone who manages a golf course is a landscape architect to some extent. One of the basic golf course landscaping principles is that of tree removal and replacement.

Most golf courses rely on the expertise and knowledge of the superintendent to develop and imple-

ment long-range tree-planting program, not only in an effort to improve the health and vigor of the turf, but also to provide demanding shotmaking while protecting the integrity of the original course design.

The instituting of color in the golf-course environment is another aspect of landscape-design principles that superintendents are faced with. The use of flowering annuals and perennials is growing in popularity on golf courses.

The aspect of flowering trees and shrubs for the golf course environment has taken on a whole new meaning. From powder puffs to crepe myrtles we see a tremendous array of flowering trees appearing



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This change in people's initial reaction to the course has been tremendous... It is funny what a little landscaping can do to help change people's perception about a golf course from 'goat ranch' to 'country club.'

on the golf courses. Every golf course member speaks in reverence of the floral masterpieces like Augusta National.

Well, enough from me. Now let us hear from fellow superintendents around the state about their programs. I think you will be impressed with their knowledge and expertise. I know I was.

1. Landscaping, does it matter?

Fort Myers Country Club was built in 1916, in the southern outskirts of tiny Fort Myers. The road to the golf course was a one-lane dirt roadway known only as the Tamiami Trail. Just a few short years later — 75 to be exact — the course is on the northern edge of an expanding metropolis and the Tamiami Trail is a six-lane major highway.

"How does all this related to landscaping?" you ask. I am getting to that.

During the summer of 1991, the City

of Fort Myers renovated the old "Fort." These improvements included the installation of a new irrigation system, construction of USGA-spec greens, expansion of the tees, replacement of cart paths, and construction of a new maintenance facility.

In addition to these important improvements, we also decided to berm and landscape the roadways that surround the golf course. The cost of these landscape improvements was insignificant compared with the cost of the overall project.

Which improvement has had the most significant impact on the "Fort?" Is it the slick putting surfaces, improved tees, smoother cart paths? No!

The landscaping improvements have made the most significant difference.

Literally thousands of people drive by the "Fort" every day. I have spoken to



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many people who have never set a foot on the golf course who say, "Wow! The country club has really improved!"

This change in people's initial reaction to the course has been tremendous. When we reopened for play, the positive reaction by the general public was almost immediate.

It is funny what a little landscaping can do to help change people's perception about a golf course from "goat ranch" to "country club."

George Bowling is the golf course superintendent at Fort Myers Country Club and he started in February 1991.

*Michael K. Mongoven, CGCS
Assistant Director of Golf
City of Fort Myers*

Be sure to take into account the amount of sunlight the plants will be exposed to. Note below the careful planting of native trees creates a natural-looking buffer between the golf course and the homesites.



2. Practical Landscape Ideas

Landscaping is a very important part of the Golf Club at Marco, especially around our clubhouse. The selection of plant material is based on location, moisture requirements and labor involved in maintenance.

When selecting a location for ornamentals, take into consideration the amount of direct sun the plant will be receiving on the average day. Shady places need plants that require less light to grow and sunny places need plants that thrive in and tolerate full sun. Wind will also play a factor in the selection.

Tender, brittle plants should be placed away from direct wind blowing on them. Winter cold should also be considered before the north winds freeze what you have planted.

Understanding moisture requirements for different plant varieties is critical. Make sure irrigation will cover all plantings and can be adjusted to give the plants enough but not too much water. Group plants together with similar moisture requirements. Mulch plant beds to keep moisture in the soil on windy, sunny, dry days.

At the Golf Club at Marco, we try to select plant materials that are native to our location. Native plants have good survival rates and tend to be lower maintenance. Also, less fertilizer and insecticides are needed, meaning less labor and less overall maintenance costs for the year. Watering is minimal because natives are better suited for their environment.

Plants that flower at different times of the year are mixed to produce color all year along with placing annual flowers on borders and around trees. Native flowering plants also attract butterflies and birds to give your beds a feeling of natural beauty for everyone to watch and enjoy.

*Tad Altman, Director of Grounds
The Golf Club at Marco
Marco Island*

3. Blend course to community

The Grey Oaks Community is a heavily landscaped upper-income community. The major theme of our landscape design is geared towards colorful flowering shrubs. We use annuals only in a few

Landscape areas should not intrude on the playing of the game. Using plantings as backdrops or to emphasize certain areas is fine as long as they aren't in play. Too many times I see ornamental plantings and flower beds placed where they are too close to a green, in the direct path of the playing of the hole, or even in areas marked off as hazards.

places to accent the shrubbery beds. The golf course was left fairly natural with the plan of slowly enhancing the landscaping to make it blend with the rest of the community.

One of my major winter projects every year is to try and utilize my landscape budget to add to the golf course landscaping.

We have found at Grey Oaks that we can have dramatically colorful areas without the use of annuals. We use combinations of plants like bougainvillea, thryallis, allemande, pentas, hibiscus, oleander, copper leaf, roses, crepe myrtle, lantana, blue daze or any plant we can find that flowers.

In the few annual beds we do have, we will use several different kinds of annuals in each bed to try and take advantage of as many colors as possible. We also use many different types of ornamental grasses to help hide man-made obstructions like irrigation boxes, well pumps and cart paths.

You would be amazed at the color you can add and the response you will get by taking a can of Rustoleum to pampas grass plumes.

We are very fortunate in South Florida that we have such a large selection of

beautiful flowering plants. By using the right combination of plants, you can create a landscape bed that is beautiful, cheap to install and requires less maintenance than any annual bed.

*Mike Hamilton, CGCS
Grey Oaks CC, Naples*

4. Flowers, flowers, flowers everywhere!

You know when November rolls around each year in Southwest Florida by the spectacular arrays of colors which seem to suddenly appear everywhere like magic.

Our Audubon entrance is adorned with white petunias along the Tamiami Trail, bringing focus to our community which normally blends in with the evergreen appearance of this part of the state.

Planning for the type and amount of foliage begins in July when a grower is contacted and cost estimates are obtained for evaluation. After all is said and done with the nursery, we then begin our bed preparation in late September or early October.

We drench our ornamental areas with Vydate L for nematode control two weeks before planting. These same areas are again drenched a week later with Ferrazole

for root and stem diseases caused by Pythium and Phytophthora.

When it comes time to start designing and planting, I was very fortunate to be able to hire Ted Green. At 68, I don't know of anyone that is in such great physical shape. Ted was a nurseryman in the Mt. Kisco area of Westchester County, N.Y. for more than 30 years when he retired to the Naples area.

It is his knowledge of the plant world that makes our club look as beautiful as it does.

During the planting process, we incorporate a 3-9-9 fertilizer along with a 5-2-4 100% natural organic fertilizer.

The entire floral display takes about a month to complete as Ted works only 20 hours a week as a part-timer.

Throughout the remainder of the growing season, which for us runs through the middle of June, applications of fungicides and insecticides are applied only as needed.

The members of Audubon are very appreciative of the beautiful vistas created by Ted around the clubhouse, common grounds, and golf course areas.

At 43, I feel like a son of Ted's and I'm learning something new every day and, the good Lord willing, I'm looking forward to a long and valued friendship.

*Walter J. Owsiany, CGCS
Audubon Country Club, Naples*

5. Landscaping on the golf course

My outlook on what impact landscaping should have on the game of golf itself is twofold.

The most important factor being the beautification aspect, and the introduction of color to the predominantly green of the golf course. Number two being that the playing of the game itself should not be affected by the landscaping.

Beautification: the use of ornamental plants and flowers certainly adds greatly to the esthetics and overall appearance of the grounds in general, and that in itself helps golfers to relax and, as the adage states, "take time to smell the roses." Through the use of the many varieties of colors of flowers and shrubs, we can vary the vistas that are seen day in and day out

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Bright colors — whether from annuals, perennials or flowering trees and shrubs — provide a cheery environment that gets everyone in the mood to slow down and take time to smell the roses.

by many of our clientele.

Shotmaking: Landscape areas should not intrude on the playing of the game. Using plantings as backdrops or to emphasize certain areas is fine as long as they aren't in play. Too many times I see ornamental plantings and flower beds placed where they are too close to a green, in the direct path of the playing of the hole, or

even in areas marked off as hazards.

These scenarios lead to the slowing down of play, arguments between golfers as to whether a free drop is allowed, and even to lost golf balls. Speed of play is a paramount issue these days, so everything we can do to decrease the time spent on a round of golf is important.

Colorful landscaping is a definite as-

set to any golf course, but be careful not to sacrifice the integrity of the game itself.

Pete Bass

6. Tree maintenance

During the construction and grow-in at Gateway Golf Club, one of the biggest challenges we had to face was keeping several thousand newly planted live oak trees watered.

