

# The New Networking

BY JOEL D. JACKSON, CGCS

**L**ove it or hate it, the computer age is here.

I'm not much of an Internet surfer, but I have done some exploring for hotel and airline prices. However, I do like the ease and speed of e-mail and have taken advantage of that aspect to conduct file transfers with our publisher, Larry Kieffer at Janlark Communications.

That means no more reams of fax paper piled up on the bedroom floor. Instead, just the friendly America On Line voice telling me "You've Got Mail!" when I sign on.

A click on the Download Button and a few minutes later the word-processed stories I sent Larry a few days ago are back in my computer in PageMaker publishing layout for me to proof, edit and send back for printing.

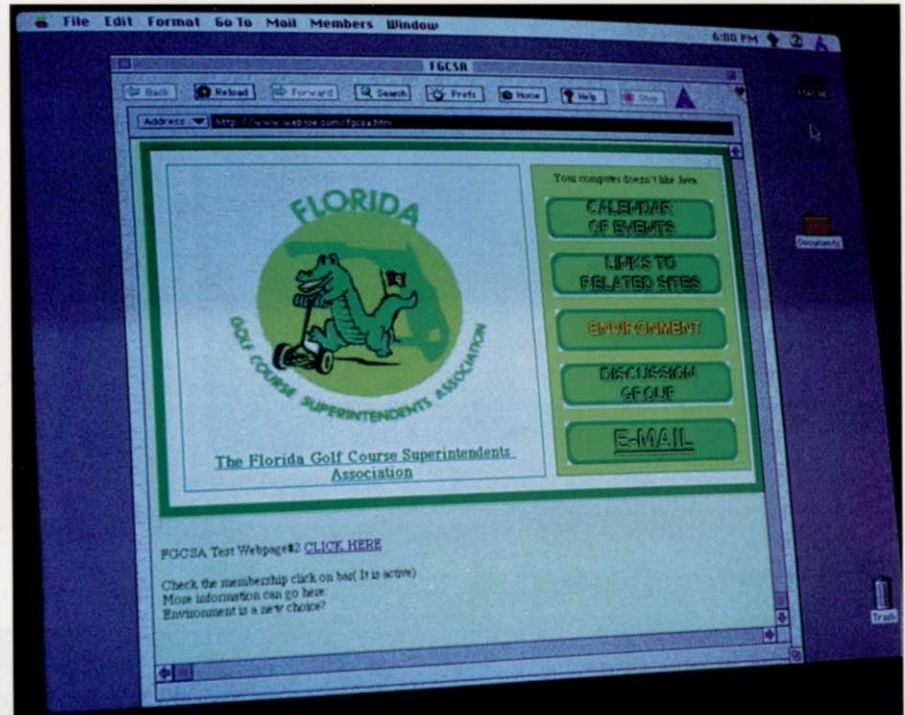
I have also been e-mailing IFAS professors for research stories; Shelly Foy for Stewardship articles; and Darren Davis with information on FGCSA Committee work and *Florida Green* articles.

I keep in touch with a dozen or so superintendents nationwide through a loose network affectionately called the SBBB or (Surly Beer for Breakfast Bunch). A few of the SBBB have met twice (face to face) at the national conference and shows in Orlando and Las Vegas.

One day when I was messing around I clicked on the Members icon on the AOL menu bar and dragged down to Membership Directory.

Up popped a window directing me to type in key words to help me locate people with the same likes, dislikes, hobbies, interests and occupations. I typed in "golf course superintendent" and found 213 screen names of people who had indicated that occupation in their AOL profiles.

By scrolling the list I located 23 Florida superintendents who identified themselves as golf course superintendents. I



Sample web page for proposed FGCS site.

made up an e-mail list of those screen names called Florida Supts. I can now e-mail all 23 of them simultaneously with one click of the Send Button... and I have!

There is no telling how many superintendents are really out there on line because many people choose to remain anonymous and do not fill out profiles and many more use local independent service providers for Internet access rather than America On Line or CompuServe.

Several times a week I log into the GCSAA Members Only Discussion Forum at the GCSAA Web Site and check the posted topics to see if there is anything of interest to me or if I can answer a question that is posted.

I also check out the "What's New" link to get the latest press releases and announcements. GCSAA is working on set-

ting up a link so you can register for the Conference and Show on line.

The ability to communicate instantaneously and send and receive large amounts of information electronically is changing our lives and the way we do business. We must embrace these advancements and mold them as useful tools for our own progress as individuals and associations.

Even now the FGCSA is looking at establishing a web site to provide information to its members and to the World Wide Web with a links to other appropriate web sites.

**Editor's Note:** The FGCSA Education Committee is finalizing plans to offer a computer training seminar at the 1998 Crowfoot Open. If you're interested, contact me or Darren Davis and stay tuned for details.





Gas cans and plastic bed liners make for a potentially dangerous combination. Photo by Joel Jackson.

# Safety Alert!!

## Don't fill gas cans in pickup trucks with bed liners.

**Y**ou or your employees are at risk of serious injury or even death if you fill gas cans that are sitting in the bed of a pickup truck with a bed liner.

Chevron USA has reported several instances of metal cans exploding while being filled in the backs of pickup trucks at service stations. At least 23 injuries or deaths have resulted.

In a warning published in Chevron's Marketing Bulletin 36-1904, Chevron said that the insulating effect of the plastic liners found in the back of many pickup trucks prevents the static charge generated by gasoline flowing into a metal can from grounding.

As the charge builds, it can create a static spark between the can and the gas nozzle resulting in explosion or fire.

Although it has been suggested that placing a rubber mat under the can while it remains in the pickup bed may eliminate the danger, that may be ineffective. It is not recommended as a safety precaution.

Chevron USA advises workers to place cans on the ground, away from vehicles and people, when filling them to minimize the danger of fire and explosion.

