



# The Florida Green

Fall 1999

Number 5  
Olde Florida Golf Club  
Naples  
Photo by Daniel Zelazek

Dependability...

“NOW INSTEAD OF FIXING  
SPRINKLER HEADS,  
OUR IRRIGATION SPECIALIST  
IS HELPING US MOW.”

*Dale Davenport, The Golf Center at Kings Island*

After attending a GCSAA seminar on irrigation efficiency, Dale Davenport was convinced that Toro could take his productivity to new heights. “All I could say was ‘Wow!’” recalls Davenport, V.P. of Grounds & Course Conditioning for The Golf Center at Kings Island. Today, the Toro 750 and 780 sprinklers he chose “...are saving us a lot of hours because they’re so dependable. Now, instead of fixing sprinkler heads, our irrigation specialist is helping us mow.” With fewer parts, simple maintenance, and 35 years of field experience built in, Toro sprinklers deliver peace of mind.

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Olde Florida  
 Clubhouse

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**M**y hat is off to the FTGA Board of Directors and its staff for presenting the professionals of the turfgrass industry such a wonderful opportunity for education, fellowship, and networking at the FTGA Conference and Show at Gainesville in August.

The Board and the various committees involved with the event listened to suggestions and desires from industry and certainly made every attempt to appease the masses.

Were they successful in their attempt to pump new life into the annual conference and show? Well, if you go strictly by the number of attendees, they probably were not. However, those who took the time and made the effort to take part in this outstanding event were treated to a first class affair that certainly was as good as, and — to most attendees — probably better than any previous FTGA

Conference and Show.

Once again, the excuses for choosing not to attend will be rampant and, while some will definitely be legitimate, others will be almost humorous not to mention “old” and overused. Yes, I said “choose” because it is after all a choice for most people to attend just as it is a choice for most golf course superintendents whether to be a member of a professional association like the FGCSA.

I have heard, “Isn’t it enough that I send in my dues each year? After all, by paying my dues I am supporting the association, right?”

Well, it would undoubtedly benefit us all if we had every individual in our profession who resides in Florida as a member of the FGCSA, but being a dues-paying member is not enough.

Associations such as the FGCSA do not make a profit on dues. In fact, the money raised from dues covers only a fraction of the expenses required for the association’s day-to-day operations. Obviously, since dues do not even cover expenses, they are not being used to pay for

research, public relations, or other services the FGCSA and the FTGA provide their membership that allow superintendents to do a better job and gain respect in their chosen profession.

Where does this extra money come from? I hate to say it but to be blunt... vendors, from direct donations, participation in trade shows, sponsorship of events or rebates. And, just as dues do not provide profit, the entrance fees for our meetings and golf outings in most situations merely cover the costs associated with the event. The money raised from these events and subsequently donated to the various associations in most situations comes from support by vendors.

The bottom line is vendor participation for most Superintendents is a double-edged sword.

Just like most of you, I have said, “Isn’t this supposed to be a golf course superintendents’ association?” Or, “It seems like the majority of the people at these events are vendors!”

Well, like it or not, we need and rely on vendor support to raise money for advancements in the profession and vendors are going to attend meetings, golf outings, and trade shows in order to associate themselves with their customers... *you!*

You should be asking yourself, “How long will vendors continue to support our associations if their customers (you and I) do not attend the events that allow them to come in contact with us. Is it enough to just send in your dues check every year? That is a question that only you can answer.

I would like to thank the vendors that have been longtime supporters of the association and especially those who made the effort to sponsor and support the recent FTGA Conference and Show. The money raised by the FTGA is used for turfgrass research that directly benefits the members of the FGCSA. I would also like to thank the countless volunteers of the FGCSA, the local chapters and the FTGA for devoting your personal time to provide quality education, and events in an effort to entice your peers to attend these extracurricular outings that benefit them and the profession as a whole.

Thank you and I look forward to a productive year as president of the FGCSA. 🦩

*Support is a Two-way Street*

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



Darren Davis  
President  
FGCSA

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


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# Machine-Gun Al Asks Questions in Rapid Fire

## Dedicated S. Fla. Superintendent Receives FGCSA President's Award

BY ROBERT G. KLITZ, CGCS Golf Hollywood

So who is Al Ross? When asked directly he said, "Al Ross is a realist who says what's on his mind. Hopefully people will view this as honesty. He is loyal, sincere, and helpful." He gave a very accurate self description.

Here is a man who has dedicated the past 19 years of his life to the Sunrise Country Club and at least 14 years of service to the South Florida GCSA. I will not be discussing the mowing height of Al's greens; his weed-control program; or what color annuals he plants at the clubhouse. I will be providing some insight into the real person that we in South Florida affectionately call "Machine-Gun Al."

When you meet Al in person, he is friendly but somewhat distant. He will shake your hand, grunt a greeting acknowledging of your presence, and then look away if not immediately engaged in a conversation. But, if you possess information that interests him, be prepared for an interrogation of rapid-fire intensity.

Al will stare at your face, study your expressions, and pump every last bit of information out of you until every important aspect has been revealed, and you

have strongly stated your case.

Al's interrogations approach the intensity of a detective grilling a perpetrator. Your voice will tremble, beads of sweat will roll

and accurately, and be prepared to support your statements. Don't be surprised. This is actually how Al treats all of his friends!

Al's experience in turf

and then decided on golf course turf management. During summers Al worked at the school for faculty members, Drs. Bing and Hyde. After receiving his degree, Al decided to move to Florida and get a job on a golf course.

When informed that Al was moving to Florida, his mother was obviously concerned that he might move in with her in New Port Richey. So she visited Fred Tucker at Timber Oaks Golf Club and told him that Al was moving to Florida with a degree in turf and that he was looking for a job on a golf course. Tucker contacted Harvey Phillips at the Biltmore Belleview G.C., Dan Hall at Countryside C.C., and Chuck McCracken at Beacon Woods.

Al left Long Island on a Saturday, arrived in Florida on Sunday, closed on a house on Monday, started looking for work on Thursday, was hired at Beacon Woods on Friday and started work the following Monday. That is typical Al Ross intensity.

Al started at Beacon Woods as the assistant superintendent and worked there for five years. Beacon Woods was at the early construction stage, so he had the opportunity to work through grow-in. Al received his first superintendent's job at Inverness where he stayed for two and one half years.

Al then moved to Sunrise C.C. as superintendent and has remained there for the past 19 years.

down your temple, and the questions will be drilled relentlessly. Don't be alarmed. Al really is a warm, friendly person. But give him the information he wants, give it to him quickly

started at Farmingdale State University in Long Island, N.Y. He was searching for a major that would include his love for working outdoors. He tried horticulture and sod production,

## Machine Gun Al's Bullet Points for Young Bucks

### Work Ethic

- Take your time and enjoy your experiences
- Don't expect to go anywhere fast.
- Be loyal to your employer.
- If your job performance and results impress your boss, greater opportunities will develop for you.
- Focus on the benefits of long term employment.

### Association Involvement

- Fellowship and relationships.
- Education.
- It is your duty to make a commitment to your local chapter, and to help out in any way possible.
- If you are a veteran superintendent with years of experience, you have a responsibility to help out the assistants and inexperienced superintendents by sharing your knowledge and experiences.

### Most Significant Accomplishments

- Tree Program - Removing exotics such as Australian Pine and melaleuca and replacing them with native trees.
- Installing computer controlled irrigation system.
- Greens renovation and development of a master plan in 1994 with golf course architect Chuck Ankrom.
- Negotiations with developer of surrounding property which resulted in drainage enhancements, additional waterways and a long term financial commitment.
- Installation of two extra holes that permit 18 holes of golf to be played, when any other two greens are under renovation or aerification.



1999 FGCSA President's Award winner Al Ross, CGCS, Sunrise G.C. was recognized by the South Florida Chapter for his 13 years of service. Photo by Bob Klitz.

Al refers to himself as "The Certified Golf Course Superintendent at Sunrise Country Club," but over the years his responsibilities have grown to include serving in a general manager's capacity. While he oversees all aspects of the golf operation, his focus remains on the golf course itself.

Al's commitment to the South Florida GCSA began in 1986. He was offered the glamorous role of chapter shirt salesman for his first year of duty.

He dragged the big cardboard boxes to every meeting, set up his display table, sold one or two shirts, and then dragged everything back to the car.

He did all this without a single complaint. This was

his assignment, his duty, and he performed it to the best of his ability. Al moved forward through all the officer positions and served as president of the SFGCSA in 1991-92.

He continues to serve on the board, currently assisting with education, and will remain as long as his services are requested. Al feels a need to contribute to an organization that has provided such a positive influence on his career, and his performance as a superintendent.

He feels that the exposure to new ideas at the monthly meetings are an invaluable source of information. He has consistently returned to his club after chapter meetings with money-saving ideas

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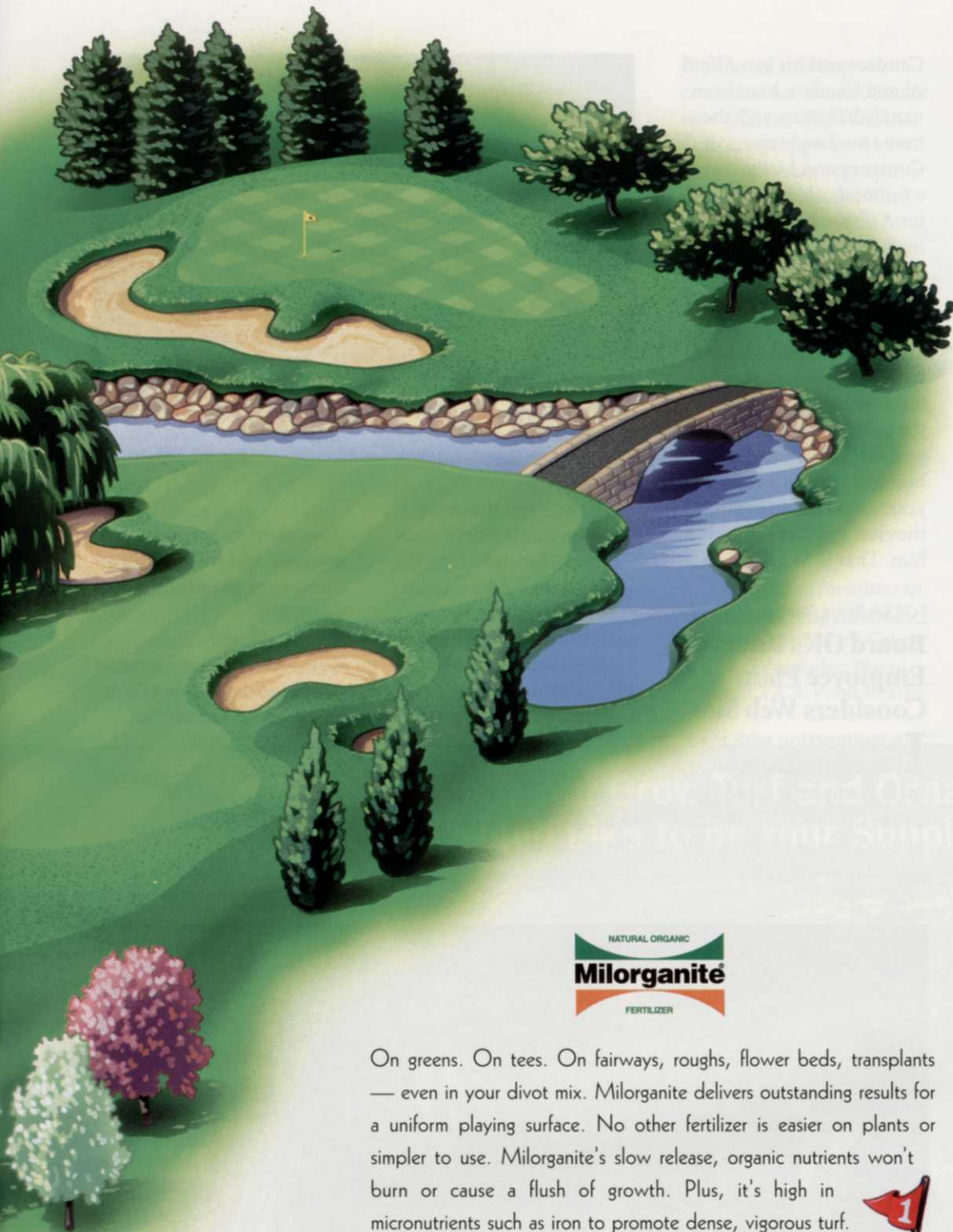
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that have had an impact on the club's bottom line. One such occasion was after a presentation by a private insurance carrier. Al was able to make insurance-plan adjustments that earned significant savings for his club.