A drip system was installed initially, using pressure-reducing valves off the main lines of the irrigation system, coupled to 1/2-inch PVC. The 1/2-inch PVC pipe was installed using a small vibratory plow. This caused minimal disruption of the turf and the pipe was just snaked through the trees to afford the closest access to each group of plantings.

Quarter-inch tubing was then attached to the 1/2-inch pipe and hand-trenched to each tree. A half-gallon-per-hour emitter was attached and we were in business. After approximately one year, the drip system was phased out as the trees established a good root system.

The second phase of our tree maintenance program began with the use of water-absorbent polymers.

The polymers were placed in the root zone by injecting them through a modified spray rig. A powdered form of polymer was necessary to allow it to pass through the sprayer and the injection



A touch of formality can blend nicely with more natural plantings with thoughtful, careful planning.

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

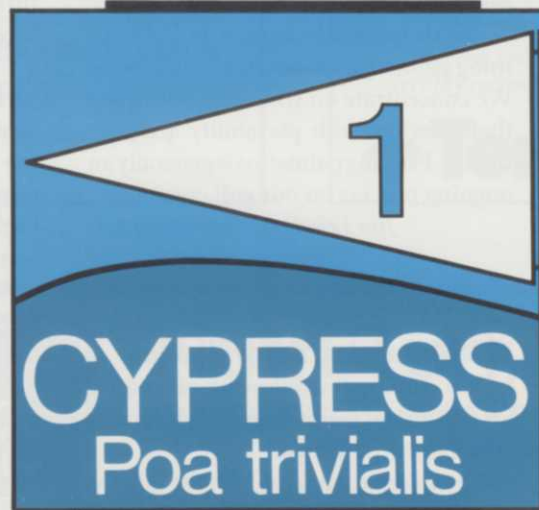
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Cypress is tolerant to shade and damp soils. This unique prostrate growing variety thrives in cool weather and will survive cold weather that will damage turf-type ryegrasses. But most important, Cypress will maintain its dark green color all winter 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 on 'Tildwart' bermudagrass putting green from December 1991 to April 1992 at Gainesville

Turfgrass	Dec.	Jan.	Month Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Mean	Season
Sabre	7.8	8.2	8.4	8.0	5.5	7.8 a*	
Cypress	7.2	7.4	8.4	8.0	6.0	7.5 ab	
Pinnacle	7.5	7.8	7.3	6.6	5.3	7.2 bc	
Premier	7.8	7.7	7.1	7.3	4.5	7.2 bc	
Blend #1	7.4	7.4	7.5	6.9	5.0	7.1	
Mix #2	7.2	7.6	7.3	7.1	5.3	7.1	
GH-89	7.8	7.5	7.5	6.5	5.5	7.1	
Southern Select	7.1	7.1	7.3	6.8	5.5	7.1	
Mix #1	7.5	7.4	7.4	6.5	5.8	7.1	
Leader Board	7.2	7.2	7.3	6.8	6.0	7.1	
Medalist	7.3	7.2	7.4	6.8	5.3	7.1	
Repell II	7.2	7.2	7.3	6.8	5.3	7.1	
Essence	7.8	7.5	7.5	6.5	5.5	7.1	
Cowboy II	7.1	7.3	7.1	6.5	5.5	7.1	
CBS II	7.4	7.4	7.4	6.8	5.8	7.1	
Evening Shade	7.2	7.2	7.3	6.8	6.3	7.1	
Pennant	7.3	7.2	7.4	6.8	6.3	7.1	
Mulligan	7.2	7.2	7.3	6.8	6.3	7.1	
Ph.D	7.3	7.2	7.4	6.8	6.3	7.1	
Pebble Beach	7.2	7.2	7.3	6.8	6.3	7.1	
Sunrise Primo	7.3	7.2	7.4	6.8	6.3	7.1	
Sunrise II	7.2	7.2	7.3	6.8	6.3	7.1	
Prelude II	7.3	7.2	7.4	6.8	6.3	7.1	
Alliance	7.2	7.2	7.3	6.8	6.3	7.1	
Patriot II	7.3	7.2	7.4	6.8	6.3	7.1	
Turf Seed Blend #1	7.2	7.2	7.3	6.8	6.3	7.1	
Competitor	7.3	7.2	7.4	6.8	6.3	7.1	
WXS-1	7.2	7.2	7.3	6.8	6.3	7.1	
WX9-115	7.3	7.2	7.4	6.8	6.3	7.1	
WXP-83	7.2	7.2	7.3	6.8	6.3	7.1	
Turf Seed Blend #2	7.3	7.2	7.4	6.8	6.3	7.1	
Palmer II	7.2	7.2	7.3	6.8	6.3	7.1	
Essence	7.3	7.2	7.4	6.8	6.3	7.1	
Penneagle	7.2	7.2	7.3	6.8	6.3	7.1	
CEO Blend	7.3	7.2	7.4	6.8	6.3	7.1	
in-cross	7.2	7.2	7.3	6.8	6.3	7.1	

*Mean is a measure of relative turf quality. Letters indicate significant differences (p < 0.05) using Duncan's multiple range test. Values in the same row with different letters are significantly different.

We also are on a yearly pine tree inoculation process that was started in 1991 with the assistance of the University of Florida Forestry Department. To date we have inoculated more than 2,000 trees.

wand.

The rate of application of our particular program was 30 pounds of polymer per 150 gallons of water. This gave the solution the consistency of Jell-O before it sets up.

We injected each tree at the drip line six times, completely circling the tree.

A manganese and iron liquid solution was also added at a rate of 10 gallons per 150 gallons of water. This procedure was carried out for three years in a row. The trees are now six years old and continue to thrive. I firmly believe in the use of polymers when doing new landscape installations, and the high quality of the oak trees at Gateway are living proof.

*Michael J. Cantwell, Superintendent
Gateway Golf & Country Club
Fort Myers*

7. Keep it natural

At Pelican's Nest Golf Course, we have a limited amount of maintainable landscaping. The golf course was carved out of a thick oak, pine, and palmetto strand.

Any landscaping that is added are common species for the area. Oaks, pines, wax myrtles are the most commonly used.

We try to keep everything natural on the golf course, and leave the colorful annuals at the clubhouse.

We are on a yearly pine tree replacement program, replacing any trees lost due to lightning or insects. We also are on a yearly pine tree inoculation process that was started in 1991 with the assistance of the University of Florida Forestry Department. To date we have inoculated more than 2,000 trees.

In the summer months, we do an exotic tree and plant removal project. If we are lucky enough to get a permit, we prune our environmentally-sensitive areas during the summer months.

We do spend a lot of man-hours trimming palmettos around tees and greens. We concentrate on trimming palmettos that interfere with playability and aesthetics. Pruning palmettos is generally an ongoing process on our golf course.

*Jim Leiseberg, Superintendent
Pelican's Nest Golf Club
Bonita Springs*

8. Maintaining natural areas

We employ the following procedure for the annual maintenance of our natural areas at The Forest.

Once a year, preferably in the fall, we edge around all of our natural areas with a sod cutter. Painting a line that you can follow with your sod cutter helps to keep things consistent. The purpose for using a sod cutter is to establish an edge, two to three inches in depth, to hold your mulch within the natural area.

Remove all dead debris and prune any vegetation necessary. Spot spray broadleaves and undesirable grasses with Round-Up. Mulch — we use pine straw but any mulching material will do.

Apply preemergent — we use a combination of Ronstar WP at 4 pounds per acre and Gallery at 1 pound per acre. This application will give you approximately 90 days of control on your broadleaves and grassy weeds.

In order to keep a clean edge to our natural areas, we edge them biweekly,

and put new pine straw out twice a year: September and January.

*Rick Tatum, Golf Course Superintendent
The Forest Country Club, Fort Myers*

9. Begins at clearing

Our landscaping plan at Olde Florida Golf Club was initiated the day clearing began on our 220-acre site located in Naples.

The site is extremely wooded with native Florida vegetation. Olde Florida is a nonresidential golf club, which enabled us to construct our golf course with considerably less restriction than a typical residential club that uses the golf course as a means to sell real estate.

There was a concerted effort by all parties involved to remove only what was necessary to establish the 110 acres of turfgrass and excavate the 30 acres of lakes.

There are three predominant plant varieties on the property — bald cypress, cabbage palms and pines. Our goal was to use as much of these existing varieties to frame the golf holes and provide scenic backdrops to as many of the greens and tees as feasible.

Corridors between parallel golf holes were created through *selective* clearing of the underbrush and preserving the native trees. These corridors provide cover for wildlife movement through and across the property as well as add to the tranquil setting.

Another aspect of the construction of the golf course that related to the landscape plan was the design and installation of the irrigation system. The system was designed and installed so that natural vegetation would receive as little irrigation as possible. Numerous part-circle, adjustable heads were installed around the perimeter of the turfgrass, throwing in and away from the wooded surroundings.

