

# Association Service...

## *giving back or getting more?*

BY JOEL D. JACKSON, CGCS

**W**hen a superintendent either volunteers or is asked to serve on the board or on committees of his local or national associations, he/she has several things to consider. Am I willing to invest some of my time to help out? Can I take time away from my job if necessary? Will my employer support my decision?

The first thing a superintendent should do is talk to his/her superiors and tell them of his/her interest and desire to serve or help out. They should candidly assess and discuss how much time this service may require away from routine responsibilities. They should also discuss the potential benefits to the superintendent and the club.

When a superintendent steps up and decides to make a commitment to serve his profession beyond his daily routine, he/she is displaying qualities of leadership that should be encouraged and nurtured by his club. Involvement doesn't mean just missing work. It means that superintendent is being exposed to opportunities to grow and development in both personal and professional areas.

I know my volunteer service in local, state and national associations has helped me overcome the common fear of public speaking, which helps me when I have to make presentations at my club. By being a visible leader in my associations, I am on the leading edge for information sharing and gathering, which helps me learn new and potentially better methods for solving or avoiding problems at my club in all phases of our operation.

Those of us who have volunteered know internally how much we have personally benefited and grown from this

Volunteer Leaders' Qualities	Benefits to Employer
Visualize the future	Strong strategic and long-term planning abilities.
Inspire others	Motivate staff to do its very best work. Inspire teamwork. Earn respect.
Critical thinkers	Identify priorities, solve problems, and translate ideas into action. Define and explore alternative solutions.
Process oriented	Excel at planning, organizing, directing, controlling and monitoring —elements critical to golf course management.
Progressive	Create opportunities. Keep up to date with technology and management practices to produce the highest quality playing conditions. Open to new ideas.
Effective personal skills	Capable of working with different constituencies such as green chair, green committee, board of directors, golfers, etc.
Competent	Manage facility's resources skillfully and within budget.
Passionate	Committed to achieve facility goals.
Strong character	Honest and ethical

*Source: Leadership Handbook, 1997, 1995 Compensation and Benefits Report, GCSAA; For the Common Good, <http://ceres.esusda.gov/mission/plans/voldev/vol-5.htm>.*

service. In the May/June issue of GCSAA's Leader Board newsletter, there was a great little article that described the leadership qualities that a superintendent can develop in his volunteer service and how they can benefit his/her employer.

Pretty heady stuff, huh? It doesn't mean that everyone who volunteers and serves is going to turn into a clone of Old Tom Morris. We all have different

strengths and weaknesses. It does mean that a club that supports its superintendent who gets involved is likely to have a more effective manager because of it.

The job always comes first. It always should. But superintendents and their clubs should realize that taking advantage of volunteer service can be a win-win situation for everyone.

## GCSAA Online News U.S. golf course development continues at near- record pace

New golf course construction continued at a near-record rate in 1996, according to the National Golf Foundation's (NGF) latest report on golf course development in the United States.

Titled "Golf Facilities in the U.S./1997 Edition," it reports that 442 courses came on line in 1996. Although slightly less than the record-high 468 two years ago, it was only the second year in which new U.S. course openings have eclipsed 400.

### One more nine

Not all construction has been completely new facilities. A high percentage (40 percent) of the courses built in 1996 were additions to existing facilities. NGF's tracking data show that roughly one-third of the courses built over the past five years have been additions to existing facilities. Approximately 85 percent of these expansions have been nine-hole additions.

### Other Findings

Among the other findings emerging from this year's report:

- **Affordability** — NGF conducted an informal survey of owners/operators of all 135 new 18-hole public facilities that came on line last year to determine what percentage were high-end facilities.

This survey indicated that developers may be following a trend away from high-end projects. Only 25 percent of the 105 respondents to this year's survey said their weekend green fees were above the average for similar courses in their markets. The remaining 75 percent said they have fees that are at or below the average for their areas.

- **Public vs. private** — As it has for the past 20 years, public golf course development continued to dominate last year, with 382 (88 percent) of all courses coming on line as daily-fee or municipal courses.

- **The average weekend green fee** — including golf car fee — was \$56.

Geographically, the averages were higher

among West region courses. Here they ranged from \$70 to \$80, compared with the Midwest and South, where they ranged from \$30 to \$45.

- **The real estate factor** — Although not as much of a factor as it was in the 1980s, golf community development continues to drive a good share of today's golf course development activity. Last year, 144 (33 percent) of the new

courses were part of a real estate development.

- **Beginners' slopes** — Industry observers have long believed that success in growing golf participation will depend to some degree on the increase in entry-level facilities. Last year, 21 executive courses and 20 par-3 layouts were among the 442 courses built.