Through all these years Al has shared many experiences with his friends and peers.

His most rewarding experiences on the job include receiving compliments from golfers and reading newspaper articles about someone who played Sunrise and enjoyed the experience.

Having spent nearly half of his life maintaining Sunrise, Al deeply appreciates the recognition for the extra effort that he and his staff put in on a daily basis.

Al has participated in many local and national superintendent events during the last 20 years. He enjoys renewing old friendships at the GCSAA conference and show, and late-night conversations after the day's formal education has ended.

Al's favorite local SFGCSA event is the annual benefit golf tournament for The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Al will only play golf if he is forced to. What Al lacks in golfing ability, he makes up for in entertainment value on the golf course. Al enjoys this event because it makes him feel good about contributing to a worthy cause and helping the children in our community.

Al resides in Coral Springs with his wife

Candace and his son Alfred. Al and Candace have been married 28 years and also have two daughters, Courtney and Melissa, and a 6-month old granddaughter Aaliyah. Al's interests include fishing, boating on his 18-foot Bayliner and traveling throughout the USA.

Al has enjoyed his long-term employment at Sunrise, and his career in the golf course industry. His goal is to stay in the business for another 20 years, and remain loyal to the club that has supported him. That is Al Ross, CGCS.

FGCSA BOARD/ANNUAL MEETING

**Board OKs Budget, Employee Plan, Considers Web Site**

In conjunction with the Central Florida GCSA's Larry Kamphaus-Crowfoot Open, the FGCSA held its summer board meeting and annual meeting at the



*Chris Leahy, left and Richard Colyer, right from Golf Agronomics Supply and Handling present Past President Mike Perham, CGCS with a \$3,000 check for the FGCSA Research Account. Photo by Joel Jackson*

Grand Cypress Conference Center in Orlando July 31. Since the FGCSA's fiscal year ends on June 30 each year, the first order of business was to approve the 1999-2000 operating budget.

Included in the new budget was a new employee wage and benefits program that was approved to cover the association's two fulltime employees, Marie

Roberts, association manager and Joel Jackson, director of communications.

Also discussed were education expenses; internal control review by our CPA; government and public relations; the 2000 FGCSA Reception in New Orleans; Florida Green ad rate increase; \$25,000 donation to the FTGA Research Foundation; \$500 sponsor-



*FGCSA officers for 1999-2000 from left: Secretary/Treasurer Geoff Coggan, CGCS; Vice President Cary Lewis, CGCS; President Darren Davis; and Past President Mike Perham, CGCS. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

ship of the Etonic Seminars at the FTGA Conference and Show; official notification of a new local chapter, the Calusa Chapter; and continued funding of the shared lobbyist with the FTGA.

The FGCSA will continue to support the GCSAA Platinum Club and the Musser Foundation with annual donations and its five-year commitment to the GCSAA Foundation.

Richard Coyler and Chris Leahy from Golf Agronomics were on hand to present a \$3,000 donation to the FGCSA Research Account. This donation from GASH's profits-rebate program brings the company's participation to a total of \$36,000 over the

past several years. The board expressed gratitude to Dale Mitchell and Richard Coyler on behalf of all those who benefit from GASH's continued generosity and support.

The FGCSA also approved a motion to explore the proposal by Jared Grigg to establish a Florida GCSA website. The only obligation to the FGCSA will be to provide current information to the webmaster maintaining the site. Darren Davis, Gary Grigg and Joel Jackson will serve on the Website Committee to get it started and provide all chapters with a list of features to be included on the site.

Immediately following the summer board meeting,

the annual meeting was convened for the election of new officers. The FGCSA Officers were pleased with the 100 percent representation by all Chapters. The new executive council for 1999-2000: Darren Davis, GCS, president; Cary Lewis, CGCS, vice president; Geoff Coggan, CGCS, secretary/treasurer; and Mike Perham, past president.

New directors coming on the board: Brett Harris, Central Florida; Ed Neumann, North Florida; John Van Vranken, Sun-coast; and Eric Joy, West Coast.

Continuing members of the board: Doug Abbuhl, Coastal Plains; Gary Grigg, CGCS, Everglades; David Court, CGCS, Palm Beach;

Roy Wilshire, CGCS, Ridge; Buddy Keene, Seven Rivers; Jim Goins, South Florida; and Craig Weyandt, Treasure Coast.

CENTRAL FLORIDA GCSA

## Kamphaus Crowfoot Draws Record Field; Delaney Honored


A record 172 players teed it up on the North, South, and East nines at the Grand Cypress Club in Orlando for the 23rd Larry Kamphaus Crowfoot Open. A Stableford points scoring system was used and most players finished their rounds in less than five hours.

Tom Alex and his staff plus the Golf Operations staff had everything ready

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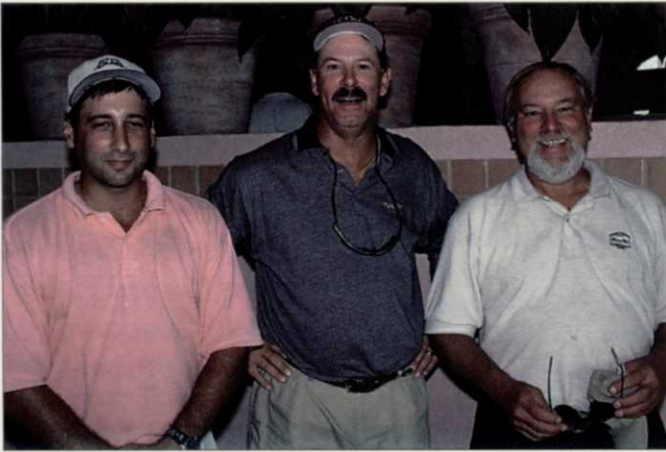
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The West Coast Chapter walked off with the Low Net Team Championship at the 1999 Crowfoot Open. Team members are: (l-r) Tony Joanow, Avila G&CC; Mike Blanchard, Westin Innisbrook Resort and Buddy Carmouche, CGCS, Palma Ceia G&CC. Photo by Joel Jackson.

to go for the 8 o'clock shotgun start on the first Monday morning of August.

Central Florida's Hal Richburg, Heathrow CC shot a sizzling 73 on a sweltering hot day to win



Hal Richburg, superintendent of the Heathrow CC, captured the Crowfoot Open Low Gross trophy and a spot on the FGCSA team at the GCSAA Championship. Photo by Joel Jackson.

low gross honors and a spot on the FGCSA team at the GCSAA tournament to be held in Mobile, Ala. this year. Kevin Rotti, Errol Estates CC, was second with a 74, followed by Paul Bondeson, Jr., Mariner Sands CC, in third with a 75.

In the net points division, the winner was Mike Blanchard, Innisbrook Resort with plus 10. Second was Tony Joanow, Avila G&CC. Ray Cuzzone, Bartow GC picked up third place. The strong showing by Mike and Tony led the West Coast Chapter in capturing the Crowfoot Open Team Trophy. Buddy Carmouche, Palma Ceia CC and Dave Datema, Disney's Magnolia GC rounded out the West Coast team.

In the Commercial Divisions, Jim Staub took first place low gross ahead of Dick Bessire who nudged out Troy Parker in a match of cards. Todd Perkins was first in the net division after matching cards with John

Gamble. Fred Marshall finished third.

A special thank-you to the record number of sponsors that helped make this year's event such a great success. Kudos also to Tom Alex's administrative assistant, Lisa Richards, and her parents Jan and Robert Lloyd for their help in staging the event and preparing the sponsor board. A big hand for course superintendent, Tom Diggins his assistants Jeff Clark and Andy Smith and staff for having the course in its usual immaculate condition. Special thanks to golf professional Ryan Kidwell for helping to score the results of the tournament.

The 1999 Crowfoot Committee was: Chairman Tom Alex; Vilma Kamphaus; Dwight Kummer; Joel Jackson; Stuart Leventhal; Joe Ondo; Lisa Richards; Jan Lloyd; and Bob Lloyd.

### Crowfoot Banquet

Crowfoot luck held out as the scheduled poolside banquet on Sunday got a tentative start while severe thunderstorms lurked around the Grand Cypress property. Only a couple of miles away as the crow flies, the Lake Buena Vista area was getting pummeled by 1.75 inches of rain. After a few feeble sprinkles, the party got under way.

The highlight of the banquet was the presentation of the Larry Kamphaus Award. The award was instituted to honor the memory of longtime Crowfoot chairman and Disney superintendent Larry



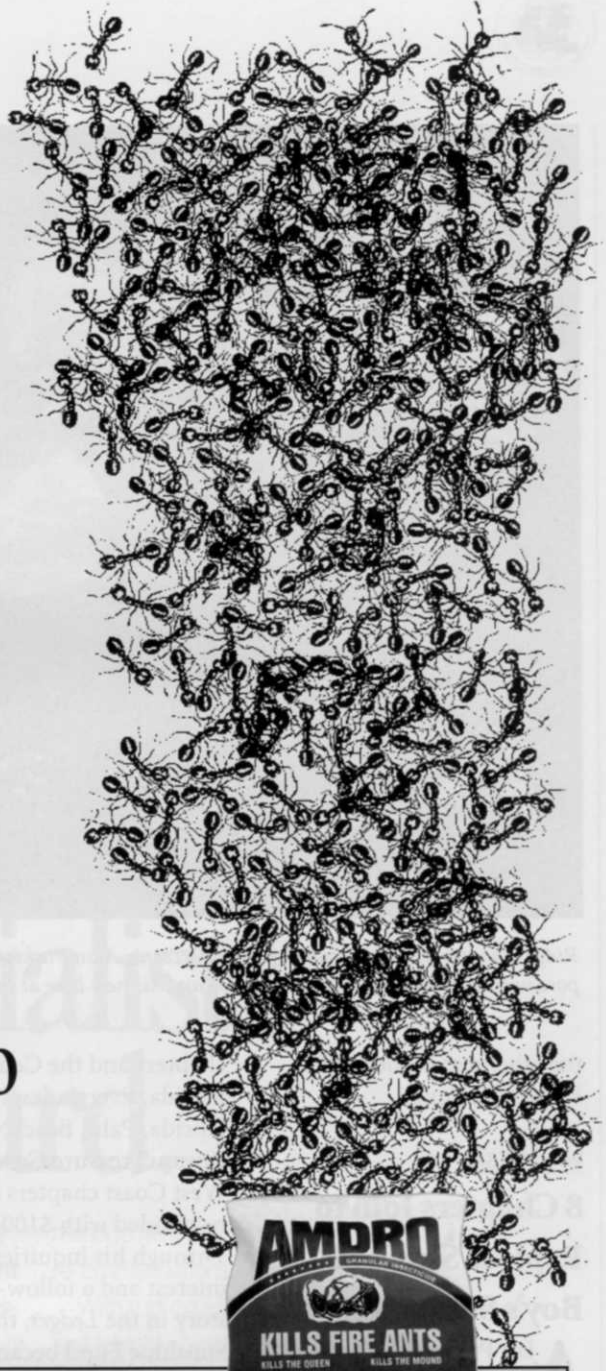
Don Delaney of Golf Ventures, Inc. was named the 1999 Larry Kamphaus Award winner at the Sunday night Crowfoot banquet. Delaney received an engraved crystal bowl and a David Pursell commemorative drawing of Larry. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Kamphaus, who passed away in 1997. Larry and his wife Vilma co-chaired the Crowfoot committee for 13 years, and Larry was with the Walt Disney Company for 27 years.

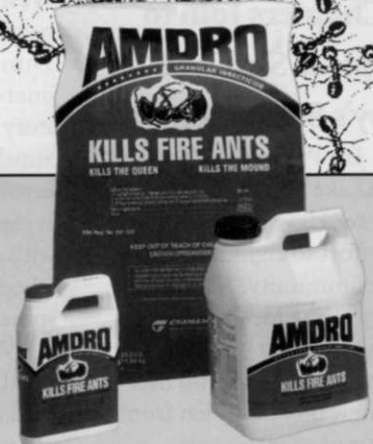
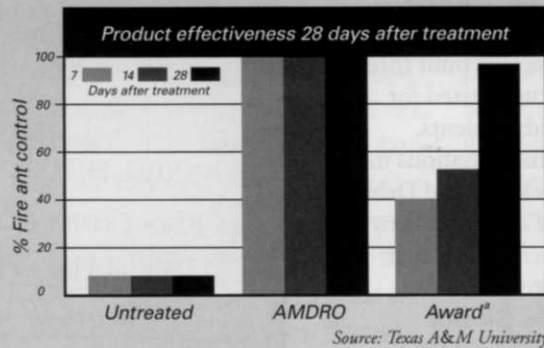
Each year now the selection committee looks for a Central Florida member who depicts loyalty and tenure with his employer, service to his profession, and dedication to family and community.