Upon the completion of the golf course, phase two of our landscape plan was initiated.

It began with aquatic plantings consisting of soft rush, pickerelweed, and arrowroot on the lake banks that were on the opposing side of the lake from the golf course. These added plants improved the aesthetics of the lake, especially as the



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Pines will provide a natural but dramatic backdrop for this green when they mature.



water table fluctuates.

It also provides increased cover for wildlife.

Another important part of our landscape plan is the protection of our existing trees. Numerous pines that provide backdrops to greens, or those which we considered specimen trees are scheduled for the installation of lightning protection. These pines will also be monitored for symptoms of pine tree decline. Should these symptoms occur, the use of a microinjection system will be used.

Only native plant material such as bald cypress, cabbage palms and pines will be added in areas where additional plant material is needed to frame a golf hole to block an undesirable view.

Olde Florida Golf Club is guided by 20 founding members with a maximum capacity of 275 single members. These individuals are golfers who have joined with a common objective, to play golf. Therefore, we have no intention of planting any annual or perennial flowering material or nonnative vegetation.

We will, however, do our best to encourage the survival and increase the numerous existing natural flowering grasses and shrubs.

Our main goals at Olde Florida were clear and simple. Only remove what was necessary, protect and enhance the re-

Placement is an art form and you "plant to transplant" as trees mature. Note that the cart path soon will be largely shielded from green.

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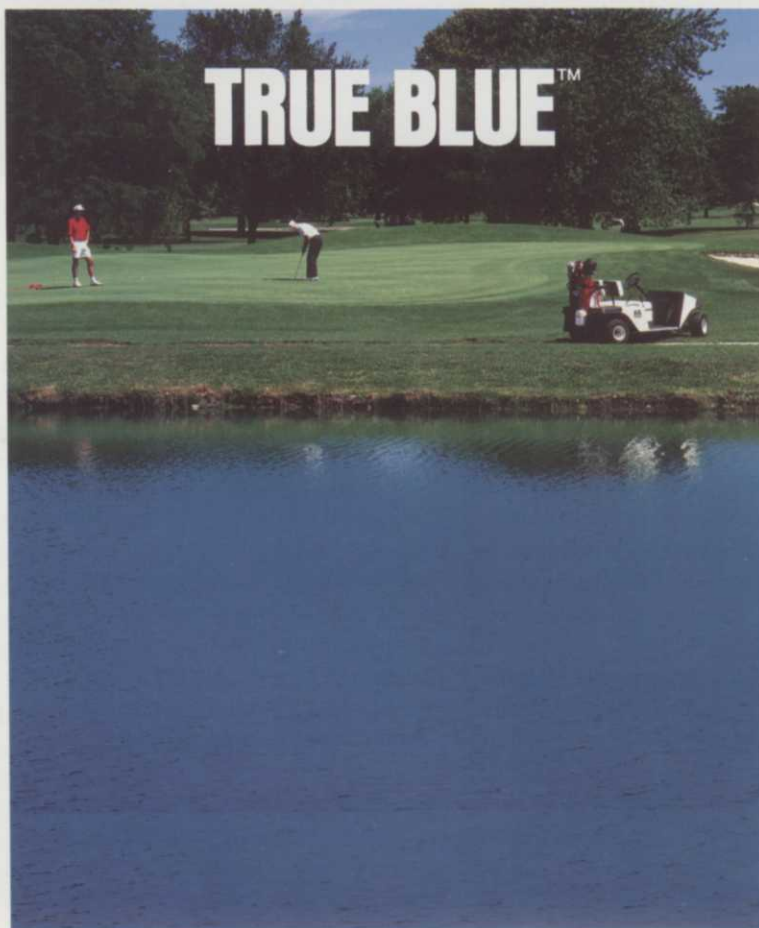
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Aquatic plant communities not only provide beauty to the golfers, but also provide food sources for wildlife as well as cover and nesting sites for the many species of birds that inhabit the course.

maintaining native vegetation and add only currently existing varieties on the golf course if additional material is needed.

Darren Davis
Golf Course Superintendent
Olde Florida Golf Club

10. Tree placement on the golf course

The placement of trees for golf courses has many applications and considerations that should be examined. Due to the limitations of space in this article, we will concentrate on tree placement with respect to shot value and aesthetics. In brief, we will be examining both the physical side of tree placement as well as the psychological side.

Golf course architects have incorpo-

rated trees as strategic objects or focal points, often making use of existing grandfather trees, as a tool in design. Much debate surrounds the use of strategic or “key” trees in golf course design.

Properly placed key trees have become the focal points of some excellent golf holes. Number 17 at Augusta National, with its famed Eisenhower tree, as well as Number 18 at Pebble Beach are just two classic examples of this methodology.

Conversely, could anyone imagine these golf holes without the aesthetically pleasing and often intimidating structures that have made them renowned? Unfortunately, such disasters have been known to occur due to the whims of Mother Nature: disease, insects or injury.

With golf holes missing the vital design trees, shot values are greatly reduced.

Nothing can replace grandfather trees that have perished once a golf hole has been designed around them. Thus the interest level and course rating of the golf course would suffer.

Should you be lucky enough to find an existing (or grandfather) tree where you want to design your hole, by all means make use of it. However, incorporating a contour feature, such as a sand trap or a berm, will save the aesthetic value of the hole should you later lose the tree.

Furthermore, you should avoid planting a new tree solely as the main focal point to turn the hole. Again, making use of a contour feature as well as a permanent aesthetic highlight will redeem the

hole should the tree die. As we are all well aware, it is primarily the responsibility of the golf course superintendent to maintain the aesthetic quality of the golf course.

Jim Larner

11. Fun with flowering trees

Alaqua Country Club is a very wooded site to begin with. My tree program is specifically designed with aesthetics in mind.

Salix babylonica (weeping willow) are used along lake edges for the majestic draping effect. As the willow matures, this effect becomes very dramatic.

Pinuselliotti (slash pine) *Ilex opaca E.P.* (East Palatka holly) and *Gordonia Lasianthus* (loblolly bay) are used in all natural areas, where no turf is present. These trees create an important understory look to complement the large mature trees on property.

Truly, we have the most fun with our flowering tree programs. Throughout the golf course, many variations can be found.

Red bottlebrush (*callistemon viminalis*) are extensively used at the clubhouse. Pink and yellow tabebuissas (*tabebuia argentea* and *pallida*) enhance the boulevard and teeing areas. Dogwoods (*cornus Florida* only) are planted in natural and formal areas, and many different colors of crepe myrtles (*lagerstromia indica*) are planted throughout the property for their multi-color effect.

Steve Wright, CGCS

12. Atlantis G.C.

Flowers and flowering trees: We plant annuals around the clubhouse. We also have annual beds on most tee areas. We use mostly begonias, geraniums and impatiens. We use 4,000 to 5,000 plants.

We have incorporated some flowering trees: yellow and pink tabs, white and pink orchid trees, jacaranda, magnolia, bridal veil and tibouchina. Most of these are used in existing tree stands to add some seasonal color.

Strategic shotmaking: Any key trees that are vital to the play of a shot are given extra care. Any lost trees due to lightning or decline are usually replaced with a quality tree. Other trees are actually a joy to lose if they happen to be a shade problem.



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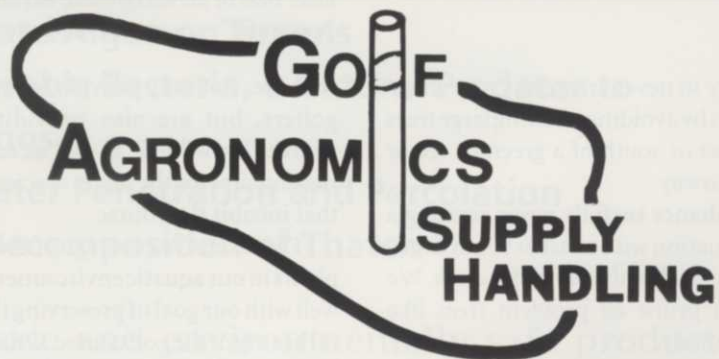
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From manicured grounds to natural vegetation in a three-tiered planting that not only ties in the taller trees in the background, but also quite possibly hides something unsightly — or at least “unnatural” — such as a pump station.

We try to never create any new shade problems by avoiding planting large trees to the east or south of a green or tee or even a fairway.

To enhance turf: By never creating a shade situation with a east or south exposure, we usually enhance turf growth. We also root prune all problem trees like ficus regularly.

Mark Henderson

13. Aquascaping for water enhancement

Tampa Palms Golf and Country Club is constructed within the flood plain of the Hillsborough River in Hillsborough County and the property features many wetland areas. Many of these wetland environments border the golf course and extreme measures are taken to ensure that these areas remain pristine and free from any types of pollutants.