(This article was reprinted with permission by Thomas P. Kerr, Inc.)

-Don McCommon, GCS  
Fairways G.C.

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## Floratex: First Year Impressions

BY SCOTT BELL, GCS

*Bent Pine G.C.*

**T**he Indian River Soccer Association in Vero Beach decided that the players deserved their own soccer fields. For many years the fledgling association played on whatever substandard fields they could find. The turf almost always was bahiagrass and, depending on the time of the year, it was a blessing if the grass had been mowed.

Fire ant mounds were common obstructions and holes and sand spots posed constant threats. The association and Indian River County finally reached an agreement for the association to build fields on county land.

In 1995 land was cleared and fill was brought in. The local chapter of the Florida Irrigation Society installed the irrigation system consisting of a 4-inch artesian well with a 10 hp pump and Toro 2000 heads. By September 1995 the

irrigation system was complete, the electric power was installed and the final grade was established.

Quality Grassing installed the FloraTex sprigs, and Roger Welker grew in the fields.

Unfortunately we got a late start due to some circumstances beyond our control, and we entered November with month-old sprigs. Luckily we had a warm enough fall to get a fairly decent cover before winter.

Roger employed a grow-in program similar to that used to grow-in a golf course, with a heavy reliance on ammonium sulfate and other fast-release fertilizers. By late December the decision was made to overseed the fields to give them color and to fill any voids that existed. The fields were seeded at about 250 pounds per acre, and that gave a good cover for our first season. By April the ryegrass was fading and the FloraTex was starting to grow.

I considered last summer to be the true grow-in period. I did a couple of fertilizer applications in June and Sep-

*It can take the abuse of the kids playing the games and it still looks great.*

tember and we got the turf fully covered. The soil that had been used as fill was full of rocks and debris which kept surfacing all summer, causing damage to the mower. By fall most of the rocks and debris were gone and the fields were in great shape for the fall season.

The Indian River Soccer Association Fields consist of one large adult field, two under 12-year-old fields, two under 10-year-old fields, three under 8-year-old fields and three under 6-year-old fields. These take up 14 acres. Games are played on Saturdays and Sundays. There have been weeks where there have been over 50 games a weekend.

FloraTex has impressed me particu-



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larly for sports fields though I also think that it could have some golf course applications. The grass has very good drought tolerance as most Bermudas do. What I really noticed is how tight this grass is.

The stolons do not get leggy like 419 can. The grass looks as good at the beginning of the season as it does at the end. It can take the abuse of the kids playing the games and it still looks great.

I think that because it is so tight it doesn't damage easily.

Perhaps FloraTex's greatest asset is its ability to resist the cold and stay green. The field is unprotected and susceptible to the wind. I've noticed that the fields turn off-color later and they green up faster than my golf course.

It has been very interesting managing this new grass. I would recommend it for any sports turf use. FloraTex should be given a chance on sports fields and common areas.

# EDUCATION

## Earn While You Learn

Some of the most consistent advice that successful superintendents offer over and over again is to "never stop learning," "learn something new every day," "the more you know the more you grow."

Here is the latest schedule of university-level regional seminars to be held in Florida for the remainder of the year. If you can't travel far, these seminars will provide great information for your personal and professional growth and development and also meet CEU recertification requirements for certified superintendents.

### 1997 GCSAA Regional Seminar Schedule in Florida

August 6, 1997. "Enhancing Your Value as a Professional Golf Course Superintendent" at the Palm Beach Holiday Inn. Co-hosted by the Palm Beach GCSA.

September 4, 1997 "Lake and Aquatic Plant Management" Tampa Convention Center or Hyatt Regency. Co-hosted by the FGCSA on the day before the opening of the Florida Turfgrass Association Conference.

November 20 & 21, 1997 "Managing People for Peak Performance and Job Satisfaction" at the Royal Caribbean Resort. Co-hosted by the Central Florida GCSA (first two-day seminar!).

December 4, 1997 "Improving your Negotiating Skills" at The Meadows. Co-hosted by the North Florida GCSA.

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If you can't get away at all, then you might consider these GCSAA correspondence courses that will allow you to learn at home.

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GCSAA's correspondence courses allow you to study at your own pace, as your schedule allows. The courses are designed to be completed in seven to 14 hours and include reference materials that can be added to your professional library.

The (+) icon identifies those correspondence courses that fulfill requirements for the six specializations in the GCSAA Environmental Management Program.

**Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know (+)**

This correspondence course will help you understand and comply with the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, which may affect your golf course maintenance op-

*The courses are designed to be completed in seven to 14 hours and include reference materials that can be added to your professional library.*

eration. You will also receive instructions on developing a chemical emergency preparedness plan specific to your workplace. Tips on crisis communication round out this course. Continuing education units 1.4 Code # 30150 \$100 member/\$150 nonmember

**Hazard Communication Program (+)**

By completing a series of exercises and activities designed especially for golf course operations, you will develop the materials required for compliance with the Hazard Communication Standard.