This year's winner was caught by surprise when he was announced. Don Delaney, former superintendent and president of the FGCSA, was practically speechless when his name was called. Delaney is now with Golf Ventures, Inc. Delaney's name was inscribed on two crystal bowls, one that goes with him and

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Ridge Chapter members from left, Ray Cuzzzone, Alan Puckett, Jeff Brown, Tom Barnett and Mark Hopkins pose with guest of honor Aaron Bledsoe and his new bike at their July meeting.

provided the labor to install it so Aaron's new bike can be kept secured.

On July 22, 1999 Aaron Bledsoe was the guest of honor at the Ridge Chapter's July meeting at Puckett's course where he and his mom thanked the Ridge Chapter for helping them coordinate the efforts and funds that came in to help Aaron. Later Puckett took Aaron on a golf cart tour of his course to show him some alligators.

Puckett said, "Aaron asked me if I had a bike. I told him I did. He asked me if I would come over and ride with him some time. What a neat kid! He has great spirit and he doesn't let his condition stop him from living life to the fullest.

"I was at Aaron's house when they delivered the new bike. When he was trying it out in the carport there was one spot where he got hung up trying to turn. When I got him clear and he looked up at me and said, 'Thank you, Mr. Puckett!' I got teary eyed.

the other that resides at the Kamphaus home.

RIDGE GCSA

### 8 Chapters Join to Replace Stricken Boy's Stolen Bike

Alan Puckett, GCS at the Lake Region Y&CC in Winter Haven, spearheaded an effort to right a wrong in his community. Alan read a story in the local newspaper about a young boy afflicted with spina bifida who had his new bicycle stolen from his front yard.

Alan called the paper, the Lakeland Ledger, to see if something was being done to replace the bike for 8-year-old Aaron Bledsoe. Alan put out a call for donations from FGCSA

chapters and the Central Florida, Everglades, North Florida, Palm Beach, Seven Rivers, Treasure Coast and West Coast chapters each responded with \$100. Through his inquiries and interest and a follow-up story in the Ledger, the Sunshine Fund became involved and not only replaced the bike, but did so with a specially built three-wheeler customized for spina bifida patients.

With the donations in hand, Puckett asked Debbie Bledsoe if Aaron had any other special needs that could be met with the funds. Mrs. Bledsoe mentioned that Aaron could use a special wheelchair to help him get around on shopping trips and outings. The Ridge

Chapter then partnered with the Bledsoe's insurance company to provide the wheelchair, using the donations to help defray the cost. In addition, Puckett purchased a utility shed and



Host superintendent Steve Pearson, CGCS, left and Palm Beach Chapter President Chip Fowkes, right present UF turf coordinator, Dr. John Cisar, with a check for ultradwarf BMP research at the 1999 Future of Golf tournament at the Falls CC. Photo by Joel Jackson.



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People said I was big hearted. My answer was no! I got angry and just did something about it."

**PALM BEACH CHAPTER**

**Future of Golf Event Raises \$25,000**

Each year the Palm Beach Chapter holds its annual Future of Golf fund raiser for turf research, local charities and junior golf programs.

This year the event was held June 5 at the Falls CC in West Palm Beach. Host Steve Pearson, CGCS was bound and determined to make it a success and he triumphed.

The event netted \$25,000 and the Palm Beach Chapter pledged

\$15,000 over the next two years to fund Dr. John Cisar's best management practices research on several varieties of the new ultradwarf bermuda-grasses.

The research will be conducted on the FGCSA's Otto Schmeisser Research Green at the University of Florida Research and Education Center in Fort Lauderdale.

**COASTAL PLAINS CHAPTER**

**Tallahassee Tourney Raises \$6,500**

Florida's Panhandle may lack the large numbers of golf courses found farther south on the peninsula, but the spirit in this Tallahassee-based



1999 Coastal Plains Classic Committee heads up effort that earned \$6,500 for turf research. From left: Mike Bishop, Southern States, Inc.; Bill Kollar, FSU; Bill Humphrey, Lesco, Inc.; Geri Buchheit, Killlearn CC and Mike McNamara, Cross Creek GC. Photo by Joel Jackson.

chapter is just as big.

Celebrating their Fourth annual Coastal Plains Classic at the Golden Eagle CC this year, two-man teams pairing superintendents, golf pros and suppliers played a scramble.

The chapter raised \$6,500 for turf research at the University of Florida's Research and Education Center in Milton, near Pensacola, and at Georgia's Coastal Plains Research Station in Tifton, Ga.

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SOUTH FLORIDA GCSA

*Hutton received the Dick Pope Horticulture Man of the Year Award in 1968. Only 12 other people have received this distinguished award. Hutton is a charter member of the Florida Nursery Growers Association and the Florida Turfgrass Association from which he received the prestigious Wreath of Grass award in 1974.*

*Photo by Joe Dougherty*

## Meet John Hutton, Legendary Florida Horticulturalist

John Hutton has been somewhat of a mystery to his peers. A very humble and gentle Scotsman looking a score younger than his 80 years, John Hutton has made legendary contributions to the landscape of Florida, including golf courses.

Hutton was born in Oyster Bay, NY in August of 1919 in the same neighborhood as Teddy Roosevelt. A third-generation horticulturalist, he had his formal education at Cornell University Agricultural Extension in New York. His grandfather was put on loan from Kew Gardens, London and commissioned by Queen Victoria to landscape the Sultan of India's palace in Jahore, Malaysia, where his father was born in 1881. By special invitation, Hutton got to see his grandfather's work in 1981 with his grandfather's original field notes in hand.

Hutton came to Florida in 1946 after World War II to do the landscape architecture on some very exclusive Palm Beach and Miami Beach homes. His work was much admired, which led to some big contracts during the hotel development era in Miami Beach and Fort Lauderdale in the 1950s and 1960s. He had landscape contracts at

the Fountainbleu, Eden Roc, Seville, Pier 66, Doral and many other hotels and resorts.

Hutton's first golf course project was at the Diplomat Hotel and Country Club. Across the Intracoastal Waterway from the hotel was swamp land in 1956. A million and one half yards of fill was required for the Diplomat project, which was the second-largest landfilled area of its kind in Florida surpassed only by the Jacksonville Air Force Base.

Red Lawrence was the course architect, and Hutton still cares for the property to this day. In 1962, Hutton replanted nearly 1,100 oak trees for the Diplomat Presidential Course designed by Mark Mahannah, and only lost 50 trees. The rest are still standing today and can be seen on the east side of Interstate 95 near Ives Dairy Road.

Hutton received the Dick Pope Horticulture Man of the Year Award in 1968. Only 12 other people have received this distinguished award. Hutton was a charter member of the Florida Nursery Growers Association and the Florida Turfgrass Association from which he received the prestigious Wreath of Grass award in 1974. In 1962, Hutton helped Joe Konwinski host the NGCSA party and outing given

by Al Kaskel, developer of the Doral complex where he was helping golf course architects Joe Lee and Dick Wilson develop the courses.

Hutton is currently working with his old friend Joe Lee on the grow-in of the redesigned Diplomat with Nugent Golf Course Construction. During my visit to the course July 19, golf course superintendent Damian Loughran had assembled his new crew to begin the fine mowing on the project which began in October 1998 which included tear down, redesign, irrigation, etc. It's estimated that the course will be ready by December 1999, well ahead of completion of the hotel's renovation. A tour of the course with Loughran indicated that it will be challenging to all levels of golfers. The clubhouse construction is underway and will contain a spa. It's seems larger and just as majestic as the Taj Mahal!

We greatly appreciate John Hutton's accomplishments and contributions to the horticulture industry of Florida. Hutton will be formally honored at a future South Florida Chapter meeting.

*Joe Dougherty  
Hollybrook G&T*

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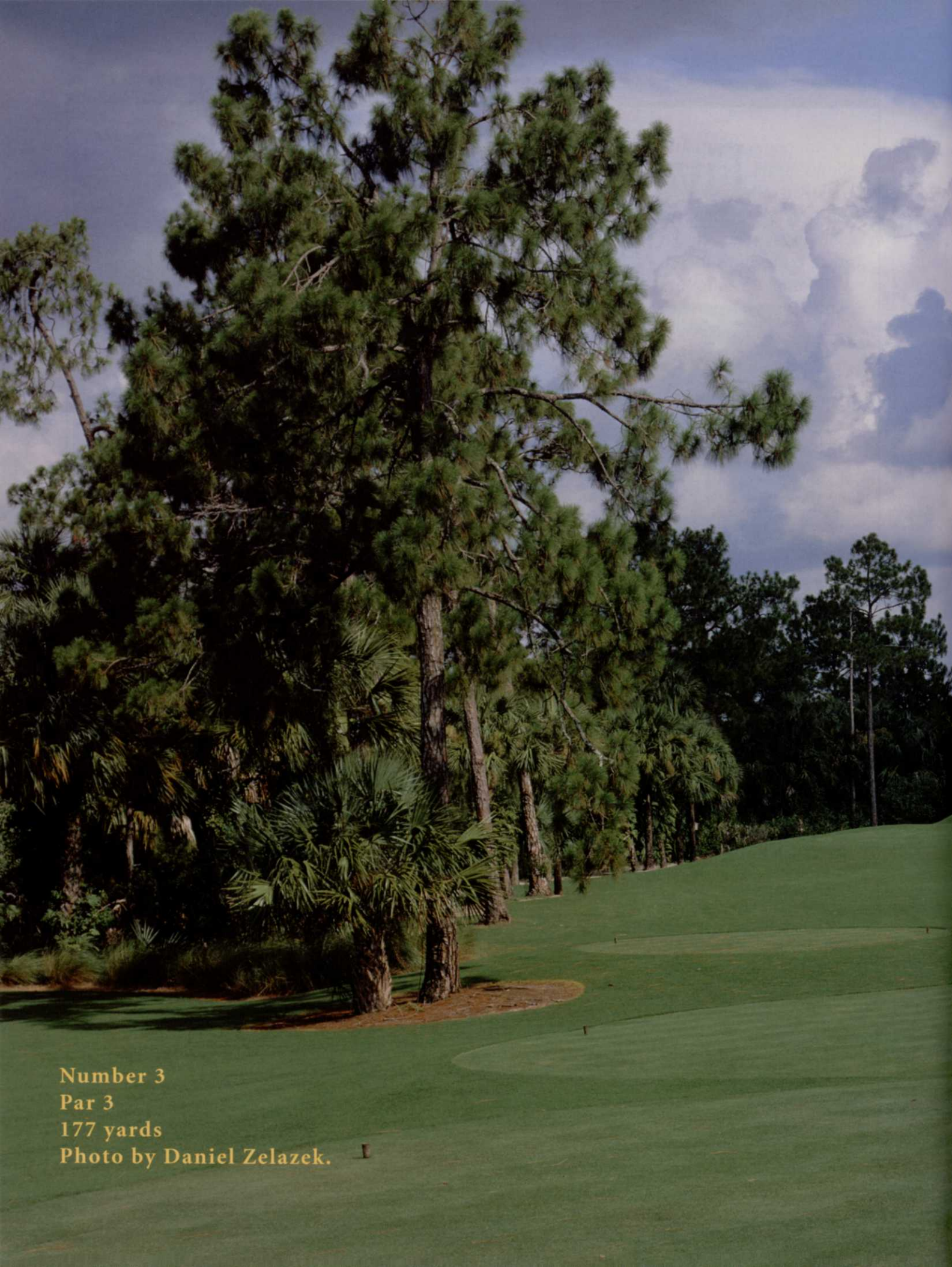
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At Olde Florida Golf Club, the mission statement is

*Don't worry.  
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BY JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

**T**he Olde Florida Golf Club is located east of I-75 at the end of the Vanderbilt Beach Road Extension. Seven years ago the Olde Florida Golf Club was a lonely outpost on the northeast fringe of the Naples growth boom. Now, nearby Immokalee Road is fast becoming Golf Central with six to eight courses open or under construction along its corridor.

The name of the club says it all. From the “cracker style” clubhouse with its high-pitched roof and wrap-around porch to the 18-hole Rees Jones golf course

situated in a slash pine forest festooned with cabbage palms and bald cypress with an understory of saw palmetto, Dahoon holly, wax myrtle, red bay, muhly grass, cordgrass, lantana and grape vine. In short, a slice of old native southwest Florida landscape.