The lakes and ponds at Tampa Palms are all man-made impoundments. Over the past several years, these bodies of water have been planted with aquatic plants native to Florida. These plant com-

munities not only provide beauty to the golfers, but are also providing food sources for wildlife as well as cover and nesting sites for the many species of birds that inhabit the course.

The extensive coverage of the aquatic plants in our aquatic environments fits in well with our goal of preserving the natural beauty of the golf course. Other added benefits of these plants are shoreline erosion control and nutrient runoff absorption.

As these plant communities evolve, less and less lake management has been needed. We still continue to contract out the management of our lakes though, to remove such nuisance invaders as torpedograss, cattails, and ludwigia. We have found that with such a removal program, the desirable native plants can compete with these nuisance species and propagate through both seed and vegetative reproduction.

As one can see, our water enhancement program at Tampa Palms is quite intensive, but at the same time well worth the effort when one considers how ben-

eficial these plant communities are to the golf course. The added beauty and the importance of these plants to the wildlife that abounds on the course are just a couple of the benefits one will receive from such a program.

*Greg Plotner, CGCS
Tampa Palms G&CC*

14. Contrasting landscapes

Quail West Golf and Country Club is a 36-hole development located in Naples. The first 18 holes meander through 540 acres of pines, cypress and cabbage palms, while nine new holes have been built on a former tomato field, which also will be the site of nine more holes.

The original 18 holes did not require a lot of additional landscaping after the golf course was completed. Most of the color and texture differences seen on the course come from mitigation areas.

Mitigation areas are required, “created wetlands” because nine of the 18 holes border protected cypress preserves. Subtle hints of white, yellow, red, purple, and green arise from aquatic plants lo-

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cated within 19 mitigation areas. To round out the landscaping, bougainvillea, coco plum, ferns, wildflowers and ornamental grasses were planted to give hints of color and texture in desired areas.

The nine holes built over the tomato field have provided more of a landscaping challenge. To set apart each hole, over 5,000 trees comprised of oaks, pines and five different types of palms were planted. Around many of the trees, beds were created for additional plantings of color and texture. Bougainvillea, coco plum, firecracker, oleander, plumbago, thryallis, annuals, and ornamental grasses were installed for bursts of color to add to the golfers' enjoyment.

While the landscaping on the first 18 holes almost maintains itself, the landscaping on the other 18 holes requires a more regimented maintenance schedule.

Kevin D. Selsor

*Assistant Golf Course Superintendent
Quail West G&CC, Naples*

If the above-mentioned writers indicate anything, it would be the wide array of varied programs in use around the state.

Certainly one of the up-and-coming programs is that of providing for the natural environment. We are seeing that the use of indigenous species is becoming increasingly popular for a variety of reasons.

It is encouraging to note that our industry as a whole is demonstrating to the outside world that we are environmentally conscious. That we are taking steps in the design, construction and maintenance of golf courses to ensure the viability and health of the native ecosystem.

As more attention is focused on our industry we can be proud of our efforts to protect and preserve our native environment and at the same time provide golfing facilities our members can be proud of.

At the same time, however, we have within us a feeling for the beauty and

attributes which flowering annuals can add to the enhancement of the golfing experience.

Not only from an aesthetic point of view, but also by creating environmental conditions conducive to the attraction and reproduction of beautiful butterflies, protective bees and other insects which delight their taste buds with the sweet nectar of our beautiful flowers.

I guess the most important and least-appreciated aspect of our landscaping programs is our contribution to the micro-ecosystems which flourish from our labor.

I am proud to be associated with an association which cares deeply about the environment they live and work in. We represent the "true environmentalists."

Not only do we have our convictions and beliefs, but we work diligently to put these beliefs into reality, we practice what we preach and our message is that we can coexist with the "natural" world.

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Landscape for impact

BY KEVIN DOWNING, CGCS

*Golf/Landscape Manager
Willoughby Golf Club*

How many times have you heard a golfer in Florida make a direct comparison between their course “up North” and how it is always better than the course they play on in Florida?

I think that most of us in the turf

business who have had the opportunity to visit courses in the cool season belt would agree that the texture and color of the bentgrasses and bluegrasses sometimes have an edge on the bermuda strains.

Ten years ago, a golfer would most likely prefer a bentgrass putting surface over a bermudagrass green, but because of new technology and better management by superintendents in our state, we

have made major strides in equalizing this comparison.

So what is it? Why do golfers still think that the courses up North outshine our Florida courses with all their majestic water hazards and sculptured bunkers?

My answer to this question was answered a number of years ago after I had the chance to travel and play some famous courses in the Northeast.

The beauty and aura of spots like



The use of native plants and understory provide excellent backdrop and definition to the hole, aiding the golfer's depth perception.

Winged Foot, Baltusrol, Soucon Valley, Ridgewood and even Pine Valley had one similar characteristic in the fact that they had trees and, more importantly, they had *mature* trees. Utilizing the existing foliage or enhancing with additional landscape material has created some strong features that provide backdrops and framing for these great courses.

A lot of our courses in Florida depend entirely on mounding or bunkers for

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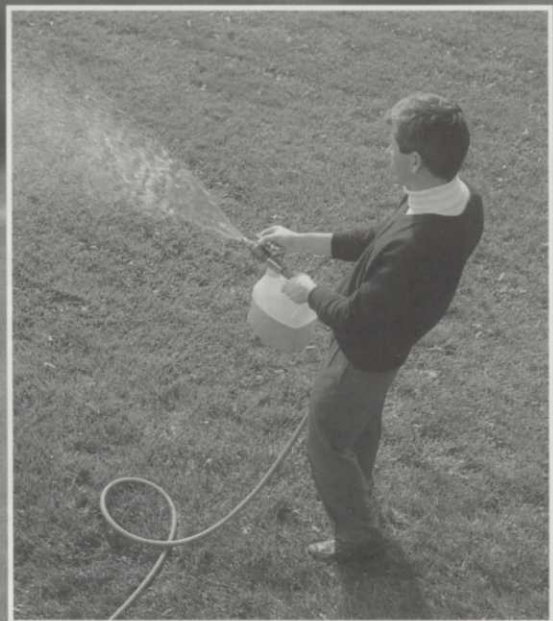
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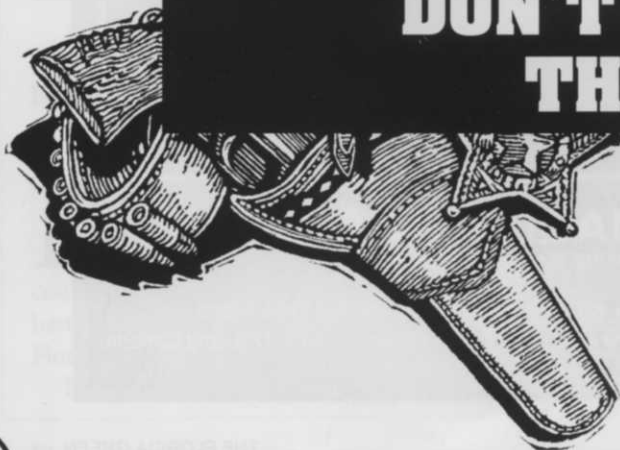
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these same design components. Some of our courses scattered throughout the state have been blessed with great natural vegetation but, for the most part, the courses end up on a site of piney flatwoods with a strong emphasis on barrel-tiled rooflines.

The enhancement of our courses can be positively influenced if clubs and superintendents make a conscious effort to implement an ongoing landscape program.

I think the Pine Valley Golf Club in New Jersey represents a classic example of a nice, sandy site that possessed good design characteristics, but its beauty and stature in today's golf circles might have been shaped by the efforts on the golf superintendent Ed Steinger and club president, Mr. Brown.

Photo documentation clearly shows that tree planting programs that were started in the 1930s and 1940s in order to compliment the existing course, have dramatically helped this top-ranked course attain its lofty position.

So what's the point? Another northern course with great trees? The important point is for us to look up from the turf for awhile and study the course from a player's viewpoint looking down a fairway or peering into a greens complex.

Establishing a concept

Many superintendents are geared to turf management and might not have the proper training or experience to initiate a long-range landscape plan. If you think that you are not skilled enough, then it is probably worth your while to interact your club officials with either a landscape architect or designer to help you through the review and planning processes.

The predominant reason for initiating a long-term plan is because the changing individual concerns of committees might have a tendency to alter good concepts. Usually a landscape program might take five to 10 years to implement which sometimes would outlast the tenure of the superintendent.

One pitfall to avoid is make sure that

your landscape adviser is familiar with the game of golf and educate him or her on the positive and negative effects that trees have on turf operations.

Key components.

Playability of the course should always be the key factor in your plan. Studying how each hole is played or perceived influences the decision on trees or underplanting locations.