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1997 Photo contest - Wildlife on the Course.  
Great Blue Heron, Disney's Osprey Ridge GC.  
Photo by Joel Jackson

## 3rd Annual Florida Green Photo Contest under way

**Category 1 - Wildlife on the Course:** includes mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians.

**Category 2 - Course Landscape: Formal Plantings:** includes annuals, shrubs, trees, entrance and tee signs.

**Category 3 - Course Landscape: Native Plantings:** includes aquatic vegetation, grasses, shrubs, trees and wildflowers.

**Category 4 - Scenic Hole Layout Shots:** includes sunrises, sunsets, frosts, storms and any other golf hole view.

### Prizes

- 1st Place (\$100) and 2nd Place (\$50) in each category
- Editor's Choice-Best Overall Photo - \$100.
- All winning entries published in the Fall 1997 issue.

### Easy Rules

1. Color prints or slides. Only one entry per category.
2. Photo must be taken on an FGCSA member's course. Photo must be taken by an FGCSA member or a member of his staff.
3. Attach a label to the back of the print or slide which identifies the category, course and photographer. **DO NOT WRITE DIRECTLY ON THE BACK OF THE PRINT.** Each photo shall be attached to a sheet of 8.5 x 11 lined paper. Line up the photo with the vertical and horizontal lines to square the photo on the page. Attach the print to the paper using a loop of masking tape on the back of the photo. Slides must be easily removable for viewing.
4. A caption identifying the category, course and photographer should be typed or printed on the sheet of paper below the print or slide.
5. Judging will be done by a panel of FGCSA members not participating in the contest.
6. Mail entries in a bend proof package to: Joel D. Jackson, 6780 Tamarind Circle, Orlando 32819. No entries accepted postmarked after August 15, 1997.

# Turf Trivia

## Health Benefits From Lawns

"Today almost everyone living in the urbanized centers of the western world feels intuitively a lack of something in life. This is due to the creation of an artificial environment from which nature has been excluded to the greatest possible extent" [Hossein 1968].

Americans have become more health conscious in the 1980s even as urban living abuses to physical and mental health seem to increase daily. Problems have become more complex and more difficult to cope with.

The media regularly features headlines about health hazards, over which individuals have little control. Concerns about water, food and air pollution have mounted to near panic levels at times from the feeling that disaster is about to strike.

It is important to see what we have in nature that is working for us, providing health and environmental benefits that are often overlooked. Survival and health of humankind are based on an understanding of nature and her processes.

Professor Patrick Horsbrough, professor of architecture at the University of Notre Dame, considers the proximity of plants to people as a psychological imperative [Horsbrough 1972].

Seeking the benefits nature provides is necessary for our own well-being.

Keeping a lawn free of insect and disease damage provides a dense turfgrass cover which can yield many health benefits. Use of the new cultivars gives vigor to the turf. When needed, the careful use of pesticides will help to give a thick turfgrass cover which not only will be more beautiful but will help to cut back on noise, modify the temperature, reduce glare and help control allergens, which are some of the environmental stressors which add to daily living discomfort. Plants are not a cure-all to ten-

sions and personal problems, but "involvement with plants can help you cope" [McDonald 1976].

Roadside rest stops, parks, cemeteries and home lawns are all conducive to good health because they provide settings that calm us, create a sense of well-being and help to reduce stress. Over 4000 members of the American Horticulture Society were surveyed as to the benefits of gardening.

Over 60 percent stated the most important satisfaction as "peacefulness and tranquillity." Taking care of a lawn, like other gardening activities, "is a process which includes all the thought, actions and responses which occur from the time a gardening activity is first contemplated, through the planting and growth of seeds, to the enjoyment of the mature plant" [Lewis 1978].

In addition, lawn tending provides the best in walking, bending and lifting exercise that help to promote good health. Out-of-doors gardening is more enjoyable to many than physical fitness workouts indoors. The soft, resilient cushioning attributes of turf allow outside activities to be safe and more enjoyable.

Plants affect people's moods. A lawn can create feelings of happiness, thoughtfulness, peace, serenity, privacy or sadness, depending on our association with their use — city park, golf course, home lawn or memorial park.

Where vegetation grows, child mortality, suicide and energy consumption are less than in places where there are no plants [Schery 1976].

Watching grass grow and respond to the seasons may be for city people a last link to the solace and understanding our vanishing wilderness once gave.

The therapeutic value of gardening has been recognized since ancient Greece. Hippocrates' famous work on *Airs, Waters and Place* recognized "that man's life, in sickness and in health, is bound up

with the forces of nature..." [McHarg 1971].