The 25 founding members envisioned a golf club that would embody the finest traditions of golf combined with a commitment to excellence in every aspect of the daily operations and maintenance. They wanted a golf-only facility with an adequate but modest food and beverage operation. No swimming



*A rare sight in Naples – no limestone boulders on a lake bank! The par 5, 580 yard 10th hole.  
Photo by Daniel Zelazek.*

***There are only three  
rules at Olde Florida.***

***Rule number one –  
There are no rules.***

***Rule number two – Be  
happy. Rule number  
three – If you can't be  
happy here, maybe  
you should be  
somewhere else.***

pool. No tennis courts. Just golf. They wanted to avoid all the pitfalls, politics and parties of the traditional country club setting and just have a place to come and enjoy the game. A Bobby Jones quote printed on the Olde Florida scorecard sets the tone for the club's laid-back style of operation, "Few written rules are needed amongst a club of ladies and gentlemen."

That very prominent statement is backed up by an unwritten philosophy that goes something like this: "There are only three rules at Olde Florida. Rule number one – There are no rules. Rule number two – Be happy. Rule number three – If you can't be happy here, maybe you should be somewhere else." Superintendent Darren Davis says the club strongly adheres to that philosophy.

Davis joined the Olde Florida team in 1992 when the only employees were Lynn Josephson, the man who had the original concept, and the controller. Josephson,

a former local golf professional, guided the project through five years of planning and permitting with the Core of Engineers to get the full extent of the uplands and wetlands defined so that development could proceed.

As Josephson assembled the original 25 founding members, they discussed the design of the golf course as well as the simplified details of operation. The course was going to have a more northern look compared to the typical Naples golf course. There would be no limestone rock walls and lake banks, so common to the area. No paved cart paths except where absolutely necessary. There would be no signage or unnecessary posts, poles, fences etc. The native setting was to be preserved and there would be no flower beds or non-native landscaping used around the clubhouse or on the course. All accessories on the course would be natural.

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## Olde Florida GC

**Location:** Naples. Ranked No. 20 in Florida in 1997 and No. 6 Best New Course in Private Club Division in 1994 by *Golf Digest*.

**Ownership:** Members (250). The 15 founding members of the club govern all daily operations represented by an executive committee consisting of a president, vice president and secretary/treasurer. All members can vote on issues affecting the equity of the club. Fewer than 20 members call SW Florida their permanent home.

**Playing policy:** Private. Single membership.

**Designed by:** Rees Jones. Constructed by Wadsworth Golf Constructions. Opened: in 1993. 18 holes - Par 72. Championship Tees (7055 yd.) Course Rating: 74.1 Slope: 132; Back Tees (6734 yd.) Course Rating: 72.9 Slope: 126; Middle Tees (6393 yd.) Course Rating: 70.8 Slope: 119; Forward Tees (5597 yd.) Course Rating 71.5 Slope: 121.

**Management:** Manager/Head Professional, Tom Wildenhaus; Golf Course Manager, Darren Davis. Both report directly to the club president, Mr. T. J. Kukk of Akron, Ohio.

**Major Renovations/Projects:** Ongoing projects include installing surface drainage and maintaining a "clean look" between turf and native woods that border every hole. Drainage installation is a top priority since there are no cart paths on the course and cart use is restricted under only the most severe circumstances. Our goal is to get the entire course draining as well as a USGA green.

**Acreage under maintenance:** 105 acres of turf.

**Greens (1-18):** 2.5 Acres. Average size: 6,130 sq. ft. Turf type: Dwarf bermudagrass from Quality Grassing. HOC = .147 - .180" with Wiehle rollers and groomers. Overseeding: None. Green Speed Goals = First and foremost is consistency. In season: 9-10. Tournaments slightly higher. Off season: No less than 8. Double cut, roll, light verticutting, grooming and light top dressing to achieve speed while keeping HOC relatively high for healthier turf.

**Tees (1-18):** 3.1 acres. Turf type: Tifway 419. HOC = .425 - .550" Bunton walk mowers 75% of the time. Overseeding: None.

**Fairways:** 25.5 acres. Turf type: Tifway 419 with 27 and 36 chromosome "off type" patches. Overseeding: None.

**Roughs.** 69.5 acres. Turf Type: Tifway 419 with "off type" patches. HOC = .75 - 1.75". Overseeding: None.

**Staff:** 23 including superintendent. Assistant superintendents Jim Whalen and Trevor Brinkmeyer; Shop and equipment manager Kim Ellis; Office manager/administrative assistant Stacey Gray.

golf courses around the country, Davis borrowed ideas from Augusta National, Pine Valley and Black Wolf Run to outfit the course with native materials. The tee markers are short sections of pine tree limbs sitting vertically on the tees. They are not color coded. You play from the set of tees that suit your game without the stigma of traditional markings which might prejudice age or gender.

Ball washers and trash containers are mounted on posts made from logs of downed trees on the property. The only concession to manmade materials is the occasional use of cart directional signs to guide traffic flow during wet conditions. Landscape timber sections are used as movable barriers to direct heavy cart traffic in the winter season.

"Our primary golf season is from October to April," says Davis, "and only about 20 of our 250 members are local residents. So when a member comes to town any time of year, we make sure the course is available and in playable condition at all times. We never close to walking golfers and golf carts are restricted only for the most obvious adverse flooded and saturated conditions."

One inescapable geological fact of Collier County is the existence of limestone bedrock near the surface. Just because Rees Jones and the founders decided not to use the rock to decorate the course doesn't mean that it didn't have an impact on the construction and maintenance.

"This site had very limited topsoil cover, Davis explained. "We stockpiled what soil we could scrape from the cleared areas. The lakes were blasted and excavated and the rock used to build the rough shape of the course with the exception of the greens complexes. Then the soil was pushed back over the rock to an average depth of two feet.

"Often this soil cover was contaminated with scattered rocks, which created some problems after grow-in when we started aerifying. We destroyed a lot of tines the first few years finding and removing those rocks. Essentially what we have now with this underlying bedrock is an 18-hole perched water table, making traffic control our number-one maintenance challenge.

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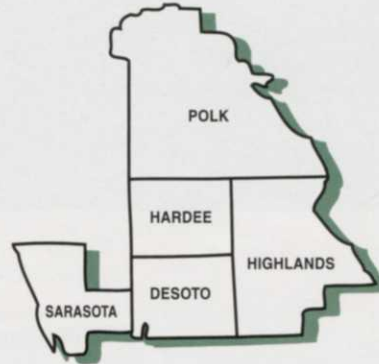
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*Sunrise on the 412 yard, par 4, 14th hole. Lake and aquatic plant management is performed in house. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.*

***Our second-biggest ongoing maintenance challenge is maintaining a clean but natural look along the interface between the maintained turf areas and the native woodlines.***

“Installing the irrigation system and drain lines was and is a monumental task. The trenches have to be excavated with jack hammers. However, we are committed to eliminating the chronic water holding areas around the course to make the course as playable as possible. To date we have installed an additional three miles of 4-inch perforated drain tile.

“Winter is devoted to grooming the playing surface daily for the members, and summer is when we do our major cultural work on the course. Up until this year we were always closed on Mondays and Tuesdays in the off season to do our cultural maintenance practices.

“This year the club has asked us to close only on Mondays. Therefore we work from dawn to dusk to get aerification cores and clippings cleaned up as much as possible. We finish cleanup on Tuesdays ahead of play, but with only 5–10 players in the summer, it has not been a problem for us or the members thus

far. Prior to this year they had never seen an aerification core.”

One look at the Olde Florida maintenance schedule reveals that the greens will be aerified monthly from May to September. The tees will be also be done monthly through October. The fairways will be aerified in May, July, August and October and verticut in June and July. The roughs will be aerified in September and October.

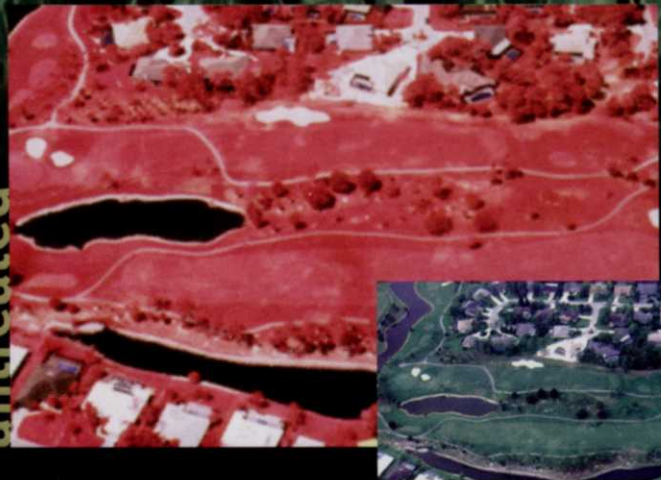
“Our second-biggest ongoing maintenance challenge is maintaining a clean but natural look along the interface between the maintained turf areas and the native woodlines,” Davis says. “We have checked all our part circle heads to prevent impacting the native areas and encouraging invasive plant material. We use some pre-emergents on the cleared areas and we trim with a rotary mower and weed trimmers and hand-pull obvious plants.

“I can recall riding the course once with the club president and the only

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West Course (10th and 15th hole shown in left photo) was treated with 1 quart of InfilTRx per acre on a monthly basis beginning February 1998, the East Course (4th and 5th hole shown in right photo) was left untreated.

*Near infrared and aerial photography at Imperial Golf Club in Naples, Florida, captures the benefits of using InfilTRx Soil Penetrant on fairways.*

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Photos were taken June 8th, 1998.



comments on course conditions on 14 out of the 18 holes dealt with these perimeter areas. If that was the only thing we had to talk about, we must be in pretty good shape. He agreed.

"We have three big events each year. The club championship, the member-member and the member-guest. The member-guest is a sellout within minutes by return fax as soon as the reservations are sent out. Recently they have gone to double shotgun starts instead of

tee times so we have had to adjust. We work split shifts during the tournament. We have two diesel-powered portable light trees that can light up an acre to help us in the dark.

"We start at 4:00 a.m. and double cut and roll greens every morning and evening and mow the tees, collars, approaches and fairways every morning. We usually finish the front nine by daybreak and hustle to get the back nine done before the shotgun. We come back

at 5:00 p.m. after play concludes and do it over again. During the event on the night of the cocktail party, the members wander outside and watch in amazement as our crew finishes up the putting green under the lights."

Davis gives full credit to his entire staff for making things flow smoothly and producing the desired results.

"We live and breathe the club's commitment to excellence. We operate on a philosophy of 'no excuses' with high expectations for perfect conditions, while still doing the required cultural work."

"My two assistants, Trevor Brinkmeyer and Jim Whalen are super managers. Like all our assistants, they are turf school graduates. Every assistant we hire has done at least one internship at Olde Florida so they start with a familiarization with the staff and the course. We don't have a senior/junior or first/second assistant hierarchy. The key duties like pest control, irrigation, projects, routine scheduling are divided up based on preference, experience and just plain sharing."

"My policy is to not have long-term assistants, but to send them on their way as soon as they are ready to assume new duties. For example, Jason Gerlach has just moved on to become the superintendent of the project we are building next door. It is quite rewarding to know that 11 former Olde Florida assistants are now superintendents elsewhere and one is the director of grounds (landscape) at Pinehurst. Overall, I find this method works very well for me, because I am kept on my toes mentoring, training and breaking in new people with their own unique strengths and weaknesses."

"My equipment manager, Kim Ellis, has been with us since day one in 1992. He is very versatile and extremely talented with his mechanical skills and innovations. Unlike some shop personnel he enjoys being out on the course when given the opportunity. We train one of the crew members to assist Kim in the shop when he needs an extra hand.

"Stacey Gray is our office manager and administrative assistant. She also assists the clubhouse staff on a part-time

## IPM and Stewardship

- The best defense against a pest is a healthy stand of turf. Our philosophy is to grow healthy turfgrass every day of the year in all locations so that our pest problems will be minimal. We attempt to core aerify every inch of the golf course 5 times a year. We also deep vertical mow fairways, tees and approaches twice a year.

- If needed pesticides are applied on a spot treatment basis. No preventive applications of any kind are made to the golf course except a Ronstar preemergent/fertilizer combination applied twice a year to eliminate the need for post emergent chemical applications. Most post emergent weeds are removed by hand. This year we treated 90 acres with Chipco Choice for mole cricket control.

- We have six lakes covering 26 acres. We have managed the lakes with in-house labor for the past three years to minimize the impact to water quality. These lakes hold all normal amounts of surface runoff water. When the lakes occasionally reach capacity they are designed to stage and flow off site through only one large area with wetland plants to filter the water before it flows into the adjacent Big Cypress Canal.

- When landscaping the course only native plants that already existed on the site are used. These plants are used sparingly to create cover and wildlife corridors in the interior of the course. Out of play turf areas have been converted to native plantings to conserve water and electricity; reduce the amounts of fertilizer and pesticides needed; save labor and fuel and provide additional habitat for wildlife.