The exercises involve a drawing of your golf course facility, an inventory of hazardous chemicals, a compilation of MSDS's, and the development of procedures for employee training and maintaining documentation. This correspondence course or the seminar, Developing Your Hazard Communication Program, satisfies a study requirement for the Employee Safety and Right-To-Know specialization in the Environmental Management Program. education units 1.4 Code # 30225 \$100 member/\$150 nonmember

**Media Relations (+)**

This course will provide you with the skills needed for responding to or initiating contact with the media. You will learn how the news media operates and how to talk to reporters. Story writing, establishing media contacts and public relations are discussed in detail. Continuing education units 1.4 Code # 30175 \$100 member/\$150 nonmember

**Personal Protective Equipment for Pesticide Applicators (+)**

This course provides EPA-approved information regarding the use, care and cleaning of personal protective equipment (PPE). Examples provide pesticide label interpretation, as well as worksheets, to help organize label requirements. This information will also help employers who fall under the EPA's Worker Protection Standard. Continuing education unit .7 # 30275 \$100 member/\$150 nonmember

**Personal Stress Management**

This course discusses ways to deal effectively with stress. The material provided explains the benefits of good stress and the warning signs of too much bad stress. Exercises include an assessment of your personal stress level and structured activities for managing this condition. Continuing education unit .7 Code # 30125 \$100 member/\$150 nonmember

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The emphasis in this course is on both personal and professional time management. Exercises provide opportunities for uncovering the major culprits that cut into productivity and effectiveness. Time-wasters and reasons for procrastination are identified, with clear methods for eliminating these stumbling blocks pro-

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To order a GCSAA correspondence course contact the GCSAA at 1-800-472-7878.



## FGCSA Spring Seminar

### Education For Us and the Kids that ride the Yellow Bus

BY DARREN DAVIS

*Golf Course Superintendent  
Olde Florida Golf Club*

The EGCSA Spring Seminar was held Friday, April 25 at the beautiful, peaceful La Playa Beach Resort in Naples. The event was co-sponsored by the FGCSA and the FTGA. An outstanding lineup of speakers was on hand to give the audience of over 80 a very educational experience.

Six continuing education credits were granted for state pesticide license renewal

and .5 CEU's for GCSAA recertification. The funds raised in this event will once again be used to support local schools in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Schools — a program cosponsored by the GCSAA to help educate the youth on the environment.

The first on the list of speakers was Ken Mangum, CGCS, Atlanta Athletic Club and GCSAA director. The title of his presentation was, "The Golf Course Superintendent as a Professional." Ken informed the audience that he felt there were five areas to determine if you are a professional: attitude, performance, knowledge, image, and polish or "style." Ken began the presentation discussing these five areas.

To help illustrate the first one, attitude, he told a story of two boys who had gone to see a psychologist. The boys were put into separate rooms, each with a two-

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way mirror so the doctor could monitor them.

The first boy was put into a room full of wonderful toys, but instead of playing with the toys, he just sat and looked at them. After 30 minutes the doctor entered and asked the child why was he not playing with the toys. The child responded that he just knew when he started playing with them his mother would come and tell him it was time for dinner and he would have to put everything away.

The second boy was put in a room filled with horse manure. Within minutes of being in the room, horse manure was flying everywhere and he was covered from head to toe. After a few minutes, the doctor entered the room and asked what the child was doing. His response was that, with all of the horse manure in the room he just knew there had to be a horse to play with in there somewhere.

The point was you need to look at your own attitude and determine if you are an optimist or a pessimist.

Ken's presentation made each audience member take a look at him/herself and think how they present themselves and how they are perceived. He stressed that image is everything.

Ken also urged the audience to play golf whenever possible. To stress the need, he told another true story of how he was hired for his current position.

Several years prior to accepting his current job at the Atlanta Athletic Club he had played a round of golf with an

executive from the Goldkist Corporation. At that time the executive offered Ken employment with Goldkist. He declined because of his desire to remain a golf course superintendent.

Several years later Ken received a phone call from the same gentleman who was currently head of a search committee to find a golf course superintendent at the Atlanta Athletic Club.

In a very short period of time, Ken was hired. Ken felt it was certainly due in part to that round of golf several years prior, and how he presented himself at that time. Ken stressed the importance of playing golf, not only to see the golf course from a player's point of view, but equally important, because you never know whom you are going to run into on the course.

Ken ended his presentation with another of his numerous, funny stories that make you do a little soul searching, this one about a drive that Ken and his family took one Sunday afternoon after church.

They got behind a little old lady probably on her way to Sunday dinner after church. She drove a car with a bumper sticker that read, "Honk if you Love Jesus." Ken being a Christian, and a little bit of a jokester, honked his horn in response to the sticker.

The little old lady responded to Ken by extending her middle finger indicating to Ken what she thought of the horn blast. The point Ken was making is that it can take a lifetime to build a reputation, but only a minute to destroy it. So no matter how hard you work at being a

professional, you could blow it very quickly if you are not careful.

The second presentation was by John Piersol, director, Lake City Community College Landscape and Golf Course Operations program. John's presentation was on "Golf and Landscape Education—Where Are We Heading."

John has been at LCCC for 23 years and he gave some of the history behind the program. He stressed that we as industry have a large impact on the direction of the program. John told the audience what he felt makes the AS degree at LCCC unique.

Currently LCCC accepts between 30-32 students and is graduating 27-29 each year. John felt regardless of some of the grumbling in the industry that there will always be a place for a well educated, trained, turf professional.

By the time John's hour presentation was complete he had mesmerized most of the audience and had them saying Rah, Rah, Rah Lake City. He may have even had a few ready to re-enroll at Lake City and go through the program.

Gary Grigg was next on the docket and his presentation was titled "Low Input Management." This was a very timely presentation.

As most would agree, golf course superintendents are going to be required to maintain, or improve, the current standards of golf course maintenance, while at the same time do so with fewer inputs.

Gary felt the two driving forces behind low-input management are, a perceived dwindling of natural resources and

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***'The Golf Course Superintendent is going to have to be willing to devote time and effort to understanding the big picture — that is soil, turf, weather and how they relate as a whole.'*** -Gary Grigg

the need to be environmentally sound. The challenge he felt was for golf course superintendents to maintain the current expectations while at the same time use fewer inputs.

The inputs that Gary felt we would be expected to use less of are things such as water, fertilizer, pesticides, and mowing frequency. Gary felt a key to this approach is to have a proactive plan.

"The Golf Course Superintendent is going to have to be willing to devote time and effort to understanding the big picture — that is soil, turf, weather and how

they relate as a whole," he said.