Understanding the growth rate and maturity of each material used is a key component to the success of the project. Good golf holes become great when the framing or backdrop quality is enhanced by proper planting.

Always take the time to stake out planned tree or landscape bed sites a few days before actual installation so you can take the time and imagine how they will appear from a variety of different angles.

Spacing is an art form, since you are always worried about the look of initial installation but must be prepared to deal with the effects of overcrowding down

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Saving our native areas adds instant credibility and maturity, but the costs of keeping these areas “natural” in a maintained-turf environment can be overwhelming.

the road. I have always used the philosophy of “plant to transplant.” Today five trees might look perfect in a planting but at a later date, the same site will appear more attractive if you transplant out two or three of the specimens to allow for adequate tree maturity.

Spacing for equipment maneuverability is important and don't overlook the concern of planting too close to main playing areas.

Staggering of heights can enable a site to take on a mature look just a little bit sooner. There are certain situations where the best alternative would be to introduce mature trees that initially cost more but obviously make an immediate impact on a void area.

Along with this type of solution, it would sometimes make perfect sense to introduce similar varieties that are smaller in height to give the project scale and depth.

In some tree plantings, it is beneficial to introduce lower shrub planting that will make the whole landscape seem complete and might balance the seasonality of the trees. Care needs to be taken when using this base planting of shrubbery to not adversely affect the playability of the course by unduly penalizing the errant golf shot.

Selection of the proper material for your course is another component of a landscape plan that stands the test of time. Mother nature has always been the best landscape designer so it only makes sense to copy some of her skills by utilizing landscape material that is indigenous to your area.

Using selections that are found within 100 miles of your course minimizes the risk of unsuccessful plant establishment. Take time to travel to other courses in your area so you can visualize the plants in existing situations, but don't necessar-

ily limit your selections to what you see because experimenting with other varieties can be worthwhile.

The use of xeriscape plants will save you a lot of time and money in the after-care process. Simply stated, the xeriscape process is not only the emphasis of water conservation, but making sure that you place the right tree, plant or vine into a situation which will enhance its survival and accomplish your goal. So much can be said about this concept but probably it is the basis for another article.

In my observations, one of the biggest mistakes made in landscaping courses is the over-use of too many varieties that end up looking like a fire-sale project. I think a course should not utilize more than 12 to 18 varieties with no more than four to six on a given hole.

To emphasize my point, I have never seen an attractive natural setting that had more than these quantities of

groundcover or canopy trees.

Natural design has been the trend in the last few years because of environmental concerns and legislative pressure, but I disagree with a recent *Golf Digest* article that totally ruled out the suggestion of flowers on the course. Proper use of high visibility flowers whether perennial or annual adds a finishing touch to a course.

Saving our native areas adds instant credibility and maturity to the golf course, but let's be honest in recognizing that the costs of keeping these areas "natural" in a maintained-turf environment can be overwhelming. Be selective in what you try to retain and maintain because the vines and exotics can cause more problems than the pine or myrtle that you are striving to save.

When our company started working on the Willoughby Golf Club project, one of the first things we adopted after the golf course corridors were cleared, was the establishment of a landscape concept. We also carried this theme into the interaction of the course landscape plan with the eventual landscape design of the housing units.

Because of this initial planning, we have been able to continue to build out the community with the golf course character still intact. A good landscape plan at your club can introduce this design character and will help the facility mature gracefully.



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Bermudagrass has tough time recovering from blue-green algae

*Prevention with cultural practices
and fungicides is a lot easier than
elimination and reclamation*

BY MONICA ELLIOTT
University of Florida, IFAS
Fort Lauderdale Research and
Education Center

Blue-green algae can be a problem on putting greens in Florida all year when excess water, either in the form of irrigation or rainfall, is prevalent.

These algae seem to readily occupy any soil area that is not covered by bermudagrass. Once the blue-green algae become established, the area can become crusty, which prevents the bermudagrass from growing back into that soil area. It is also possible that toxins produced by these algae may prevent bermudagrass recovery.

Many golf course superintendents use dilute sodium hypochlorite (e.g., Clorox) and feel they obtain effective control.

However, to my knowledge, this is not a legal use of the product since sodium hypochlorite is not registered for use on turfgrass and, as such, cannot be recommended by the University of Florida for use as a pesticide.

Mancozeb and maneb products (EBDC fungicides) are currently labeled for algae control. When EBDC fungicides were under review by EPA for re-registration, there was the possibility that these fungicides would not be re-registered. It would also be useful to be able to rotate between fungicide classes to prevent fungicide resistance from developing.

Therefore, studies were begun to determine if other fungicides would be effective for algae control. The turfgrass area used for the experiments were Tifdwarf bermudagrass located on the FGCSA research putting green.

Fungicides such as chlorothalonil (Daconil 2787) and anilazine (Dyrene) are currently or have been used in paints for control of algae. Thus they were considered as the most likely candidates for algae control on turfgrass, especially since they already have turfgrass labels.

However, anilazine was not included in the study since it will no longer be manufactured and, as such eventually will not be available for use.

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However, I would hope that superintendents would initiate cultural and chemical control methods before the crust develops, as it is extremely difficult to eliminate algae and regrow grass once a crust has developed.

The fungicides were applied preventively. In other words, they were applied as soon as the environmental conditions were conducive for disease development.

For research purposes, this meant that we irrigated heavily twice a day in addition to any rainfall received.

Similar results were observed in 1991 and 1992. Both mancozeb (Dithane DF) and chlorothalonil (Daconil 2787) fungicides, when applied at labeled rates and intervals, were effective in control-

ling algae development.

A new product on the market that has been effective for algae control in studies conducted in Texas is quaternary ammonium salts (Consan Triple Action 20 and Algaen-X).

One note of caution with these products: They should not be mixed with iron-based products or with dye indicators.

Theses will be included in the algae studies this summer here in Florida as

well as studies on timing intervals of fungicide applications.

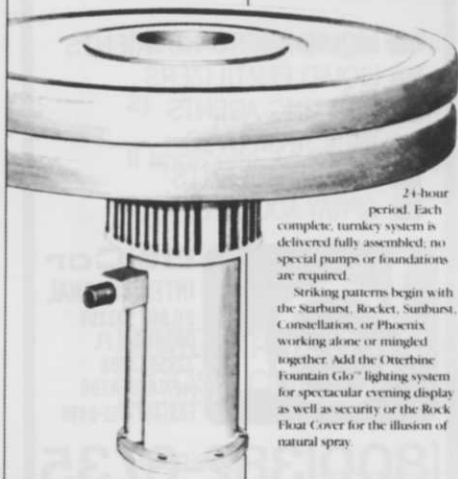
We also plan to look at curative control of blue-green algae. In other words, what to do after the crust has developed.

However, I would hope that superintendents would initiate cultural and chemical control methods before the crust develops, as it is extremely difficult to eliminate algae and regrow grass once a crust has developed.

Troubled waters?

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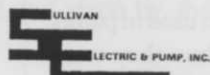
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**1993 FGCSA
President's Awards**

Hugh Bebout

Dick Blake

Don Delaney

Karl Jacob

Ed Ramey

A Friend To All

Karl Jacob came to the U.S. from Romania after World War II and built a stunning career in golf course management

Edited and written

BY JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

The Journey

Karl was born in Moravitz, Romania on June 3, 1933. He came to the United States in 1949. He lived at first in New Jersey, and then later moved to North Carolina.

Karl was with the 5th Armored Division in Korea, where he was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart medals. After his military service was over, Karl served the people in North Carolina as a constable and in the State Police.

Karl attended the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where he received his turf management education.

Karl loved to play the game of golf. He once was the North Carolina State Amateur Champion.

He began his career as a golf course superintendent during the construction of Tanglewood Park in Clemmons, N.C., now the site of the PGA Seniors Vantage Championship. From there he went to the Westview Country Club in Miami. His next assignment was the Hamlet in Delray Beach. Then it was on to Martin Downs in Stuart and finally to Black Diamond Ranch where he ended his career.

Golf Digest rated Black Diamond

Number 1 in Florida and 24th in the United States. *Golf Magazine* rated Black Diamond 48th in the U.S. and 75th in the world. Karl was really proud of this.

Karl belonged to the FTGA and the GCSAA (32 years). He had also been a member of FGCSA's South Florida, Palm Beach and Seven Rivers Chapters. Karl was proud of his profession and very well respected in his field. He took a lot of interest in young people going into the profession and helped a lot of them along the way.

Karl and his wife, Donna, have three children. Mark lives in Burnsville, N.C.; Lori lives in Lake Worth; and Beth lives in West Palm Beach.

He died April 17 and on Aug. 1, Karl Jacob was posthumously awarded the FGCSA President's Award for outstanding lifetime service to the golf turf industry.