- Dead trees (snags) are left in place whenever possible as food and nesting sources for cavity nesting birds. They are "limbed up" to improve their appearance. The limbs are then used to make brush piles to provide cover for small animals. Nesting boxes for ospreys, bluebirds, American kestrels and purple martins have been erected along with several feeders near the maintenance area and clubhouse to increase everyone's awareness and knowledge about the variety of birds that frequent the golf course.

- Recycling: Olde Florida retains 100% of the organic wastes that are generated by the maintenance practices on the property. All storm debris and tree trimmings are used for brush piles. Since Olde Florida is a nonresidential golf facility there are numerous areas where grass clippings can be spread out with no negative side effects. Both members and employees are actively involved in recycling as many materials as possible – aluminum cans, white paper, used oil, tires and batteries.

- Olde Florida is a Certified Audubon Sanctuary and received the GCSAA 1996 Environmental Steward Award in the Private Club Division.

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## Darren Davis

**Originally from:** Huntsville, Ala. Lived there one week. Grew up, lived and worked in Titusville, Jacksonville, Jupiter and Naples.

**Education:** 1991 - Penn State University. Two-year technical program certificate in turfgrass management. Recipient of Technical Writing Report Award and Penncross Growers Association Scholarship.

**Employment history:** 1992 to present, superintendent, Olde Florida Golf Club, Naples; 1991-92, assistant superintendent, Loxahatchee Club, Jupiter; 1990-1991, apprentice superintendent/spray technician, Augusta National Golf Club, Augusta, Ga.; 1988-89, spray technician, Golden Eagle Country Club, Tallahassee.

**Professional affiliations:** FGCSA (1991); FTGA (1991); GCSAA (1989); Current president of the FGCSA. Extensive committee service in all three organizations.

**Honors:** 1997 GCSAA Leo Feser Award for best written article in *Golf Course Management* magazine. 1996 GCSAA National Environmental Steward Award.

**Goals:** I have attained the goals I set for myself for the early part of my career. Therefore, as I will continually do throughout my life, I am in the process of establishing and recording in writing a new set of goals. A close friend once told me, "You are the author of your own destiny. If you want something badly enough, write it down, strive to accomplish it, and it will happen."

**Philosophy:** On life – "Work like you don't need the money. Love like you have never been hurt. Dance like nobody is watching." On work – "To be a successful manager surround yourself with quality people and provide them with an enjoyable, fulfilling work environment."

**Advice:** To future superintendents – Obtain a formal education. Do not get wrapped up in titles. Set goals and plan your future. Do whatever it takes to obtain those goals regardless of the personal sacrifice. Once you become a superintendent, don't forget those who helped you get there. Don't walk around with blinders on. Travel (even if just locally). Meet and get to know your peers. Don't be afraid to share your knowledge and experiences. Expand your horizons whenever possible. Make yourself a well rounded golf course superintendent.

**Hobbies:** Reading fiction, traveling, spending time outdoors experiencing nature, writing, yard work, photography, cooking, mountain biking, relaxing or strolling on the beach, spending time with good friends.



basis since they have no clerical personnel. Stacey is my computer whiz and does a lot of scanning of photos for me, besides keeping our paperwork flowing through the proper channels.

"The rest of the crew — our greensmen — do a fantastic job. Most are Hispanic, but two of my longtime employees are from Haiti. They have been with us since 1993. In fact we have very good longevity with most of our employees, which is critical with the labor trends these days.

"I think we offer good competitive incentives for our staff by providing a decent wage, clean uniforms, and a safe, clean place to work. They work a 37- to 40-hour week Monday through Friday and we cover weekends with volunteers on overtime. We have never had a problem finding the people to work. I think it is also very important to understand the personal needs of our crew."

"Since many of our crew members have families back in Mexico, they want to go home for visits and these may last longer than the typical two-week vacation. I have found that by accommodating our really good workers with some extended time off, we can count on them coming back when we really need them.

"And in our daily work we like to have fun. They get a big kick out of me trying to speak Spanish, but they appreciate the effort. We have a crew lunch once a month, and I learned a long time ago that it means more to them if we go where they like to go. The current restaurant of choice is the Rancho Grande.

"Another positive aspect about working at Olde Florida is the attitude of the members and the organizational philosophy. The club is run by the founding members under the leadership of an elected club president. The club manager/head professional and I as golf course manager report directly to him. But what I like best is that the members seem to truly appreciate and respect what we do. I try to do my part by communicating regularly to the membership individually all year long with updates and reports of what we're doing on the course in terms of improvements and interesting facts and information.



*The flag on the par-3, 5th hole flies taunted in the breeze from an approaching storm. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.*



*Olde Florida's unoverseeded greens turn purple only for a short time in Naples.*

*...what I like best is that the members seem to truly appreciate and respect what we do. I try to do my part by communicating regularly to the membership... with updates and reports of what we're doing on the course*

## Everglades Chapter

**History:** In 1968 superintendents in Charlotte, Collier and Lee counties had to drive either to Miami or Tampa on the two-laned U. S. 41 to attend superintendent association meetings. Collier County Extension Agent Don Lander and Bob Sanderson in Charlotte County began to gather superintendents together informally for discussions of common turf problems. By April of '68 both groups got together in Fort Myers at the Lake Lawn G.C. and decided to begin the Everglades GCSA. In the spring of 1969 a joint meeting was held with the South Florida GCSA on Marco Island and the ensuing golf outing gave rise to the Poa Annuu Golf Classic.

**Founding members:** Bob Sanderson\*, president; Dempsey Brown, vice president; Dutch Vaughn, secretary/treasurer; and Paul Nevers\*; Paul Frank\*; Clem Stuart\*; Joe Huckleby; Ralph Settles; Dwight Wilson\*; Bob Cappeli; Cecil Johns; Ken Willis; Bill Baker; Sam Scherer; Bob Ahrons; Win Gibbs; and Jim Farnsworth. (\* Indicates FGCSA President's Award winners)

**Activities:** The annual Poa Annuu Golf Classic moved around among the Lehigh, Mirror Lakes and Oxbow courses in the early years and has been played at Lely Resort and the Audubon CC, but traditional and current home base is the Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club. This event remains one of the premier golf, social and educational highlights of the FGCSA calendar. Proceeds from this event have helped finance turf research and scholarships. Recently, the EGCSA has hosted a Spring Seminar bringing in leading figures in turf research and industry for a daylong educational conference.

**Officers for 1999-2000:** Rick Tatum, president; Steve Durand, vice president/treasurer; Gary Grigg, external vice president; Matt Taylor, secretary.

"It is gratifying when notable members like Mike Ditka or Marty Shottenheimer remember your name and go out of their way to meet and greet you when they see you on the course.

"Coach Ditka is a real golf fanatic. He may only get to visit a few weeks out of the year, but when he's here he is on the course from sunup to sundown. He usually takes a caddie and walks the course always playing more than 18 holes a day, often 36 or more. Even though he sometimes beats the walk mowers around, he never complains. He just loves being out there on his golf course enjoying the game and the peaceful environment."

Because of his performance and professionalism on the job and the back up provided by his staff, Olde Florida has encouraged and supported Davis's participation in professional organizations and his travel to leading golf courses and events nationwide. Davis also works with EPIC Productions which produces training videos for the golf maintenance industry.

Davis has worked as a volunteer at three Masters tournaments, a U.S. Open and a U.S. Senior Open. He is hoping to make it to Pebble Beach for the 100th U.S. Open to help out his old pal and superintendent, Mark Michaud.

"I have known all of these superintendents as friends and colleagues and it was a tremendous learning opportunity to be involved in course preparations at the highest level. Just being part of a work force made up of dozens of superintendents in that kind of atmosphere is networking of the highest order. But I also consider each one of those trips, as well as others, as work-related business. I have gathered lots of useful ideas that we have incorporated here at Olde Florida. I use a lot of photos and tips I have picked up in my travels for articles for the Super Tips section in the *Florida Green*."

Davis has been very active in the FGCSA, the GCSAA and the FTGA, serving on a myriad of committees. He has served through the chairs on the execu-

tive council of the FGCSA is now president, having been elected on July 31. He has traveled a lot, seen much and earned much respect for his devotion and leadership in his profession at a relatively young age. How did he get into this business?

"In high school I realized my basketball skills were not going to provide me with any type of career. After two years of community college, I still did not have a handle on a major or career path. I liked the outdoors and hunting and fishing. I considered marine biology or being a park ranger or wildlife officer.

"During and after community college, I was managing hundreds of acres of Christmas tree farms for several owners. I finally enrolled at FSU in civil engineering, but did not enjoy the quantity or type of math involved.

"A good friend mentioned some school in Pennsylvania that taught you how to build golf courses. I would need experience to enroll so I took a job at Golden Eagle C.C. and learned that the program at Penn State was actually in turfgrass management. The rest is history."

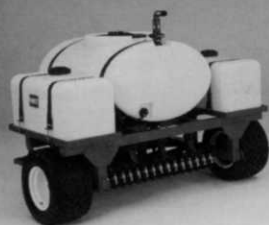
Effective superintendents today don't just happen. They are the sum total of not only formal and on-the-job turf education, but the also the intangibles of curiosity, a love for the outdoors and the traditions of the game of golf. Successful superintendents don't sit idly waiting for things to come to them. They get out and seek knowledge and new ideas. They interact and participate. Relationships with other people in the industry are key factors in the making of a good superintendent.

Davis cites several key relationships in his own development.

"First and foremost, Dr. Joe Duich, professor emeritus at Pennsylvania State University who not only taught me a great deal about the profession, but also educated me on several things that made me a better manager and person. He has continued to be there throughout the years providing valuable support in tough times.

Equally important, a loving mother and father who have supported me through thick and thin and forced me to become an

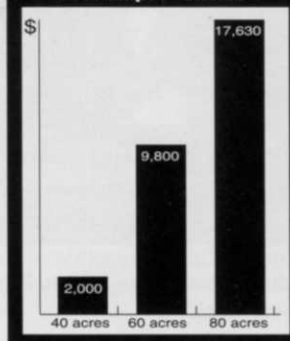
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*Thousands of aerifier tines were sacrificed finding buried rocks on tee tops.*



*Logs from downed trees are used as accessories*



*Limestone bedrock makes drainage installation a necessary but tough job.*



*In 1995 it rained cats and dogs and FISH!*



*School tours are part of Olde Florida's Audubon Certified Sanctuary.*

**Olde Florida Snapshots by Darren Davis**



Nearly 100 yards of bunker faces the members on the par 3, 13th holes as seen from behind the green. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

independent thinker and self-supporting.”

“Then in the business itself, I have a lot of people to thank for helping me along the way. There is Jeff Vietmeier, my first boss at Golden Eagle in Tallahassee who steered me to Penn State, and Marsh Benson at Augusta National who taught me valuable lessons in organizational techniques and professionalism.

“Then there was Phil Shoemaker at the Loxahatchee Club, where I learned what a good assistant superintendent should be. Also at Loxahatchee, Kurt Kuebler, the general manager, gave me valuable input on how a GM and the membership perceive a golf course superintendent. From him I also learn good interview skills.

“You can’t survive very successfully in this business without making good friends. I have been fortunate to have made a few who have remained trusted friends over the years. I thank Matt Shaffer currently at the Country Club of Cleveland for having the wisdom for “not” hiring me in the

frigid great white north at the Hershey Country Club, knowing it was the best thing for me at the time. Paul Latshaw, Sr., Winged Foot G.C. for being a true friend and confidant.

“Locally, Tim Hiers, CGCS, Colliers Reserve and Gary Grigg, CGCS, Royal Poinciana G.C. have been my “go-to guys” when I needed advice on turfgrass problems, a membership question, association volunteer challenges, or employment issues.

“Then there are Tom Burrows, agronomy consultant, and Frank Dobie of The Sharon Club of Ohio, who have provided advice on a multitude of issues from the perspective only those who have been in the business for a long time can provide. Finally, I’d like to thank Tom Wait of TRW Enterprises for being a good travel companion and for continually bringing me innovative ideas, products and techniques. There are many others to whom I am indebted for their ideas, comments and

opinions who have helped me become a better golf course superintendent.

“I am humbled and yet proud to think about how we have been part of the development of a lot of methods and procedures to produce a certain look and feel at Olde Florida, and to know that the results have been so successful and desirable that the members want to recreate that experience at the new club being built next door.”

The new club will be called The Golf Club of the Everglades. It will have a different look because most of the trees on the site were destroyed by a wildfire sometime ago, but it will have the same architect, Rees Jones, and the superintendent Jason Gerlach is coming from Olde Florida. Davis will be the project manager and consultant during construction and grow-in. Based on their track record at Olde Florida, when they get ready to open, I hope their scorecards read: “Don’t worry. Be happy here too!”