He challenged the audience to see how far they could go with fewer inputs without reducing quality. Gary felt most of us would be amazed to find out what we could do with less.

Gary agreed with a comment made by John Piersol in an earlier presentation in that the need for quality people will increase in the future, especially those that are well versed at low-input management.

After a short break, Dr. J. M. Vargas was next to speak. It was an honor to have Dr. Vargas, the recipient of this year's

GCSAA Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Vargas has been a professor of botany and plant pathology at Michigan State University for the past 25 years.

Speaking of the award Vargas said, "It really means a lot, because I work with superintendents and my best friends are golf course superintendents." This attitude was evident in his presentation, "Pesticides—The Rest of the Story."

Dr. Vargas began working on this presentation after he became irritated by the false reporting and partial truths portrayed about golf courses by the media.

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In particular he cited a radio spot he had heard by Paul Harvey denouncing golf courses as void of wildlife. Dr. Vargas showed many slides of wildlife and he explained his views on that subject. Obviously these views differed from Paul Harvey's false comments.

Vargas presented facts such as, "There are two million more song birds in the US than there were in the late 16th century." A fact obtained from the US Fish and Wildlife Federation.

Dr. Vargas also stressed that there is a big difference in the "perception" people have and "reality," a case in point being pesticides. People are quick to jump up and down and scream that we should ban pesticides but in reality the same people are exposed to much more harmful compounds every day.

He blamed this situation partially due to the wording our industry uses to define plant protectants. We refer to them as pesticides yet the medical profession refers to the same chemicals as medicine.

A case in point is Miconazole or Micoazole. Both products are used to control fungus in some very sensitive areas of the human body. However, the chemical is the same one that golf course superintendents use to control fungus and is considered bad by many people.

Why is that? The same holds true for many prescribed antibiotics and other medicines. In fact, the same chemical that is in Quell, a medicine to control head and body lice, is in Lindane.

Would the average homeowner spray

***There are two million more song birds in the US (now) than there were in the late 16th century.***

Lindane on their head or body? Probably not.

Another good example of this is Ortho Sevin. Again, most people are scared to death of the "pesticide;" however, the same people will probably spray their dog with a "doggie spray" such as Sergeants Flea Spray. Again, it is the same chemical!

Naturally occurring plant toxins was another area that Dr. Vargas discussed.

He explained the naturally occurring method that plants use to defend themselves from pests. They develop natural resistance by incurring natural toxins inside themselves. However, these toxins are not regulated by the EPA.

Dr. Vargas gave the scenario that often a naturally grown "organic" food would be more dangerous than one treated with surface-applied pesticides. At least a surface-applied synthetic pesticide can be removed by washing.

One example he presented the audience with is the use of pepper — something many of us use every day, often to replace salt since we have been told salt is bad for us.

However, did you know that scientist have proven that the toxin in pepper "peperine" can be very toxic? It is a fact that when rats were fed 4 mg of dried pepper a day for 3 months, every rat developed cancerous tumors.

So do we just stop eating? Dr. Vargas was quick to say of course not.

He explained it is "dose that makes the poison." Many of the things we eat daily have LD50 numbers higher than many pesticides golf course superintendents use but it still takes high doses to be harmful.

One of Dr. Vargas' most convincing fact was on the chemical Alar. Many of us remember back a couple years ago when the "Alar" story aired on national television narrated by Meryl Streep.

Having an actor narrate a so-called serious story such as this should have thrown up a red flag, but to many it did not. For those of you who do not remember the story, it was alleged that we should all be concerned about a pesticide used by apple growers known as Alar. The story sent shock waves around the whole country.

However, there was one little fact left out of the story: for Alar to be dangerous, you would have to ingest 28,000 pounds a day for 10 years!

Back to the home state of Florida, the next speaker was University of Florida turfgrass breeder, Brian Scully. Brian explained where the University of Florida turf breeding program has come, and where it is headed. His breeding goal is to produce quality bermudagrass that re-

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quires reduced inputs, has a better adaptation to stress, and has as good or better turf quality.

The final presentation was given by Dr. Jeff Krans, Professor, Department of Agronomy, Mississippi State University. Dr. Krans is a graduate of Michigan State and has been teaching at Mississippi State University for 22 years.

Dr. Krans is also involved with turf breeding and will be releasing his most recent variety this fall known as MS-Supreme.

Dr. Krans began his presentation with an overview of how bermudagrass came to be in America to illustrate how far we have come in turf breeding. Dr. Krans was able to explain in easy-to-understand terms where the new varieties of ultra-dwarf bermudagrass are coming from.

Quite simply, all but one are found dwarf mutations on existing greens. MS-

Supreme is one of 89 selections that were found several years ago. After three or four years of testing these off types, the best — known as MSP40 — was decided upon to be released as MS-Supreme.

Interestingly MS-Supreme was selected from an existing Tifgreen green, whereas Champion and Floradwarf are both mutations found on a Tifdwarf green.

As most of you know, Tifdwarf was a chance mutation found on a Tifgreen green. Therefore, all three of these new ultra-dwarfs are essentially a mutation of Tifgreen.

TW-72, or Tifeagle, is a little different in that it is an induced mutation of Tifway.

Dr. Krans stressed that these grasses may not be for everyone. Regardless he felt that we are truly in a historic time since it has been over 30 years since we have had any new varieties of

bermudagrass for greens released.

The day ended in an open forum panel discussion excellently moderated by Tim Hiers, CGCS, of Colliers Reserve. The moderator and audience probed the panelist both individually, and as a group, on a variety of issues.

Continuing education is obviously vital to remain aware of trends and new items in the turfgrass industry. The EGCSA Spring Seminar once again provided an outstanding lineup of talented speakers that kept the audience entertained the entire day.