In the 18th century, mental hospitals in Spain prescribed gardening as therapy [McGrath 1987].

Today Horticultural Therapy has become an important professional specialty in the rehabilitation of the ill, the elderly, the chemically dependent, the handicapped, the incarcerated and school dropouts. "Gardening as a normal activity is used as a tool to achieve treatment goals" [Fearing 1978].

There is a growing body of evidence that personal health is linked with the person's beliefs, inner-space or psychological landscape [Lewis 1978].

A person who takes pride in helping plants to grow, and in nursing plants back to health after they have declined, starts to regain belief in themselves, establishing a level of pride, confidence and self-worth that can help in the healing process.

Those who work on lawns and in nurseries and greenhouses show a high degree of respect for these areas and gain a feeling of accomplishment.

Working with plants has helped in cases where people have been hospitalized for severe depression so this type of activity can be of use in combating normal everyday blues [McDonald 1976].

New skills are learned through these activities which build enthusiasm for life, overcome boredom and ease the mind. The excitement generated by watching and helping plants grow can make patients feel that they have overcome their disability.

A person who has been ill often loses the power to focus on tasks at hand. When a person focuses on the tasks associated with growing plants, their power of concentration is enhanced. This important quality can be transferred to other tasks and increase the individual's productivity [McGrath 1987].

***It is important to see what we have in nature that is working for us, providing health and environmental benefits that are often overlooked.***

It has been noted that the recovery rate among hospitalized patient when their rooms viewed landscaped areas is often quicker than among patients who have non-landscaped views [Weyerhaeuser 1986].

The restorative qualities of turf and other plants provide a healing experience for people that is real [Stainbrook 1973].

Plants are non-threatening as they respond to care by everyone; they have natural inner rhythms which can teach us lessons about our own lives. In patients who are overcome with a feeling of failure, plants offer paths to success [Autry 1986].

Heightened socialization is noted among nursing home patients who are exposed to plants. Evidence is strong that involvement in lawn care and other gardening activities not only benefits the individual gardener but that it serves to

connect people in a positive way.

Neighborliness increases in places where residents become involved in gardening. A new spirit rises which can impact the community and bring people together [Lewis 1978].

When you take care of lawns and gardens, you also take care of yourself. Plants are a creative life force which can offer many benefits to those who are strong and well, as well as to those who need medical care. We cannot exist on this earth without plant life. As we learn more about plants, we find hope for the future and reassurance in today [McDonald 1976].

"Grasses and people get on truly good together" [Wilson 1961].

*Editors Note: This article concludes the Turfgrass Trivia series.*

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What would you think if Congress passed a law making it illegal to have a barbecue in your back yard or to have a fireplace or to drive your car to work.

Congress won't pass such laws — but those things may be outlawed anyway.

How so? Well, it's an interesting lesson in how liberty is taken away through the back door.

All Congress has done is to pass a Clean Air Act. All the law states is that the Environmental Protection Agency can set standards. We are all in favor of clean air, so congressmen can say they're just being good guys.

But the problem is this: If the EPA sets standards, then it must enforce them. And if, as it appears, it sets ridiculous standards not based on sound science, then it may well have to outlaw outdoor barbecues and fireplaces as well as make car-pooling or the use of public transportation mandatory to achieve its standards. The standards almost surely will put a lot of small businesses out of business, not to mention adding an easy 10 percent to everybody's power bills.

When the Endangered Species Act was passed, I thought, well, that's OK. It just means that you can't shoot eagles or other animals that are in danger of extinction. I'm in favor of that.

What I didn't know, of course, was that the government would declare oddball insects and rodents, worms and minnows and obscure plants nobody but a botanist could identify as endangered. I didn't know that the government then would state that, to preserve the species, it must preserve habitat no matter how much economic destruction and injustice it inflicts on people.

The habitat approach is a big difference that has resulted in wholesale injustices and, in effect, the taking of private property without compensation.

If you owned 100 acres of woodland, you

probably wouldn't mind if a woodpecker lived in one of your trees. But then the feds come along and say that woodpecker needs your 100 acres of timber to get three square meals a day, so you can't use the 100 acres in any way that would disturb the woodpecker. You can, of course, continue to pay taxes on it.

Nearly all evil is done in the name of doing good. It's no exaggeration to say that the greatest threats to the liberty of the American people today are environmental laws and the drug war.

Congress needs to revise seriously the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act. Unfortunately, the environmental extremist industry, heavily financed by federal grants, tax-exempt foundations and big corporations, screams so loudly at any thought of amending these laws that Congress, which is infamous for its cowardice, is scared to touch them.