# Improving Chapter Meeting Attendance and Participation

BY CRAIG WEYANDT, GCS

*Yacht & Country Club of Stuart*

**R**ecently I asked the GCSAA about how I could improve at tence at the local monthly meetings. Here is their response for your review. As you will see, some we have tried, some we have not but at least I don't feel alone anymore.

Here is the GCSAA Response:

Craig,

The issue of low attendance at meetings and lack of member involvement is something many chapters are concerned with. Just based on the annual reports submitted for 1998, chapters reported an average meeting attendance of 25% of their total membership, regardless of their membership size. Your chapter may be slightly at the lower end (15 of 85 members = 17%), but your chapter is smaller than many.

In January, 13 affiliated chapters participated in the first strategic planning conference at GCSAA Headquarters. We sent them a pre-conference survey to complete, and asked them to estimate average attendance at their meetings. Most reported 25% or less, which was consistent with what we've been hearing.

During the conference, we briefly discussed how to increase meeting attendance and member participation. While no one had any "quick fix" solutions, there were some general ideas that your chapter may wish to consider:

- You mentioned holding the meeting at various times of the day. How about holding at least one meeting at a location other than a golf course? Perhaps a meeting location where no one has to serve as

the host superintendent would be less stressful. Also, it could provide a more relaxing atmosphere, but would still allow your members to be focused on association business, professional development, etc.

- You might also try a couple of theme meetings

sharing advice and tips to help fellow superintendents, and those who attend the meetings will pick up helpful tips that will benefit them.

- You also mentioned that you offer great education. Continue with a mixture of technical/agronomic topics and management issues. The California GCSA held its annual meeting last month and the educational program focused on Management in the Next Millennium and how superintendents will be impacted. (For more information

about the program, you can check out their Web site at <http://www.gcsaa.org/cgcsa/>). They've been struggling to increase attendance at their annual meeting, and although, the numbers this year weren't necessarily higher, those who attended said it was the best conference they'd ever held. They're beginning to build on this for next year.

- Everyone gets tired of surveys, but it's important to conduct some type of needs assessment to recognize and address the needs of your members. Perhaps your board could divide up the membership list and take some time to call your members. Ask them what they value most about being a member of your chapter, what they expect to get out of attending meetings (if appropriate, ask them why they're not attending meetings), and ask them what your association can do to better serve them.

- Some members may be willing to serve, but just haven't been asked. A special invitation to serve on a committee, host a meeting, or be in a charge of a small, short-term project is a great way to let them know they're a valued member of your chapter.

To: Janet Satterlee,  
GCSAA Chapter Relations Manager  
I am not sure if you can help me or not but here is my question. How can I improve attendance at my monthly chapter meetings? I am currently president of the Treasure Coast GCSA. I will be stepping down as president in July but as I reflect on the past year's attendance at the meetings, it is very disappointing.  
I believe that I have tried the obvious: notified members as much in advance about the meeting, we have had afternoon meetings, night meetings, great education, I have even had meetings at no cost to the members and supplied dinner (about 15 showed out of nearly 85 members). Is this a trend across the US?  
I know there is a lot of information out there and many ways to get it but I surely thought that the local meetings would be more well attended than this. Any suggestions that you might have would be greatly appreciated.  
Thank you,  
W. Craig Weyandt  
President TCGCSA

ings. Select a specific topic and build the education and other meeting events around that topic. You could invite three or four superintendents to serve on a panel discussion about the topic.

- At the conference and show each year, innovative superintendent sessions are held. You may have attended some of these sessions where superintendents have an opportunity to share successes. Why not invite superintendents to do this at your chapter meetings? It could be just two or three minutes. They will feel good about

## Advice From GCSAA

- Hold at least one meeting at a location other than a golf course.
- Try a couple of theme meetings.
- Invite superintendents to share success stories at your chapter meetings.
- Use a mixture of technical/agronomic topics and management issues for education programs.
- Have your board divide up the membership list and call each member.
- Establish a new-member committee to keep frequent contact with those who have joined within the past year or two to encourage them to participate in chapter meetings and activities.
- Maintain a file of brief, one-page profiles of each member.
- Send your newsletter to nonmember courses.
- Use E-mail to send reminders about meetings and other chapter news.
- Post a question on the chapter listserve (at the GCSAA web site) and ask how other chapters are dealing with low meeting attendance and/or member involvement.

Janet Satterlee, GCSAA Chapter Relations Manager, 1421 Research Park Drive, Lawrence, KS 66049-3859; phone (800) 472-7878, ext. 603; direct Line (785) 832-3603; fax (785) 832-4433; E-mail jsatterlee@gcsaa.org

• Does your chapter have a new member or welcome committee? This committee could divide up the list of members who have joined within the past year or two, call them and invite them to the meetings. Make a point to introduce them to other members at meetings and chapter events. Perhaps this committee could be the ones to invite members to become involved in your chapter. Also, if members are new to the area, committee members could call them periodically to see how things are going.

• You might also want to ask your members to complete a brief, one-page member profile. I will fax a sample of this to you, along with an article on "Why Join An Association?" Some of the items listed in the article don't necessarily apply to every association, but most reinforce the importance of belonging and participating in an association.

• Continue to inform your members of what's happening through your newsletter. Do you send it to nonmember courses? E-mail is another great way to send reminders about meetings and other chapter news (if a good number of your members are online). You may want to check out the Golsolutions.com Web site and consider

using their free services to post announcements about meetings, etc.

Joel Jackson has been in touch with us recently about developing a Web site for Florida. This would be a great opportunity for every Florida chapter to post membership information, news, and other information about their chapter. (If you do visit the California Web site, you'll see that each of the local chapters has its own page).

• Finally, I'd encourage you to post a question on the chapter listserve and ask how other chapters are dealing with low meeting attendance and/or member involvement.

Here's a link to the site. If you have any difficulty posting a message, just let me know. <http://lists.ksinet.com/shellcgi/lyris.pl?site=gcsaa> Clicking on this link will bring you to a page with the GCSAA lists. Click on that, and then click on the Chapter Administrator Listserve. You'll need to type in your e-mail address, but no password is required. Then there should be an option to post a new message. Click on that button. You can type in your message and when you're finished, hit send.

I hope this information is helpful. If not, let me know, and I'll research some more information and ideas.

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# Superintendent Public Relations

*It's Frequently Much Harder Than Growing Grass:*

**S**ometimes, when the subject of golf course superintendents' image and visibility comes up, people either get angry, anxious or ambiguous. The word "image" today can conjure connotations of spin doctors and Madison Avenue hype... inferences of smoke and mirrors or sound bites. There is definitely something about the terminology that seems foreign to the traditional perceptions of the superintendent's role in golf.

Perhaps it's because the superintendent's traditional role has changed not so much in substance but in scope that many think special emphasis on our "image" is indeed warranted. Image is perception and perception is a person's reality. There is nothing wrong about superintendents being perceived as professional businessmen. The fact that part of their day may be spent getting their hands dirty is not a complete reflection on the rest of their responsibilities. A surgeon gets bloody hands, but he is also highly respected for his knowledge and skill.

Public relations is 70 percent communication, 20 percent planning and 10 percent timing. You can play around with the percentages if you want to. The point is, you can be a hard-working, loyal superintendent, but if no one knows

*Public relations is 70 percent communication, 20 percent planning and 10 percent timing. You can play around with the percentages if you want to.*

*The point is, you can be a hard-working, loyal superintendent, but if no one knows what you're doing, how well you're doing it and why you're doing it, you might as well be invisible.*

what you're doing, how well you're doing it and why you're doing it, you might as well be invisible.

I learned that lesson the hard way. I will never forget the day I was standing with the golf pro on the steps of the Isleworth clubhouse and a member pulls up in his cart and says to the pro, "Hey Dave, the course is looking great!"

Here I was busting my butt trying to manage bentgrass greens in Orlando, working 358 days straight my first year and the pro is getting a compliment on course conditions! Obviously, I was doing my turf job very well, but my public relations and image needed some work.

For all those who view efforts to enhance the superintendent's image as

misguided, off target or a waste of time, please remember that communications and information are the currency of the times. A superintendent's image should not be a veneer and visibility should not just be a photo op! Thoughtful, factual communications paired with performance and timely appearances will generate the kind of positive image and visibility our profession is seeking.

## **Salesmanship - From A Superintendent's Perspective**

**T**he image that a superintendent has of himself as a turf manager is certainly understandable. What I see is the lack of conscious understanding by many of my peers that a superintendent is re-

## The Superintendent as Salesman

### **Selling your budget will include:**

- Financial compensations for yourself and your staff.
- Projects, renovations or course improvements.
- Reasons to replace old and worn out equipment.
- Reasons to attend educational and chapter meetings to better yourself.
- Long range programs.

### **To your members you will have to sell:**

- Specific maintenance procedures and how it effects golfers like topdressing, aerifying, pesticide applications, etc.
- Specific maintenance/playing condition/pace of play issues like green speed, rough height, cup positions, etc.

- Yourself as a complete business professional not just a turf manager or a greenkeeper.
- Solutions to problems whether they be a result your decisions, your staff, your superiors or natural disasters.

### **To your staff you will have to sell:**

- The why's and how's of specific maintenance procedures.
- Membership requirements.
- Club rules and policies
- Training and compliance with safety procedures and requirements.

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ally a salesman with a turf management background.

When you're sitting across the table from a sales representative have you ever thought, "I could never do what he does. I couldn't sell for a living." Well, it just isn't true.

More and more younger people are getting into the turf management business. They come with education geared

for the turf industry. They've worked at some very impressive clubs. They have turf experience in all areas but there's a gap in this education — salesmanship.

Right from the time you get your staff started in the morning, you become a salesman. As you explain the assignments for the day, you're telling them that this is important and necessary. You may even explain why and how what they do

will benefit the course, the club, members and themselves. Isn't that selling? You're selling ideas, concepts, programs and even a feeling of self accomplishment. You're selling them the purpose of doing their job in a particular manner and why. How good you sell it will determine how they feel and how well they do it.

Later in the morning you stop by the pro shop. In the course of conversation you let the pro know about a problem with a particular green and, for the next few minutes, you give him some basic facts of what occurred and what you are doing to correct the situation. Plus you tell him that if a member happens to ask what is going on with that green, he can now provide a knowledgeable answer. Now, you've not only been selling valuable information to him but now you have a sales partner with the members.

When you analyze your day you will find many examples of your "salesmanship." Within your club's operation you will have to sell and several are listed in the box on page 42.

You could spend days explaining how to sell these ideas and concepts. Numerous seminars are available on how to sell. There are speakers and book writers who have made fortunes teaching people how to sell. In fact, I encourage everyone to attend a seminar or read about these selling ideas. What sales technique you use will probably be a combination of these ideas.

I'd like to share a few ideas that have worked well for me:

- Be prepared to back up your ideas and concepts with sound reasoning, university research, consultant recommendations, statistics, reports, quotations, etc.

- Communicate. Communicate. Communicate. If you work in a vacuum and don't talk to anyone then you open yourself up to letting others talk about you. Use all your resources to let everyone know what is going on. Use bulletin boards, club newsletters, memos, photos, faxes and e-mails. Hang out on the first tee on Mens' and Ladies' Days. Eat lunch in the clubhouse. Seek out and inform influential golfers.

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- Kawasaki engine with special muffler decreases noise for operators, players and neighbors

- Simple pull pin allows operator to easily adjust handle height

- Front-weight bias helps mowers deliver precision cut



Note: Features apply to all models unless otherwise noted.

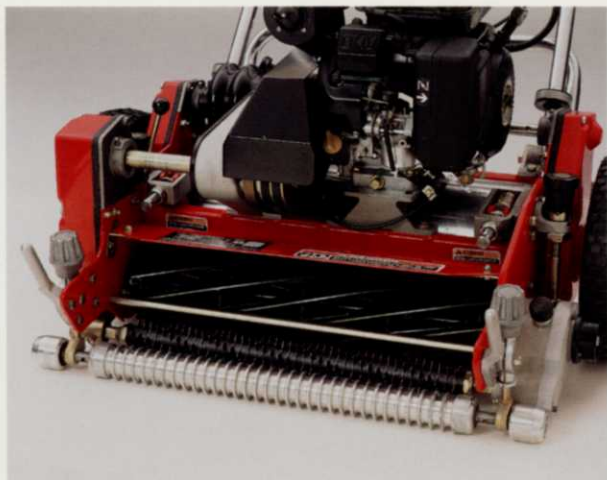
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**QUIET PERFORMANCE** A smooth, more quiet-running OHV Kawasaki engine offers many practical benefits. Less noise enhances operator safety, helps courses reap benefits of early morning mowing — without disturbing the neighbors.