As I write this short summation of the days' events I think it finally hit home how much I had learned that day. For those of you that were unable to attend, I urge you to strongly consider a short drive over next year to our little slice of paradise. I can bet you will be a wiser golf course superintendent when you leave.

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## Jacobsen announces degree for turf equipment technicians

Jacobsen Textron will sponsor the turf industry's first two-year associate degree program for turf equipment technicians. The program will be offered at Texas State Technical College in Waco. Jacobsen has also established two annual scholarships for students participating in the program.

Developed jointly by Jacobsen's training staff and the college, the technicians' program combines a curriculum focused on a solid understanding of hydraulics, electrical and engine principles, along with hands-on training.

"Jacobsen chose Texas State Technical College because of its strong mechanics' program and an active advisory committee for its golf course and turfgrass management studies," said Tony Saiia, Jacobsen vice president of customer service & product support. "The school has excellent training labs, as well as several holes of golf which provide perfect 'real life' areas for learning about turf equipment."

Saiia added that program developers agreed that technicians and mechanics should have a clear understanding of the day-to-day demands of turfgrass maintenance, in addition to their technical equipment training.

"Our intention," said Wallace "Tinker" Clift, CGCS, who heads the Golf Course & Turfgrass Management program at the college, "is to meet the demands that the golf and grounds maintenance industry has placed upon us in recent years. We want these students to receive both technical training in the classroom and field experience in an approved work situation before they graduate."

Jacobsen has also established two annual scholarships to provide additional support for the program – the Wayne Snell Memorial Scholarship and the Steve Moffett Memorial Scholarship. They are named in memory of two turf professionals who were associated with Jacobsen



*A combination of classroom and hands-on training will stress hydraulics, electrical systems, engine principles and more.*

## Lake City CC GCO program

Florida's Lake City Community College's also has an Equipment Technician program. In fact, the one-year program annually graduates about 25 technicians, who have more than 100 job offers waiting for them. John Piersol, chairman of the LCCC program, said he receives calls each year from as far away as Louisiana, Tennessee, Texas and North Dakota from courses looking for trained technicians.

Piersol said he is happy to see the new program at Texas State Technical College and the development of the EETC's efforts to help organize a national effort in preparing qualified people for a rewarding career in golf course maintenance.

"As an industry we are definitely lacking in providing well-rounded technician training for the mechanics who must manage shops and repair today's sophisticated equipment," he said.

"Part of the problem is that educational institutions don't really understand the golf industry. It takes a lot of capital up front to outfit a proper teaching facility.

"Having the proper person head up the program is the final piece of the puzzle. He must be a very pro-active person with good organizational and managerial skills as well as the mechanical background."

Piersol knows that it will take a combined effort from all sectors of the industry to make some sort of standardized and officially recognized technician training a reality. He has suggested that maybe the GCSAA might act as an impartial facilitator for such an effort.

"We need to form partnerships with industry to develop a standardized curriculum that trains an individual for the total needs of a golf course shop operation from administration to welding," he said.

"We need to approach schools and help start the programs. In return it would only be fair that the golf industry should have a large say in who runs the program. We can't have the old high school shop teacher or votech auto mechanics/small engine repair teacher do it!"

Just as the superintendent's role has grown beyond "greenskeeping" over the years, so has the mechanic's role in running the shop. It's time to devote a little more thought to how these new equipment technicians and shop managers are to be trained for the future... and to support the process.

until their untimely deaths from illness last year.

Wayne Snell was Jacobsen's manager of product training and helped pioneer many of the training programs offered at the company. Snell was 40 when he died from a cerebral aneurysm November 2, 1996.

Steve Moffett was the president of S.V. Moffett Company, a Jacobsen distributor in West Henrietta, N.Y. Moffett was well-known for his educational interests and efforts in behalf of turfgrass students. He died October 31, 1996, from cancer.

The scholarships will be awarded to four students each year — two of the Wayne Snell Memorial and two of the Steve Moffett Memorial.

"Jacobsen is extremely proud to sponsor this new, two-year associate degree for turf equipment technicians," said Saija, "and we're excited about the scholarships. They are named for two friends of Jacobsen who believed in the power of education and who shared their knowledge with others to advance the turf industry. We're glad that Jacobsen can help carry on those ideals."

Besides assisting in curriculum development, Jacobsen is preparing recruitment materials for potential candidates to help them understand career opportunities in the turf equipment field.



**Industry leaders to  
sanction certification**

## **First EETC Board of Directors elected**

Virgil Russell, Executive Director of the Engine and Equipment Training Council, announced the election of the first EETC Executive Board and Board of Directors during the EETC's annual meeting in Dallas, May 5 and 6.

This Board represents a broad cross-section of our industry's educational and technical leadership, plus supporters from the educational field who support the industry's efforts in ensuring a future

supply of qualified technicians and improving current industry efforts in training and education.

The EETC's new president is Andrew Kuczmar, director, National Service Training for Echo, Inc. Vice president is Paul Scholten, manager, Service and Technical Publications for Kohler Company. Secretary is Chuck Bontrager, product training and education manager for MTD Products, Inc.

Treasurer is Bruce Radcliff, director of Customer Education, Briggs and Stratton Corporation. And advisor to the Executive Board is Tom Kane, assistant director, national training manager, Kubota Tractor Corporation.

General Board members include Clifford Kurkowski, president, Anoka Hennepin Technical College; Larry Case, national advisor and CEO, Agricultural Education/FFA Liaison, National FFA Center; Jerry Bernhardt, director of career and technology education, Windham School District, Texas Department of Criminal Justice; Tim Lawrence, director of business and industry partnerships, VICA;

Also Dave Krueger, technical manager, outdoor power equipment, Sears, Roebuck and Company; Dan Wallace, instructor, Outdoor Power Equipment Excellence Center, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology; Glen Whitt, dealer representative, Plano Power Equipment; Larry Frogge, distributor educator representative, Grayson Company; and Jim Starmer, distributor representative, Dixie Sales Company.