Donna Jacob

Fellow Travelers and Friends

The Journey contained the milestones that marked Karl's passage through time. It is the comments and recollections of his friends and associates that gives us a more detailed look at the man held in such high esteem by those who knew him well.



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.

Scott Foster, Superintendent, Villa Del Ray GC:

"I met Karl 13 years ago when I took the superintendent's job at Villa Del Ray. I had seen some tee signs at a club in the area that I was interested in getting for my club. The superintendent told me that Karl Jacob over at The Hamlet made them. Ironically, Villa Del Ray is right next door to The Hamlet. Since we were neighbors, we began to spend a couple of hours a week on each other's courses. We became good friends and fishing buddies.

"I was a young superintendent and Karl was from the old school. He was an excellent superintendent, and I came to look upon him as my mentor, and in many ways as a father figure. He was very particular in his craft and how he conducted business. He was a guiding hand that helped me along my career.

"He shared with me the secrets of the profession and gave me the ability to put things into the proper perspective. He had a real zest for life, which he lived to the fullest. I always had the feeling he was after something bigger and never content with the status quo."

James Howell, Head Mechanic, The Hamlet CC:

"15 years ago I worked for Karl at the Hamlet. When he came here, the course needed a lot of attention. He turned it around and made the place immaculate. He was without a doubt one of the best people I ever worked for. He was helpful, fair, and stood behind his employees.

"He was more than a boss. He was my friend.

"We maintained that friendship even after he left The Hamlet. He paid me a great compliment by asking me to join him at Black Diamond, but I had to decline for family reasons. We kept in touch over the years and we would often visit when he was in the area."

Stuart Bozeman, Superintendent, Seven Rivers G & CC:

"A lot of people don't know this, but Karl was the first choice as superintendent for Black Diamond. He had a contract with Martin Downs and could not accept the offer. A few years later, when Jim Lerner moved to Naples, Karl was

contacted again and he took the position.

"I was Jim's assistant and served as the interim superintendent until Karl arrived.

"Naturally, I was a little apprehensive the first time I talked to him on the phone. We had never met. He sounded brusque and sort gruff the first time we spoke. I didn't know what I was in for.

"Of course, it turned out to be a great relationship. He was a pleasure to work with. Make no mistake, Karl would tell you what was on his mind. However, he would listen to your point of view and respect your point of view. He may not agree with you, but he listened to you.

"He was an excellent golfer. He loved the game. He also loved to fish, and I took him on many a trip to my secret redfish holes. We developed a great relationship and became good friends away from work."

Jack Harrell, Sr., Harrell's, Inc.:

"What I admire most about Karl is that he literally had to pull himself up by his own bootstraps from the horrors, destruction, and displacement of World War II to become one of the best superintendents in the industry. He was a very intelligent man and a super human being.

"Oh, he could be hardheaded in the firmness of his convictions, but he treated everyone with respect. While he was a valued customer, he was also a good friend. He had a very thorough knowledge of turf, and he had a knack for making things work. He definitely had a charisma about him. There was something that attracted him to you, and made you want to be around him.

"I don't believe I have ever met anyone so innately intelligent. I believe, that if he had been raised in a normal environment in his youth and given the advantages you and I have had, he would have been a Nobel laureate in some scientific field."

Laurie Frutchey, Superintendent, Black Diamond Ranch:

"I came to Black Diamond as a biology major out of FSU. I had worked on golf courses during my college summers. I started at Black Diamond as a spray technician, then moved up to foreman, and eventually to assistant superinten-

dent all in a two-year period.

"I have been a product of one of Karl's management philosophies of promoting from within. He was one of the best. He had a great knowledge of turf. There wasn't any problem that we faced that he couldn't diagnose and solve.

"He developed an excellent program for turf management, and I try to adhere to it religiously. He also created a wonderful working environment for the 40 people on staff. I admired him for his professional ethics and demeanor. It was a pleasure to work with him. He was also helpful to the other superintendents in the area."

Terry Lagree, Vice President and General Manager, Black Diamond Ranch:

"Karl was one the nicest men I ever had the pleasure of knowing. I marveled at his life experiences. He was always straightforward in his thought processes and in dealing with people. He got the most out of his people and he treated them fairly and honestly.

"He was one of the finest manicurists of a golf course that I have ever seen. He could look at a turf problem and diagnose it almost immediately. I think he may have forgotten more about turf than the rest of us have ever learned.

"Karl spent three years with us, and he certainly taught me a great deal about what is really required to groom a golf course. We had a wonderful rapport. He was a good friend. I think our superintendent, Laurie Frutchey, may turn out to be one of the best in the business, because of the time she spent with Karl."

Playing in Karl's Zone

When I think of Karl Jacob, I think of a real gentleman. One who was respected by his peers of Palm Beach County. He was considered to be one of the very best in our profession. Karl was the host of several monthly Palm Beach Chapter meetings, and the attendance was always very strong, revealing a sense of loyalty to him.

When Karl told us he was going to leave Palm Beach County to relocate to Black Diamond in Lecanto, we realized we losing a good friend. Afterwards, when we would run into Karl at national con-

ferences, he would say, "When are you Bailey Boys going to come up and see me at the Diamond?" My brother Dave and Daniel Zelazek would go up to take photos for the *Florida Green*, but work never gave me the time to go along.

Finally, my timing was perfect during a Crowfoot Open weekend three years ago, and Mark Jarrell, Ed Mullen, and I made the trip to Black Diamond. Karl treated us like royalty, buying lunch and arranging for a round of golf. We went to the range and I tried to find my golf swing. I was really psyched to play. I had seen all the great photos of the famous quarry holes. I had the pleasure of riding with Karl and I was looking forward to a day away from my busy routine.

Because Karl knew we were coming for some time, I kept teasing him about how he had "prepped" the course just for us. It was in absolutely perfect condition! No scalp marks or weeds were to be found anywhere! Karl said, "Oh no, we're in lousy shape with all sorts of problems." I

kept saying, "So, where's all the problems? The place looks perfect to me."

The conditions were so ideal that I was lulled into playing some really good golf. This is very uncommon for me. As a rank amateur often struggling to break 100, I have never experienced that "zone" the professionals talk about.

On this day, however, my shots were flying true. I was hitting the ball where Karl told me to aim it on the quarry holes. I actually parred those three holes! It was scary! Maybe I was finally playing in the "zone." I was sad to see the 18th tee come up, for the day would soon be over. I think I shot a 79 that day. Not bad for a guy who had hoped to just break 100.

I know it was the day, the course, and Karl that helped put me in that "zone." In fact, we were both playing better than we deserved. Karl kept complaining of a stiff back, but I know he was playing pretty darn well. He invited us back, but next year I was too busy with work. Now, I know I'll never get the chance to do it

again. If I ever do find that "zone" again, I'll bet Karl will be looking over my shoulder.

Karl, we'll miss you.

Mike Bailey

Requiem

I can't recall ever meeting Karl. If I did, at some state or national conference, it was in passing and I never got to spend any time with him or get to know him at all. From researching this article, I can see that was my loss. You only had to hear the respect and admiration in the voices of the people I interviewed to know they loved him dearly. It is to them I dedicate this passage by Thomas Hughes:

"Blessed are they who have the gift of making friends, for it is one of God's best gifts. It involves many things, but above all the power of going out of one's self, and appreciating what is noble and loving in another."



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Ed Ramey

Never stop learning!

Says Ed Ramey, who got his advanced degree from the school of hard knocks

BY JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

Frank Sinatra's song "My Way" seems like a fitting theme for Ed Ramey's career. Born in Logan, W.Va. in an era that preceded well-publicized turf programs.

After graduating from Chapmansville High School, Ed served in the Marine Corps from 1955-1959. He earned his advanced degree in the school of hard knocks. He learned his trade by hands-on methodology, as did so many of our pioneering peers.

He fell in love with golf and he pursued it from PGA apprentice to golf course construction and management.

Finally, when the expansion of turf education caught up with the pioneers who had been out there blazing trails for the rest of us, Ed fine-tuned his practical knowledge of turf management with courses at Palm Beach Community College in 1973.

Ed Ramey is not your prototype superintendent. Once, at Keys Gate G.C. he designed the course, and then served as superintendent, golf professional, and golf director! Ed was used to serving in several capacities at most of his courses. That makes him unique in his time, but more and more superintendents are finding themselves in project management positions as their talents are recognized and utilized.

Ed was a PGA apprentice for eight years. His dream had been to become a touring pro. About the time a young

Arnold Daniel Palmer was winning his first PGA tournament, William Edward Ramey realized that he was not going to join Arnie on the tour. When he found out that Arnold's dad was a superintendent, a new direction in golf opened up for him.

"I started out in this business as a caddie and I decided that one day I would love to build a course from the ground up. That dream came true in 1972 when I helped construct the Carolina Club, originally called Holiday Springs C.C.