But unless you want to live an environmental version of George Orwell's Big Brother dictatorship, you'd better find a way to inject a little backbone and common sense into Congress.

What's missing from environmental legislation and enforcement is what is known as the "reasonable person" rule. Environmentalism has become the new McCarthyism. Anyone who dares to suggest some reasonable amendment is branded an enemy of nature.

That doesn't sit too well with me, because I hate an extremist the way Redd Foxx hated midgets. I hope it doesn't sit too well with you. We can, given the limits of population and economic necessity, do a reasonable job of preserving the environment without destroying the economy, trampling on the most basic human rights and destroying what's left of our free society. But to do that, we must wrest the environmental laws and agencies away from the Green Jacobins.

What good are clean air and clean water if the only people left to enjoy them are an impoverished mass of slaves and a few rich masters? Smoke pollutes air, but fanaticism and bad laws destroy freedom.

## Silly laws enter through front door while liberty slips out back

### Guest Column

CHARLEY REESE  
*The Orlando Sentinel*

#### Editor's note

This column in the *Orlando Sentinel* is filled with common sense and is reason enough for everyone to get involved enough to know what is going on in the halls of local, state and national government.

It is why we help fund Legislative Consultant Mike

*Continued on page 108*

Goldie to keep an eye out for us in Tallahassee. It is why you need to be an informed member of the electorate, and it is why you need to send a letter to your representative when proposed legislation isn't backed up by facts.

This column also says to me that laws with compliance, regulatory and penalty language should be written completely before they are passed in concept. That way the "well intentioned" legislators can be held accountable for the full impact of the law, and not leave the voters to the mercy of regulation-writing, nameless bureaucrats

# Letters..

...to the Editor

Joel,

*I have been reading The Florida Green magazine for the last nine months, over three issues. The articles, pictures and editorial commentary by yourself and others are educational, very informative and amusing. I was also very gratified The Florida Green receives the continued and much-deserved accolades as noted by GCSSA. Isn't it marvelous to be the best in your field?*

*Again, kudos to all who work with you to help distribute such an outstanding publication for our industry.*

*Thanks again for publishing the article written on high technology lubrications.*

*Keith VanMeter, The Protector Mfg. Co.*

*I just can't say enough about how impressed I am with the people who organize and support the Envirotron Classic. The tournament is wonderful indication of the*

*great people we have working in Florida's turfglass industry. Without industry support we won't grow.*

*Researchers utilizing the Envirotron are eternally grateful to the Seven Rivers Golf Course Superintendent's Chapter. They had the vision to begin this hugely successful tournament that provides money to purchase equipment for research use today and years to come.*

*As for supporters, Ron Kitchen Sr. and Terry LaGree of Barbaron, Inc. have been two of the finest people I have ever had the pleasure to worked with. I am grateful for their help in building the Envirogreen and their continued support for the Envirotron through their generous donation to the Envirotron Classic.*

*Attending the Envirotron Classic to visit with superintendents and other individuals in the turf industry, while playing on one of Florida's most beautiful golf courses is truly a highlight of my year.*

*Dr. Grady Miller  
Assistant Professor of Turfglass Science  
University of Florida*



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It is unfortunate that deadlines often occur just before important events transpire. I wish that I could be announcing here the name of the University of Florida's new turf coordinator, but the interviews are taking place several days from now.

Of course, it will all be past tense by the time you are actually reading this. Four outstanding candidates have applied for the position and I am confident we will soon have the leader we have been waiting for to take the University of Florida turf program to the next level.

I've never before been as excited and optimistic about the future of our industry as I am right now. We have more

superintendents, suppliers, and university personnel making significant contributions for the betterment of our industry than we have ever had in the past. I'd like to highlight a few of these with the remainder of this column.

The first "Attaboy" goes to Darren Davis of the Olde Florida Club for the outstanding video he has created showcasing golf courses' positive environmental contributions and the superintendents' role in it.

Those of us attending the FGCSA Board meeting in Naples were treated to a preview of the video, and it is simply first rate! Some of the wildlife footage is incredible! The uses of this video are limitless, and every superintendent will have a copy. Great job, Darren!

Darren is also building a test green at his golf course to compare four putting green quality bermudagrasses, which will generate information that will help all of us.

One of the grasses that Darren will be testing is 'Floradwarf', developed by Dr. Al Dudeck at the University of Florida. Dr. Dudeck recently published an excellent technical bulletin called "Floradwarf Bermudagrass" which he is sending out to all members of FGCSA.

This is the kind of information, along with field testing, that our industry needs to be able to make informed choices. I've always held the

belief that there is not, and never will be, one "supergrass" to meet everyone's needs in the Sunbelt.