Other industry Board members include Brad Beck, supervisor, Service Publications and Training, Commercial Products Division, The Toro Company; Mark Erenz, technical service coordinator, Generac Corporation; Paul Jurgens, director of customer service, Exmark Manufacturing Company; Randy Richard, training specialist, John Deere Lawn and Grounds Care Division; and Ralph Sylvester, manager, Service Training, Jacobsen, Division of Textron.

With this broad base of support from both inside and outside our industry, and a commitment from all EETC members to "leave their egos on the doorstep,"

it would appear that the future impact of the EETC on our industry will be positive and substantial.

### **Position Statement**

The Engine & Equipment Training Council is a professional organization that promotes and supports the education and training of the outdoor power equipment service technician. As members of the EETC, we:

1. Promote and maintain documented high performance and ethical standards

- Maintain an industry-supported list of minimum competencies
- Use these competencies to validate materials

2. Support an industry-sanctioned certification process

- Basic entry level certification to be recognized as a sign of employability in the industry

- Recognize the manufacturer-specific training to be able to capitalize on foundation built through certification

- Respect the training methods of others and promote unity of effort

3. Encourage excellence in engine and equipment maintenance through education

- Serve as a resource for education institutions such as trade schools, technical schools, colleges and vocational clubs interested in supporting this industry

- Encourage educational institutions to use certification and EETC standards

4. Provide a common communication method mutually beneficial to manufacturers, technicians and customers

- Share competencies, training materials and programs with all members

We support OPE Technicians Certification

For more information about the EETC, contact Virgil Russell, EETC, 1946 S. IH-35, Suite 100-A, Austin, TX 78704-3693, Phone (512) 442-1788, Fax (512) 442-1789,

E-mail [opecert@io.com](mailto:opecert@io.com).

*Editor's Note: Mr. Russell writes that he has heard more interest from golf course technicians in Florida than any other state.*





## Advantages of 'going spikeless' touted at USGA Seminar in Orlando

BY JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

From spikeless golf shoes to genetically pure turfgrass, the USGA Regional Seminar in Orlando had something for everybody. Good news and bad news. If you want to make a dramatic improvement to your greens inexpensively and quickly, then go spikeless! That was the gist of Chris Hartwigger's presentation.

The total book may not have been written on the long-range effects of spikeless golf shoes, but one thing is for sure: 1500 clubs — public and private — across America are gambling that it's the right thing to do. The most successful converts are at clubs that do their homework and educate the members well before issuing any ultimatums banning steel spikes.

Splitting the practice putting green in half and allowing only spikeless on one side and steel spikes on the other seems to be one of the most dramatic demonstrations to compare the effects of spike vs. spikeless in a simple, definitive way.

### Other highlights

- **Creating a Master Landscape Plan** - John Ribes, Landscape Architect of J. Roland Lieber, P.A. illustrated the importance of a landscape that enhances the golf experience from aesthetics to shot values and safety. Poorly planned



*John Foy, Director of the Florida Region of the USGA Green Section, moderated the USGA Regional Seminar held in Orlando this past April. (Janlark file photo)*

landscaping can interfere with air circulation, sunlight, irrigation, traffic flow and run up labor costs.

- **Protecting Natural Resources** - Dr. Charles Peacock, Professor of Turfgrass Science at North Carolina State University, calling for some ecology course requirements in future Golf Turf Management curriculums at programs around the country. Since environmental issues have grown in importance in our industry, maybe we should be training superintendents to better understand the total relationships and impacts of golf and the environment. 85% of the public doesn't care about golf, but they do care about drinking water. Risk Assessment. Common Sense. Best Practices. "Nature never breaks her own laws!"

- **Indian River Club and Audubon** - Bobby Ellis, CGCS, and Robert Swift, General Manager, took the group on a proactive trip on getting a development permitted and then devoted to an environmentally sensitive way of life. And guess what? It pays financial dividends and that makes for a win-win situation for everyone.

- **Paspalum, The Right Choice for the Environment** - Dr. Ronnie Duncan, Turfgrass Breeder, UGA revealed the many attributes of paspalum grass varieties that can perform in less-than-ideal conditions. A grass that welcomes low heights of cut, performs well in poor soils and can tolerate higher water salinity. Definitely a grass with a future niche in our world of limited resources. Major challenge - managing thatch. May be a price worth paying.

- **New High Quality Bermudagrass for Golf Courses** - Dr. Wayne Hanna, Research Geneticist, USDA presented a look at the new generation of bermudagrasses that are being selected in response to requests and demands for better performance under lower cutting heights.

- **Purchasing Genetically Pure Turfgrass** - Dr. Earl Elsner, Director Georgia Seed Development Commission, did a lot to explain the difference between mutations and contamination that have caused so much controversy lately. A rigorous state turf certification policy that is enforced will maximize the odds of a customer getting the turf he orders, but once the breeder foundation stock is planted, the turf is at the mercy of man and machine. Contamination is more of a risk than mutation and it can come from a variety of sources.

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## Legislative session addresses water, land use issues

BY MIKE GOLDIE

*FGCSA/FTGA Lobbyist*

The 1997 Legislative Session was unique in several ways. First, Republicans controlled both the House and Senate, a first in modern time. Second, it began and ended on schedule—6:00 p.m. rather than 6:00 a.m. Third, both chambers maintained a deliberate pace, controlling the passage of bills to such a degree that of 2400 bills introduced, approximately 250 passed. Leaders in both chambers kept their promise by limiting their agendas to education, economic development and no new taxes.

The following bills would be of interest to our members:

### Water:

CS/HB 715, 1249, 131, and 1339; Introduced by Rep. Laurent

This bill became the primary water-related legislation passed in the 1997 session. The bill is a combination of the pro-business "coalition" bill, the Governor's bill and legislation filed by the chairman of the House Water Resources Management Committee, Rep. John Laurent.