"One of my fondest memories of my career is taking that jungle and transforming it into a beautiful golf course, and seeing the enjoyment of the people who played the course."

"The best thing about this business is the people you meet and associate with. Not too many professions give you the opportunity to travel to different parts of the country and see the many sides of a golf course. I have enjoyed this profession more than any other type of work I have done. Nothing is as great as the sun on the dew at daybreak!"

For young people or anyone interested in the turf industry, Ed had this advice, "Get as much hands on experience as you can! If you decide to go on and become a superintendent, then get as much education as you can!. Never stop learning! Today, with all the regulations, you must keep up!"

And for someone like Ed, who *did* keep up, there is the President's Award.

Ed Ramey is not your prototype superintendent. Once, at Keys Gate G.C. he designed the course, and then served as superintendent, golf professional, and golf director!

William Edward Ramey

Family: Wife, Jeanne. Daughters, Robin and Tara.

Professional Affiliations: South Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association(all offices); Florida Turfgrass Association; Past member of the PGA; member of S.C.O.R.E.

Resume:

Monroe, Wisconsin-golf professional

Holiday Springs C.C.-Construction, superintendent, golf professional.

City of Lauderhill G.C.-Construction, golf director.

Century Village, Deerfield Beach-golf professional, golf director.

Century Village, Pembroke Pines-Construction, golf professional, golf director.

Deerfield Country Club-Superintendent.

Keys Gate G.C.-Design, construction, superintendent, golf professional, golf director.

Kendall Golf Club-Superintendent

"To receive this award from your peers is a great thrill. It is the greatest honor I have ever received. It is very humbling to be made aware that your peers and friends think so highly of you and your work and contributions. I want to thank all of you."

Sometimes, a man's work is just necessary toil to put bread on the table for the family. For Ed Ramey, the passion for his profession is best described in his own words:

Authors Note: Ed Ramey and his family survived Hurricane Andrew, but their house did not. See Ed's story on page 30 in the Winter 1992-93 issue of The Florida Green.

As Time Goes By

BY ED RAMEY

As time goes by, so does the greenskeeper. In the early years, he was known as the keeper of the greens. He had no computers, automated systems, or the like. He relied on his ability to accomplish his daily tasks.

He arose early every morning. He got his hands dirty. He took great pride in his work. This man was a jack-of-all-trades. He was an operator, mechanic, sprayman, and waterman. More than likely, he was overworked, understaffed, not often recognized by his members, and his peers were scattered. This man could build a golf course from the seat of his pants, and he did some very nice courses.

As time goes by, we acquire a vast amount of knowledge of our profession, and our memberships benefit from this knowledge. We have access to modern technology and science, but let's not overlook the human factors. Every once and awhile we should take a good look at ourselves. Do you go out of your way to say thank you to your staff for a job well done? Get out in the dew! Get your feet wet and let your staff see you! Let them know you appreciate the job they do!

The modern superintendent has to be a very well-educated businessman. We have come a long way in a short time. Let's all continue to learn and grow.

"I never had a day that I did not want to go to the job. It has been a great life"



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I've worked on golf courses for 24 years and been a golf course superintendent for the past 20. Other than genetic arthritis, I have no serious health problems. I have had the same spray technician for 12 years and

twice-yearly cholinesterase testing shows no signs of pesticide exposure problems. My gut feeling — which means nothing — is that superintendents as a whole are healthier than the population at large. I'd be willing to bet that I could take a group of Florida superintendents to the offices of the

NRDC, Sierra Club, or Greenpeace, challenge them to a game of softball, basketball, or touch football, and kick their butts. I will be shocked and amazed if the GCSAA-sponsored superintendent mortality study currently under way shows a higher incidence of cancer among superintendents than the population at large.

I have lived beside the second green at Palm Beach National for over 14 years. Last night I had to help my cat defend his supper dish from a raccoon who had pushed through the screen to get onto the back porch for an easy meal. During my course inspection run the next

morning, I noted the squirrel population explosion and searched the trees for the hawk that has been hunting the property for the past month or so. The ponds had their usual sentinels of anhingas, herons, and egrets, posted in numbers and territories designated by the Supreme Commander in Chief. Ibis and cowbirds scoured the fairways in search of insects, periodically glancing my way to make certain I maintained the proper distance. As I listened to the songbirds and watched the sun come up over the water, I thought that the only thing that could improve this lovely day would have been an appearance by one of our occasional visitors like the gray fox, pileated woodpecker, or great horned owl.

Returning to my office, my stomach began to churn as I noticed the huge stack of articles on environmental issues piled up beside my computer as reference material for this article. Reading some of this garbage would have given one the impression that my recently completed morning tour was as hazardous as nude sunbathing at Chernobyl.

Consider such recently published remarks as these: "If you scraped a golf green and tested it, you'd have to carry it away to a hazardous waste facility." "...some of us who enjoy golf despair that the game's high priests will ever get beyond their well-deserved reputation for causing environmental havoc." "It's not uncommon for golfers and golf course workers to have adverse reactions to the array of chemicals used

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*darker
shade
of green*

**Mark
My Words**



Mark Jabrell
Mark Jabrell, CGCS

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To say that our fight has only begun and that it is an uphill battle is a gross understatement.



to maintain their turfgrass.”

These quotes are significant, and especially disturbing, because they were made by golfers (one out of six members of the Sierra Club is a golfer). You can imagine the poison spewing from the mouths of those who associate golf with wealth, greed, power, and Dan Quayle. To say that our fight has only begun and it is an uphill battle is a gross understatement.

For many years I've had trouble understanding the huge disparity between what I know of the golf industry and what those calling themselves “environmentalists” claim about us. I naively thought, at first, that maybe there was a lot of truth to what was being said — it didn't seem logical, but no science was available for corroboration or rebuttal. Then I began to think it was just the old “squeaky wheel gets the grease” tactic — loud, repeated exaggerations, lies, and half-truths were necessary to nudge the slow-moving bureaucracy in the direction you wanted it to go. I also assumed (and still believe) that a lot of golf course criticism was rooted in the eternal conflict between “haves” and “have nots.” Golf is perceived as a rich man's game. It was only after research showing golf's positive environmental record began appearing and was attacked and totally rejected by many of these so-called “environmentalists,” that I began to get a clue as to what was really going on. Recent extensive reading and a seminar by Dr. Michael Coffman has been most enlightening.

To begin understanding why good science is rejected, why lies and distortions are standard operating procedure, and why common sense and logic aren't applied to environmental issues, just take a look in the mirror!

Has your value system changed from that of your parents and grandparents? Do you believe in all the same principles upon which this country was founded and made great? Would you say your religious views are traditional Judeo-Christian, or have you adopted other beliefs? did the counterculture movement of the 60s have any influence on you, or did you just hide under a rock and ignore it all?

Few of us described as “Baby

Boomers,” who are now the core of the American workforce, could honestly answer that our value systems have not evolved over our lifetimes. With a majority of us changing individually, society as a whole has been transformed, bringing with it both welcome and unwelcome changes.

Few would disagree that concern for preserving and protecting the environment has been a good change. The American people place great importance on this. What most of us don't realize is that this concern has been seized upon by people who have radically different beliefs from mainstream America, and they have inserted themselves into positions of leadership within many of the environmental organizations.

This is the reason for the lies, distortions, and lack of common sense and logic: By telling only part of the story, the majority of us who care about the environment are being manipulated into supporting actions we wouldn't if all the facts were known. According to surveys, 25% to 30% of us are concerned citizens who deeply care about what is happening to the environment; another 20% of us are very active environmentalists; and probably less than 5% of us are the radical minority of the environmental movement.

Among the radicals and actives are the ones with hidden agendas and ulterior motives. They have permeated the leadership of many environmental organizations, often taking over and shifting focus of some of the older, more conservative organizations. Their belief systems are their religion and, as in any religious war, the end justifies the means.

Listing and describing these organizations and their belief systems is too lengthy for the purpose of this article (buy Dr. Michael Coffman's book, *Environmentalism: The Dawn of Aquarius or the Twilight of a New Dark Age* for detailed information). There are many similarities, subtle differences, variations, and even major differences in the philosophies of these radical environmental organizations. Few generalizations can be made that would be accurate and all-encompassing.

Most of them, however, reject the tra-

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ditional conservation strategies and “wise use” philosophies. They believe there is no such thing as being a good steward of the land. Humans do not have dominion over the earth, according to their view, but share it with other species having equal value. Nature is good and man is evil; or, man is god, nature is god. Golf courses don’t even exist in their new world order.

The above statements are simplistic and don’t cover the full range of environmental radicalism, but are representative of key points. Whether they believe in animism, pantheism, biocentrism, eco feminism, gnosticism, eastern mysticism, neopaganism, occultism, planetization, sustainable development, maintenance of biodiversity, the Gaia theory, The Plan, or New Age, they share the common belief that a radical transformation of society must take place, and that using a sympathetic environmental agenda to attain their goals is their best opportunity for success. As far as I know, few of them offer any details for the construction and operation of this brave new world, just sketchy outlines of how wonderful everything is going to be.