**THREE CUTTING WIDTHS** Each mower offers a unique solution for different mowing requirements. For your greens, choose from the tight 18" cutting width of the Greensmaster 800, or from the 21" Greensmaster 500 and 1000 models. And for your aprons and tees, the productive Greensmaster 1600 features a 26" width.

**FULL FLOATING CUTTING HEAD** For stepped or undulated greens, choose the Greensmaster 500 with a full floating cutting head. It gives superb ground following and a smooth, even appearance.



**PRECISION CUT** Front-weight bias eliminates operator influence, allows deep penetration and straight line mowing. Greens receive a more uniform cut with fewer markings. Players benefit with faster and truer ball roll.



**OPERATOR COMFORT** A comfortable loop handle lessens operator fatigue, increases productivity. A "no tool" simple pull pin easily adjusts handle height to operator.

# MODEL PROFILE



**GREENSMASTER® 500** The 500 offers the best solution for courses with heavily undulated, stepped, or soft greens. The mower's full floating cutting head allows the 500 to follow contours uniquely in all directions even as the weight of clippings increases. Greens receive an even cut with the least scalping. Cutting width is 21".

**GREENSMASTER® 800** This all-new specialty mower offers a tight, 18" cutting width for specialty applications. Use the 800 to get an even narrower stripe, for extremely low heights of cut, or steeply carved greens.

**GREENSMASTER® 1000** Put simply, the 1000 has earned a legendary reputation for superior greens mowing worldwide. It's the envy of the competition, and the mower of choice for many prestigious courses. Count on the 1000 to cut lower than competitive models at the same setting. Cutting width is 21".

**GREENSMASTER® 1600** The 1600 provides a greater range of applications. Its 26" cutting width and extended height of cut range make this mower perfect for tee, apron and other formal turf areas, even large area greens. A dimpled traction drum provides better traction for off-greens cutting.

# ACCESSORIES



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## LIGHT KIT

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# GREENSMASTER® WALK MOWERS



## GREENSMASTER® WALK MOWERS

	500, #04130	800, #04048/1000, #04052	1600, #04060
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Traction Drive	Transaxle with multiple friction disc clutch. Spur gear differential transmits power to 2 rubber traction drums.	Belt powered, split drum with differential idle pulley to engage/disengage.	Belt powered, split drum with differential idle pulley to engage/disengage.
Reel Drive	Universal drive shaft.	Timing belts from countershaft to differential, drive drum and reel.	Timing belts from countershaft to differential, drive drum and reel.
Reel Construction	Cutting Unit independent from traction unit and catcher. 3.5" (8.9 cm) diameter, 9 blade.	11 carbon steel blades. GR1000 only: Optional 8 blade.	8 carbon steel blades.
Maximum Ground Speed	Mowing: 3.8 mph (6.1 km/h)	Mowing: 3.5 mph (5.6 km/h) Transport: 5.3 mph (8.5 km/h)	Mowing: 3.5 mph (5.6 km/h) Transport: 5.3 mph (8.5 km/h)
Weight	186 lbs. (84kg)	GR800: 203 lbs. (92.3 kg) GR1000: 208 lbs. (94.3)	230 lbs. (104 kg) w/o transport tires.
Width of Cut	21" (53.3 cm)	GR800: 18" (45.7 cm) GR1000: 21" (53.3 cm)	26" (66cm)
Height of Cut	1/8" (3.2 mm) to 1 1/16" (17.5 mm) (optional bedknife to 1/16")	GR800: 1/16" (1.56 mm) to 1" (25 mm) GR1000: 9/64" (1.9 mm) to 1" (25 mm)	1/8" (.31 cm) to 1 1/4" (3.1 cm)
Clip	.197" (5.0 mm)	Standard 11 blade: .16" (4.1 mm), GR1000 only: Optional 8 blade: .23" (5.8 mm)	.23" (5.8 mm) 8 blade reel.
Bedknife Adjustment	Reel adjusts down to the bedknife through two threaded bolts.	Dual screw "click" adjustment to reel.	Dual screw "click" adjustment to reel.
Warranty	Two year limited warranty. Refer to the Operator's Manual for further details.		



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- Take the time to explain to your supervisor the pros and cons of an issue. Let them become part of the decision making process.

- Listen to what others have to say. Don't always dominate a conversation.

- Be proactive when problems occur. Let people know what occurred, why and what you are doing about it.

- Present yourself in a positive and confident manner. Speak clearly and practice your presentations in front of a mirror or in front of your wife. This is especially helpful if you have a problem with public speaking.

- Dress appropriately for the situation. Coat and tie for board meetings or formal presentations. Clean and conservative apparel for most other situations.

- Prepare typed documents or reports detailing budgets and expense line items. Be specific but brief and to the point. Be accurate. If you can't type, find someone who can. Learn how to use computer word processing programs. Gone are the days of handwritten material.

- Work to improve yourself and your staff. Have training sessions for them and attend seminars or meetings to learn what is going on around you. Keep updated on trends in the industry.

- Ask others for help. Our own egos can get in the way of solving problems. There are others who can help you learn. Call upon your peers, consultants, university personnel or technical representatives to help solve problems. Learn to share ideas, concepts, solutions and problems at chapter meetings and in trade publications.

- Read educational journals and browse the Internet. There are a lot of sources out there to get information. Look and Inquire.

Your "salesmanship" skills result in an image you will project to those you work for and work with. Fine tune your style and technique constantly. And finally, keep yourself approachable and visible.

STEVE PEARSON, CGCS  
*The Falls C.C.*

## Resorting to Your Image and Your Visibility

**I**t is a hard thing to promote the superintendent position at a resort course

that doesn't have a membership. When you turn approximately 65,000 rounds per year, you rarely see the same person twice.

So you have to focus on the areas where you can make an impact: dress code, on-course contact with guests, and visibility to the golf operations people, which include the head professional, the area manager, and the staff of rangers, starters, and pro shop.

Superintendent dress code is a fairly simple subject here at Disney because a union contract prohibits us from doing any work that could be done by an hourly employee. So management will generally dress in a nice golf shirt, slacks, and dressy work or smooth-soled golf shoes. The maintenance crew is required to wear a costume that is provided and cleaned by the company. The new hires are also provided with temporary costumes until they receive their permanent sets. Name tags are a must for everyone.

Grooming is a big issue at Disney and everyone is expected to be clean-shaven and meet Disney standards for hair length. Tattoos and earrings are not allowed. Having everyone looking neat and in proper uniform, provides a statement of professionalism that is becoming more and more important in our industry.

Contact with guests is minimal for the maintenance crew. We begin our day between 4 and 5 a.m., depending on what is scheduled for maintenance and if there are any events that day. The first golfers will normally be on the course at 7. The crew usually will not see any golfers during their first assignments but may during their second jobs.

Golf course etiquette is highly stressed. The crew is instructed not to bother the golfers in any way. Obviously, some work goes on during play, such as rough mowing, weed eating, and edging paths. So the crew is trained to read the situation and to respond properly to "the look" that we have all received from time to time. Any complaints that we receive are brought to the attention of the responsible crew member and documented.

Guest contact by the superintendent is what Disney calls a "guest satisfier." It

*...it is amazing the amount of conversation that a simple soil probe can generate. It is a great way to break the ice, talk a little about conditions, the weather, or even give a basic soil profile lesson.*

shows the golfer that you care how their round is going and that you are available if there are any problems. As you go about your business on the course, it is very easy to approach golfers and make yourself accessible to them.

Once the crew is gone for the day, I will usually make an "afternoon run" and check on the condition of the course. Moisture levels are always a big concern in the afternoon and it is amazing the amount of conversation that a simple soil probe can generate. It is a great way to break the ice, talk a little about conditions, the weather, or even give a basic soil profile lesson.

Golfers will take an interest in what you are doing and what a great opportunity for some basic education. A word of caution, however: It is wise to work backward from 18 and not to follow the same group around; otherwise you will be the one receiving the education, and I think we've all been there before.

Communication with the golf operations staff is critical at any facility. This is where everyone must be working together to make things run smoothly. We have all been caught by surprise when that 8:30 shotgun goes out at 8:00, or when you thought you had arranged for a No. 10 start and instead play went out on No. 1.



Something we do regularly is attend the 5:45 a.m. golf operations staff meeting. At this meeting, either the foreman or the superintendent will confirm the start times, number of players for the first time (we always hope it is a four-some), the tentative numbers for the day, if there are any breaks in play, and if there are any special maintenance items going on that day.

The golf staff supervisor, starter, ranger, and pro shop personnel are all at this meeting so all the bases can be covered at one time. The starter will also call us on the radio when the first group goes out and how many there are. These people can really be an asset on the days when you are fertilizing or topdressing, so it pays to take the time to get to know the golf operations personnel. I'm still amazed at how far a box of donuts at the morning meeting can go.

There are many other ways that the visibility and image of the superintendent can be promoted. The head profes-

sional and his apprentices just finished up a six-week stretch of junior camps at our facility. Each camp was one week long and had approximately 20 to 30 kids. They asked if we could speak with the kids each Wednesday for half an hour and talk about golf course maintenance.

The kids were a great audience. We spoke about greens construction, the price of building a golf course and maintaining it, the price you pay for fast greens, how much a specific piece of equipment cost, what time we get to work, the education required, and so on. Hopefully they will take some of that message with them as they grow as golfers.

We also participated in a trade show at Disney's Wide World of Sports field house this past winter. A USGA specification greens profile was built in a fish tank to show how a green was constructed, and we displayed several pieces of maintenance equipment.

All the Disney superintendents took

turns manning the booth during that week and we gained a lot of positive exposure. Something similar could be done at a member-based club by having an open house at the maintenance facility or by building a similar greens profile display and putting it in a common area for the members and guests to see.

In summary, superintendent visibility and image is something that is in our hands. If we want to improve it at all, it is up to us.

Be proactive. Be involved. Speak with members and guests. Help out other areas if you get a chance and spread the word that we are professionals and know what we are doing.

DAVID DATEMA  
Disney's Magnolia GC

### The PR Run

One of my favorite superintendent public relations stories comes from recently retired Stanley Carr. Stan worked at the Gulfstream County Club for 30

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years so he must have been doing something right.

I first heard his strategy during a conversation he was having with a superintendent who was struggling with his green committee.

The superintendent was bemoaning the fact that he was always on the job, but it didn't seem to make a difference to his superiors. I got the impression that he spent a lot of time in his office taking care of business of course, but he was out of sight and out of mind of the people who mattered the most.

Carr told the person, "Every day I make what I call my 'PR run.' I make time to ride the course especially in season. I make it a point to let the members see me walking greens and making notes even if the notes aren't critical. I greet the members and talk to them and answer any questions they might have. I have seen too many hard-working superintendents lose their jobs simply because they just weren't visible or didn't communicate effectively."

Carr also cultivated relationships with consultants, USGA agronomists and other outside experts. He would invite them for lunch and introduce them to his green committee members. He would have these experts over for a visit when he didn't have problems just to let his members know he was staying on top of the latest information. When he did use them to back up or explain a problem, they weren't perceived as strangers making excuses for a superintendent's mistake.

Carr always dressed the part of a professional superintendent. That meant coat and tie for committee meetings and boots and raincoat for rainy days. He also cultivated his green chairmen's support by making them part of the process and asking them questions even if he already knew the answers.

He told them up front that he couldn't give them a trouble-free golf course every day of the year. Mother nature just didn't work that way. He also told them that he wanted to feel safe in disagreeing with the chairman if he believed his position was in the best interest of the golf

course. By being candid and yet professional, he created a "we" atmosphere, which paid dividends in job satisfaction for 30 years.

Adopting a "PR run" strategy just might give you the visibility and credibility you need to compliment your hard work in the field and in the office.

JOEL JACKSON, CGCS  
Florida GCSA

## First Impressions

In today's world, with increasing demands and shrinking budgets, a superintendent's image may be more important than ever.

It's that first impression people get when they meet a superintendent or when they visit his maintenance facility. The maintenance building is generally the hub of any operation.

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Most people believe the golf course is the most important to maintain, (which is true) but the “barn” can tell a lot about how the operation is run. This is where the crew meets every morning to receive their assignments throughout the day, eats lunch and receives their training when they are hired.

The maintenance building is where the superintendent, assistants, and mechanics spend a majority of their time, when they are not in the field. It is an area where all the equipment is stored and serviced. Many people — vendors, members, general managers and other superintendents — visit the building during the day.