The bill is a compromise bill but it does substantially protect current water users. The bill does not contain a "local sources first" provision which would have been detrimental to counties like Pinellas and Hillsborough.

MFL are minimum flows and levels and WUP are water use permits, the new term for consumptive use permits.

CS/SB 1306 and 1934; Introduced by Sen. Latvala

This is the Brownfield Legislation. Brownfields are generally those industrial or commercial properties which have actual or perceived environmental contamination. Most of these areas are aban-

doned, and this legislation is an effort to put these areas back into productive use.

### CS/SB 1660

The bill indicates that power-driven farm equipment is to be included in the 3% rather than 6% sales tax rate. Power-driven is defined as moving or stationary equipment that is dependent upon an actual power source in order to perform its purpose, i.e. conveyors, augers and vacuum pumps. This corrects a DOR ruling that such equipment was taxed at 6% rather than 3%.

### CS/CS/HB 119 and 1577

This bill is important because of its philosophic direction. The bill directs state lands be managed under a multiple-use concept rather than just for conservation and preservation. As an example, the bill directs that all parcels over 1,000 acres contain an analysis of the multiple-use potential of the parcel to industry, the potential of the parcel to generate revenues to enhance the management of the parcel, including the use of private land managers. In addition, in such parcels, buffers may be formed around areas requiring special protection but the buffer shall not exceed more than 1/2 of the total acreage.

This bill, in one broad stroke, says state-owned lands should start to pay their way and can and should be used for agriculture, sub-agriculture, and water supply and storage.

Establishment and Implementation of MFLs (Minimum Flow Levels):

CS/HB 715, et al requires the Water Management Districts to consider changes and structural alterations to wetlands, surface waters, and groundwater, and the effects such changes have had on the water resource, when establishing MFLs.

This provision would require the WMDs to consider the effect of structural changes to water bodies, such as dams or channelization of rivers, as well as the impact of major flood control works such as the South Florida WMD's Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project.

In addition to considering the direct alterations caused by structural changes, the WMDs also would be required to

consider indirect changes, such as changes to groundwater levels or hydrologically connected wetlands. The committee substitute specifically states that the consideration in this subparagraph is not to be construed to grandfather-in significant harm caused by consumptive-use withdrawals.

CS/HB 715, et al also recognizes that some water bodies can never be restored to their historic hydrologic functions, or that it is not practicable or technically feasible do so.

In such cases, the WMDs and DEP would have the discretion to not set MFLs. The WMDs also are directed to not set MFLs for surface water bodies less than 25 acres in area, unless the surface water bodies, individually or cumulatively, have significant economic, environmental, or hydrologic value, or are unique natural resources.

Also exempt would be man-made water bodies — such as cooling ponds, drainage ditches, borrow pits and mining pits — that were constructed prior to a permitting program or are constructed pursuant to the conditions of a permit or a reclamation plan, unless they have a unique hydrologic value.

The WMDs are further directed to implement a recovery or prevention strategy if a water body falls below, or is projected to fall below, its MFL. The recovery or prevention strategy must include a timetable that will allow for development of additional water supplies to offset any reduction in permitted withdrawals. To the extent to which it is practical, the offset must be provided concurrent with any reductions in permitted withdrawals.

CS/HB 715, et al also extends the scientific peer review process to the establishment of MFLs in all five WMDs, not just three counties within SWFWMD, and makes several other refinements.

### WMD Accountability:

CS/HB 715, et al provides for staggered appointments of WMD governing board members.

Beginning January 1, 1999, in the first year of a governor's four-year term in office, the governor shall appoint three



members to the governing board of each WMD. In the second and third years the governor shall appoint two members to the governing board of each WMD, except for SWFWMD, where he or she shall appoint three members the SWFWMD board. In the fourth year the governor shall appoint two members of the governing board in each WMD, including SWFWMD.

CS/HB 715, et al also requires WMD Basin Boards to prepare post audits, and it requires each WMD to provide: 1) the tentative budget, 2) the adopted budget, 3) the past year's expenditures, and 4) the post audit to the governor, speaker of the house, president of the Senate, chairs of the legislative committees with substantive or appropriations jurisdiction, the secretary of DEP, and to each county in which it has jurisdiction.

### Duration of WUPs:

CS/HB 715, et al requires WUPs be issued for 20 years if there is sufficient information to provide reasonable assurance that permit conditions will be met. The bill allows the WMDs to require a 5-year compliance report when it is necessary to maintain reasonable assurance that the conditions of the permit can continue to be met.

The WMD may modify the permit after receipt of the compliance report. Permit modifications based on the 5-year compliance report shall not subject the permit to competition from other uses, if there is no increase in water allocation or permit duration and no change in water source other than a change requested by a WMD. The bill also clarifies that these changes shall not be construed to limit the WMDs' or DEP's existing authority to modify or revoke WUPs.

### Use of public lands:

CS/HB 715, et al would allow lands acquired under the CARL and SOR programs to be used for permissible water resource and water supply development projects if the following conditions are met:

- MFLs have been established for priority water bodies on the land;
- the project complies with consump-

tive use permitting criteria; and

- the project is compatible with the purposes for which the lands were acquired.

Water Resource and Supply Development:

CS/HB 715, et al defines "water resource development" as the formulation and implementation by the WMDs of regional water resource management strategies that range from data collection to construction of groundwater storage systems. Water resource development is declared to be the responsibility of the WMDs.

Also defined is "water supply development," which is the planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of public or private facilities for water collection, treatment, transmission or distribution for sale, resale or end use.

Water supply development is declared to be the responsibility of local governments and of government- and privately-owned utilities, although the bill provides circumstances under which DEP and the WMDs can assist in such development.