Simple minds like mine always try to

simplify things so I can understand them. As I see it, the conflict boils down to: Do your needs as a human always, usually, sometimes, rarely or never come ahead of other species? My guess is that a poll would reveal a bell-shaped curve, closer to how an easy schoolteacher would have graded a class with more A’s than F’s. The problem is that this kind of a poll has not been taken; that people will lie and distort the truth to achieve their goals; and that active minorities will achieve political success over silent or misinformed majorities.

As one who cares about the environment, it greatly disturbs me that a noble cause is being subverted by groups with hidden agendas, individuals seeking personal gain, hypocrites who ask others to make sacrifices they won’t make themselves, and religious fanatics trying to impose their values on others. America is a democracy, and people cannot be denied their choice of beliefs, but they must be given factual information upon which to vote their choices.

I happen to believe that wise-use strategies based on good science are the mechanisms to satisfy the desires of a majority of our population, but I may be outnum-

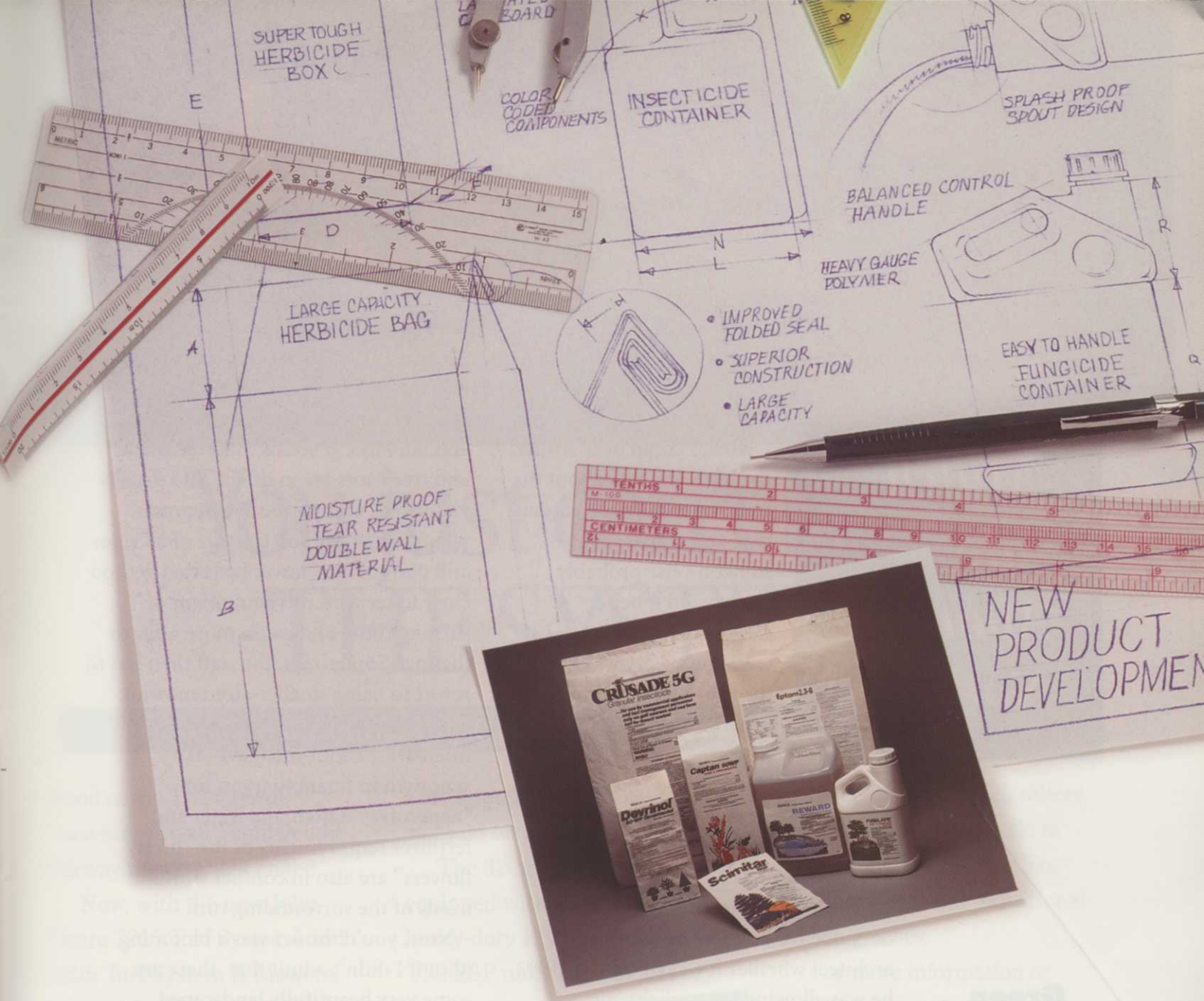
bered. Most Americans who believe in protecting the environment are middle to upper class who are far removed from the natural resources they depend on for their high standard of living. Those who know the least about managing natural resources are those most critical of natural resource industries, and support environmental legislation no matter what the issue or the cost. They believe “environmentalists” over scientists by about 5 to 1.

It is estimated that we now spend about \$1.7 trillion annually for all environmental regulation, with costs continuing to escalate.

Can we afford to continue passing legislation on the basis that it might be good for the environment? I wonder how many of us really understand the economic implications of environmental legislation, or the precarious position our country will be in if we continue down this path?

I urge all superintendents to dig deeper into the environmental issues, learn what lies below the surface, and help educate your members. It is much more than your job that is at stake.





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If you think I'm going to tell you that you need to plant a lot of exotic vegetation on a golf course to make it more playable, beautiful, or profitable you're barking up the wrong tree. Golf does quite well in its birthplace, Scotland, and the last tree I saw on those seaside links was knee-high to a sheep dog.

Now, I could beat around the bush and talk about the trend of manicured garden-type golf courses, but someone else probably already did it better elsewhere in this issue. I will, however, try to get to the root of many superintendents' concerns when the Greens

Committee wants to add a

flower bed on every tee and plant a grove of trees in every rough.

It may come as a big surprise to everyone, but when a golf course is designed by a reasonably competent architect whether it was in 1910 or 1993, he was allowing for sunlight, air circulation, irrigation coverage, drainage, traffic patterns, shot values, etc. Remember, the architect never promised you a rose garden, just a golf course.

When a club starts adding "extra" features they need to be prepared to pay for more than just the plant material. If the maintenance staff is already working to full capacity, somebody else is going to have to fertilize, prune, weed, spray, and edge the "new beds." That may mean hiring additional staff. Some clubs

do have successful programs where the members themselves care for the "extra beds." Let me hedge a little here and note that type of program works best at a private club with a dedicated and involved membership.

Remember, when you plant that tree, mighty oaks from little acorns grow. So, don't get too close to the greens, tees, and fairways. It seems that tree shade and tree roots are in direct, and usually victorious, competition with grass plants. They will rob the turf of its vigor and playability. Flower beds that get too close to tee tops rob equipment of turning room and cause more wear to the turf. Sometimes, the staff then has to revert to using smaller-sized mowing equipment which is more labor intensive. "Labor intensive" is a synonym in finance jargon for "expensive!" Often, the water and fertilizer requirements of the "pretty flowers" are also in conflict with the needs of the surrounding turf.

Now, you'd think I was a blooming idiot if I didn't admit that there are some very beautifully landscaped courses around the world. But, you'd be looking through rose colored glasses if you didn't admit that they pay for what they get!

Let me go out on a limb here and suggest you look strongly at using native vegetation to accent your course. It will give you a lot of choices for color and texture and yet help conserve water resources and keep maintenance costs down.

I'd better close now or the editor will be pruning this columbine.

Mulch Ado About Nothing

Green Side Up



Joel D. Jackson
Joel Jackson, CGCS



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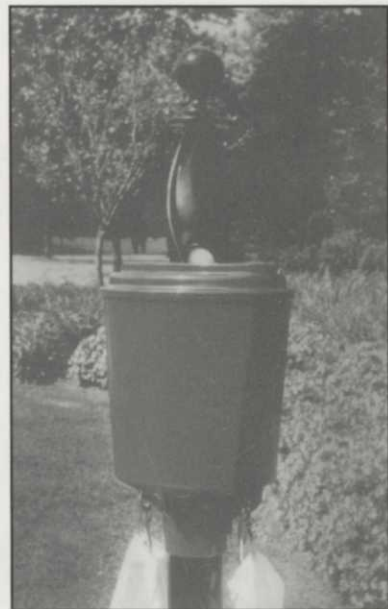
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