A public course in North Florida that overseeds and plays 100,000 rounds a year may be better served by a different grass than a private course in South Florida that never overseeds and plays 20,000 rounds a year.

Field trials will help individual superintendents make better decisions.

How about the last few issues of the "Florida Turf Digest"? Through the efforts of Scott Wahlin, Irv Betrock, John Cisar, and others, the publication has evolved into an extremely useful and attractive magazine.

It is particularly gratifying to me because I've always felt that the FTGA magazine should focus on the turfgrass research that the FTGA funds, and that it should be written in easy-to-understand style and language so anyone can read and comprehend the scope and results of research projects.

Want to know about porous ceramics for greens construction? Or the usefulness of the choker layer in USGA spec greens? Or bacteria that can control Sting nematodes? Check out the "Turf Digest." There really is more turf research going on at the University of Florida than any of us knew about, and publishing it in the FTGA magazine is the best way to inform the industry.

What's that? You're not a member of FTGA and don't get this publication? Borrow a copy from one of your neighbors, then call me and tell me why you still don't think it benefits you to belong to the Florida Turfgrass Association.

Whether you acknowledge it or not, if you are working in the turf industry in Florida, you are getting benefits from the activities of the Florida Turfgrass Association. Why can't you join and add your financial and political support to an organization that works for your best interests?

Great things are happening due to dedicated individuals, but we cannot move forward without a larger membership base! While on the subject of FTGA, I'd like to publicly acknowledge the fantastic job that Roy Bates has been doing as this year's President of FTGA. Two "Attaboys" are due Roy!

Right in the middle of writing this article, I

## Heading in the Right Direction

### Mark My Words



Mark Jarrell, CGCS  
Assistant Editor



just realized that trying to list all the great things individuals and chapters were doing for our industry and our communities would be impossible in the space allotted my column.

From the Seven Rivers' Envirotron Classic to the Treasure Coast's Blue Pearl Tournament, superintendents and their suppliers are giving back to their communities and the industry that sustains them.

The University of Florida is committing more resources to the turf program. We have reached out to other state golf and green industry organizations to try to forge more effective and cooperative alliances.

I feel very good about the direction we are heading and am proud to be a Florida superintendent.



Darren Davis previews the almost completed video for the FGCSA Board at the spring meeting in Naples. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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## For Larry

June 9, 1997. Today, we lost another one of the good guys. Larry Kamphaus was one of those rock-solid dependable guys who didn't take the easy way. He was one of those traditional gentleman who

lived his life and conducted his business with honor and ethics.

We lost a big teddy bear of a man who loved his family and his work. We lost a guy with an insatiable curiosity who loved to tinker with

everything from bulldozers to computers and who could take something apart and then put it back together and make it work like a musician that plays a song by ear.

He was humbly proud of his achievements. The only give away would be his twinkling eyes and friendly smile when he had a victory. He hid his disappointments well and played the cards that he was dealt and I like to think he won more hands than he lost. He was fiercely loyal to his employer and spent 26 years giving his full share of effort for his day's pay. He could be stubborn when he felt he was right, but he was a team player when the chips were down and the play was called.

He helped me out on more occasions than I can count when he would come over and tinker with my pump or controller or clay valve and teach me how to trouble shoot some of those mechanical and electrical problems that always mystified me. He helped me through some rough spots with words of encouragement. He helped me gain perspective and focus and priority in my

life. And while the job was always important, I learned that it wasn't always the most important thing in life.

The only way I could rile Larry was to ask him what brand of hair coloring he used. While we are both the same age, my locks turned steadily silver over the 20 years I knew him, and his stayed youthfully brown. It was a trade-off. He was taller so I opted for looking distinguished.

He loved to play golf even though his swing betrayed him on more than one occasion and his handicap kept him out of the A Flight. He worked at his game off and on, but like life he took the good with the bad. He could be a tiger in a scramble format often pulling off shots that were legendary by any standard.

Larry never stopped learning about his profession. He never stopped trying new ideas and methods. I never saw him give in to the dark side of things at least not in my presence. He always remained an optimistic person with a positive outlook on life. He was at various times my boss, my mentor and my friend.

Larry Kamphaus, CGCS, superintendent of Disney's Magnolia Golf Course died today of a massive heart attack at 3:30 am. I will miss him and the only comfort that I can find is in knowing that I am sharing that loss with a whole lot of people that he touched in his lifetime.

Keeping the "green side up" is what we get paid money for. Keeping the "sunny side up" is what earns love, friendship and respect. You can do both and make life's journey a trip everyone will remember fondly. Today, I remember Larry!

### Green Side Up



Joel D. Jackson, CGCS  
Editor