The bill also clarifies existing water planning language and forges stronger links among the Florida Water Plan (currently called the state water use plan), the WMD district water management plans and the regional water supply plans.

The WMDs are directed to plan on a 20-year time frame the development, management and protection of water resources needed to meet the existing and reasonably projected future uses. When planning to meet these needs, the WMDs are directed to assure that water would be available to meet these needs during a 1-in-10 year drought.

WMDs are directed to initiate water resource development to ensure water is available for all existing and future reasonable-beneficial uses and the environment, and participate in the following activities:

- formulate and implement regional water resources development strategies and programs;
- collect data and conduct research to improve the use of surface and groundwater resources for water supply pur-

poses;

- implement nonstructural programs to protect and manage water resources;
- provide for the construction, operation and maintenance of major public works facilities for replenishment, recapture, storage and enhancement of surface and groundwater resources;
- encourage and promote the development of new technology to maximize the reasonable-beneficial use of surface and groundwater resources;
- cooperate with and assist public and private utilities, regional water supply authorities and public service corporations in the development of water supply delivery systems.



## Key 1997 water Legislative action

### State water policy revised in 81 pages

BY TOM BENEFIELD, CGCS

*FTGA Director*

1997 saw a major effort in the legislature of our state government to attempt to come to grips with the water needs of the state and its citizens. House bill 715 is a cumbersome, awkward and somewhat meddlesome 81-page revision on state water policy.

It is at best an attempt to reign in so-called rogue water management districts and set standards to protect our water supply, and at worst a lost opportunity to curtail the unmanageable development of the state. For it is clearly evident that only a moratorium in new housing developments in certain areas of the state will allow for resolution of water deficits and creation of new supplies upon which future development could depend.

Some of the highlights of House Bill 715 are as follows:

- The water management district governing board has power to identify specific uses on designated bodies of water as "undesirable" and can deny permits requesting those uses. Translation: Lake Okeechobee water can now go to the Everglades instead of east coast well fields or drainage ditches.

• The WMD's governing boards can designate uses as enhancing certain water bodies and can prefer those uses over other uses in the event of competing permit applications for that water body. Translation: First step in establishing minimum flows and levels (MFL).

• Requires the WMDs to consider the public recreation requirements and the protection and procreation of fish and wildlife in determining an applicant's request of water and allows the governing boards to restrict or stop those future uses if they are inconsistent with these objectives. Translation: Second step or effect of MFL and Pinellas County probably won't be able to suck Weeki Wachee Springs dry for its water source.

• By Nov. 15 of each year, requires the WMDs to submit to DEP their priority list and schedule for establishing MFLs. The list has to state which water bodies the districts plan on doing independent scientific peer review with. Translation: MFLs are a new player to water allocation. Their priority and quantity of allocation even subjected to independent scientific peer review will change forever the way water is permitted.

• Provides detailed criteria to be used in establishing MFLs. In the event the existing flow or level is below or projected to fall below an established MFL, the WMD is required to implement a recovery or prevention strategy that will provide sufficient water supplies for all existing and projected users. Translation: WMDs will become water supply developers, to create water where there is none available, a daunting task which most certainly will lead to a tripling of the ad valorem tax rate.

These are just a few of the items discussed in House Bill 715. All of the above information is true and factual except possibly for the translations which may be true and certainly are worth considering. I will examine other parts of this bill in future issues. I would like to thank the staff of our water consultants, McVicar, Federico and Lamb for their help in this process. They have worked tirelessly on our industry's behalf, and we are proud to be associated with them.

Now for a look at the issue near and

## ***It is at best an attempt to reign in so-called rogue water management districts and set standards to protect our water supply, and at worst a lost opportunity to curtail the unmanageable development of the state***

dear to my heart – “potty” water. There are new rules on the books relating to reclaimed water usage, permitting, allocation and cost. So let's review highlights of FS 373.250.

The encouragement and promotion of water conservation and reuse of reclaimed water as defined by the DEP are state objectives and considered to be in the public interest. The Legislature finds that the use of reclaimed water provided by domestic wastewater treatment plants permitted and operated under a reuse program approved by the DEP is environmentally acceptable and not a threat to public health and safety.

Reclaimed water may be presumed to be available to a consumptive use permit applicant when a utility which provides reclaimed water, which has uncommitted reclaim water capacity and which has distribution facilities which are initially provided by the utility at its cost, to the site of the affected applicant's proposed use.

The WMDs in conjunction with the DEP will adopt rules to implement increased reclaim water usage. Such rules may include but be limited to the following.

1. Provisions to permit use of water from other sources in emergency situations or if reclaimed water becomes unavailable for the duration of the emergency or if reclaimed water becomes unavailable for the future.

2. These provisions shall also specify the method for establishing the quantity

of water to be set aside for use in emergencies or when it becomes unavailable.

3. The methodology shall take into account: the risk that reclaimed water may not be available in the future; the risk that other sources may be fully allocated to other uses in the future; the nature of uses served by reclaimed water; the extent to which the applicant relies on reclaimed water; and the extent of economic harm which may result if other sources are not available to replace reclaimed water use.

4. It is the intent of this chapter to ensure that users of reclaimed water have the same access to ground or surface water and will otherwise be treated in the same manner as other users of the same class not relying on reclaimed water.

It is clear that the state wishes to promote reuse of reclaimed water. In so doing they have kept an eye on the future to that time when reclaimed water may need to serve other purposes than those at present. They have therefore authorized by law the WMDs to set aside allocations of groundwater for permit holders who convert or have converted to using reclaimed water.

Allocations for the full allotment, not just temporary emergencies. You would do well to protect your facility and investigate this subject through consumptive use permitting. The methods used, the mechanics to implement and gain access to abandoned resources must be explored at this time to ensure your rights.