The first thing someone sees as they enter your maintenance complex, is the landscaping in the entrance and the grounds around your facility. Our jobs are hard enough without having elaborate and extensive landscaping around the shop to maintain.

Limiting the amount of material that

needs maintaining enables you to concentrate on other areas while your site still looks efficient and professional. Eliminating unneeded grass that requires mowing (such as; bahia) reduces time spent in maintenance. By planting cordgrass or other low-maintenance tall grasses, you will increase habitat and decrease maintenance. Around your building, you can plant low-maintenance shrubs, like Walters viburnum. Most native trees, shrubs and tall grasses only need to be watered until established.

Another place people see immediately upon arriving is the front entry into the buildings. It should be neat and clean with very low maintenance material around the building. Placing a bird feeder outside of the entry is a delightful touch, and it enhances conversation with members. Having pictures of your golf courses and site maps on the walls in the front office makes communicating with members more exciting. It is very important to keep the inside of the buildings or-

derly and clean. Everything is a factor to the overall professional image of the superintendent and the entire operation.

We have been very successful with the “Inside Cleaning Program.” With a rotating schedule, every day after lunch someone does a quick 10 to 15 minute clean-up (empty trash, wipe down tables and sweep floor). Then before the crew goes home for the day, the same person spends 30 to 45 minutes finishing the daily clean-up routine (restrooms, mopping, etc.).

One of the most important areas we concentrate on is the equipment. The equipment is paste-waxed when it is first delivered. This protects the paint against the hot climate in the South. Then at the end of each day the equipment is liquid waxed and towel dried, and Armor All is applied to all the plastics and rubber.

When equipment care is practiced, you are protecting the company’s assets. Equipment lasts longer and keeps the resale value on the equipment higher. In



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return, it helps your professional image when asking to purchase a \$40,000 piece of equipment. And members are getting that professional appearance that they pay for and deserve on an upscale golf course.

We have recently started cleaning the shop on Monday mornings. It sets a positive atmosphere for the week. Each day all trash is emptied throughout the buildings, shop and fuel island. Every Friday we scrub the floors in the lunchroom, hallways and the shop floor.

Most people reading this article may think, "Man, I don't have that much time" or, "My job is to keep the golf courses clean." From experience, it takes less time to clean each day and week, rather than a massive spring-cleaning or rainy-day cleanup. Like the outside of the building, we made the inside as maintenance-free as possible. Ceramic tile was installed instead of linoleum. This saves money and time each year from waxing the linoleum.

For these reasons and many more, it is important to keep the "hub" well-designed, spotless and extremely organized. It is everyone's responsibility to keep the building in good condition. It portrays a professional image for everyone.

*MATTHEW R. TAYLOR  
Bonita Bay East*

### **Superintendents with Blue Collars Aren't Invisible**

**I** am a working superintendent at a daily fee course. Part of my day is spent preparing the course for play, mowing or applying chemicals.

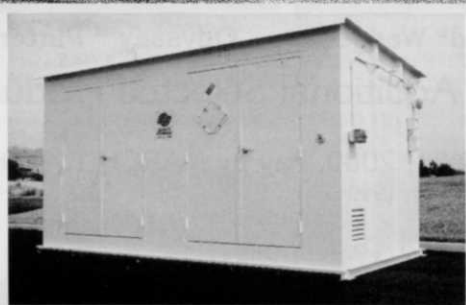
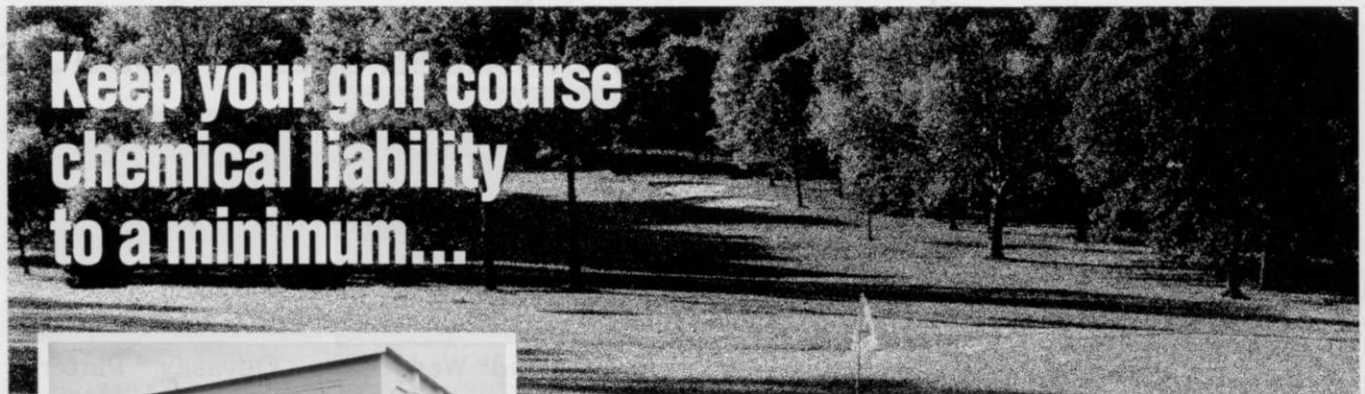
A normal work day at Winter Pines Golf Club is 6 a.m. to 2:30 p. m. with a break at 8:30 a.m. and a half hour for lunch. I usually work three hours on Sunday morning unless a seminar, meeting or golf tournament has been planned in advance.

Since I am a supervisor and also part of the working staff, I have a uni-

form to wear like the rest of the crew while on the clock. Wearing a golf shirt and slacks isn't very practical since I may have to perform any of the jobs on the course. The company provides and pays for the cleaning of everyone's uniform.

Winter Pines is a family-owned and -operated club. Projects, problems and even normal maintenance are normal daily topics of conversation with the owner, Ed McMillin and his son, Jon, who is the president and club manager. They are very hands-on people and are often out in the field working side by side with us on capital projects. So my image and visibility with them are born out of mutual respect for our abilities and commitment to the common success of the course.

Communicating and being visible to members and guests is just as important at a public course as they are at a private club. I usually stop by the clubhouse for either breaks or lunch



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daily and I am available to answer questions from our regular members and daily-fee players. We also keep a clubhouse bulletin board with basic information on repairing ball marks and divots and course etiquette posted to educate our guests. I also promptly return phone calls from homeowners who live around the course.

I touch base frequently with the head pro John Pohira or his assistants Mike Hess and Becky Kaye. They keep me informed of the good and bad comments from the customers and tell me about any special events that are being planned. Our maintenance schedule is pretty flexible, so any cultural practices only need a minimum of a week's notice to plan tee times for closing nine holes for a half day.

Our maintenance shop is located behind the ninth green and near the first tee. It is also visible from the clubhouse and parking lot so keeping the shop and the surrounding area clean

and neat is a top priority. Fertilizer and chemical rooms are kept cleaned and locked. All equipment is cleaned daily as it returns to the shop.

The employee bulletin board at the shop has all the required federal, state and local notices posted including wage and hour, worker's compensation, OSHA and Hazardous Materials/MSDS information. The FCCI person does a safety inspection of our shop every two or three months and the Florida Department of Agriculture inspector checks our pesticide records and does fertilizer and seed analysis when requested.

The planned work schedule for the crew is posted daily by the time clock. I talk with my mechanic, spray tech, landscape specialist and other key persons daily to give them a chance to ask any questions or report their observations on any course problems.

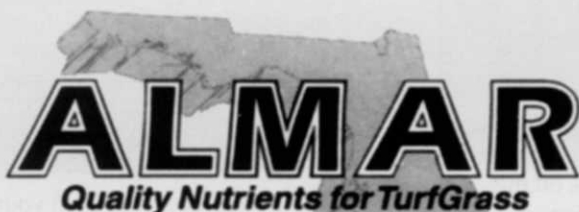
I maintain a very active role with my professional associations. I usually attend local monthly chapter meetings,

state association meetings, educational seminars and the annual GCSAA Conference and Show. My spray technician and other key crew members usually attend the Mid-Florida Turf Conference. All education is usually paid for or reimbursed by the owner and we are encouraged to attend as our schedule permits.

I think I have been very visible in the industry by playing other golf courses, attending meetings and seminars, and serving in local and state associations. No matter what the activity, I always learn new ideas and information. Every operation needs a little tweaking now and then so I'm always listening and learning to do my job better.

A positive image is something every type of superintendent can achieve at their individual courses no matter how big or small the budgets are.

JOE ONDO, CGCS  
Winter Pines GC



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## **Triplex Greens Mower Attachment Storage Rack**

*Hey Jimmy! Where's the third vertical reel for the triplex!? The 'Super' asked me to replace the reels with the vertical mowing attachments so they can verticut the putting surfaces tomorrow.*

*I don't know Billy, I put it with the other two... I think.*

**S**ound like a conversation that might be overheard in your repair shop? For many overworked equipment technicians, this scenario is all too common. Kim Ellis, the senior equipment technician at Olde Florida Golf Club in Naples, was also frustrated with the storage of the extra reels and vertical mowing attachments for the club's Toro 3200 triplex.

The club owns only one triplex greens mower, which is primarily used to mow the driving range tees but it is also occasionally used to vertical mow greens on the golf course. Consequently, there are numerous times throughout the year when the reels must be switched with the vertical mowing attachments. Therefore, one of the challenges Kim faced was where to store the extra sets of reels when they were not in use. In an effort to make the task of switching the reels more convenient and easier, Kim designed a vertical storage rack that can be rolled to the site when it is time to make a switch on the triplex.

Having the attachments stored vertically — off the floor — also provides a safety benefit. Stored on the floor, the reels could create a safety hazard for an employee who might accidentally trip on the attachments. Also, by storing the reels off the floor, on a vertical rack, they are less likely to be damaged by another piece of machinery.

The rack Kim constructed was a modified version of a similar one that he had read about in *Golf Course News*. The rack holds three reels on each side at heights of 15, 30, and 45 inches off the floor. The overall height of the reel storage rack is 56 inches. It was decided that anything taller than this could result in a potential risk for an employee attempting to remove the reels that would be stored above their head. The base of the storage rack measures 32 by 16 inches and the arms that support the reels are 13 inches long, at a 17 degree angle from level and are attached to the center support (see picture).

The metal used to construct the piece of equipment was 1 x 1 x 1/8 inch, and 2 x 2 x 1/8 inch square steel tubing. At the base of the rack are four lockable, heavy-duty swivel casters that enable the equipment repair staff to roll the rack to the location of the triplex when it is necessary to switch the attachments. After the design was complete, the metal was welded in place. The final step was a coat of primer followed by several coats of Rust-oleum spray paint.

The total cost of the unit, not including the in-house labor, was less than \$250.

*Darren J. Davis*  
Golf Course Manager  
Olde Florida Golf Club



## **Quick Tips From Hollybrook**

### **Ant Control**

If you have trouble with ants in your irrigation boxes try using deodorizing urinal blocks in them. I place a standard 4 oz. block in the bottom of each control box on a plastic lid of some kind. They last about one month. Don't place them directly on the ground or concrete base, they won't last as long.

You can buy them from any janitorial supply house by the case without screens for around \$60. We have been using them for about eight months and we have not had any problems with insects in the control boxes during that time.

### **Aerification Holes**


If you use a deep tine aerifier on your greens and have a hard time filling the holes, you might want to give this a try. After aerification we drag with a traditional steel drag mat. Next we verticut in one or two directions. Then we redrag the greens, but this time we use a set of brushes. This method has worked very well for us in helping to fill up the deep holes.

*Jim Goins*  
Hollybrook G&TC



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Environmental Principles for Golf Courses in the United States

# Practical Steps All Golf Courses

# Can Take to Enhance the Environment

(Part 2 in a series)

In the last issue we reviewed the origin of the Golf and The Environment coalition and how both sides fashion a working document called *The Environmental Principles for Golf Courses in the United States*. In this article we will visit practical concepts contained in Part III - Voluntary Principles.

## Planning and Siting

1. Developers, designers and others involved in golf course development are encouraged to work closely with local community groups and regulatory/permitting bodies during planning and siting and throughout the development process. For every site, there will be local environmental issues and conditions that need to be addressed.

2. Site selection is a critical determinant of the environmental impact of golf courses. A thorough analysis of the site or sites under consideration should be completed to evaluate environmental suitability. It is very important to involve both the designer and a team of qualified golf and environmental professionals in this process.

3. Based on the site analysis and/or regulatory review process, it may be determined that some sites are of such environmental value or sensitivity that they should be avoided. Other less environmentally sensitive or valuable sites may be more suitable or even improved by the development of a golf course if careful design and construction are used to avoid or mitigate environmental impacts.

4. The presence and extent of some types of sensitive environments may render a site unsuitable or, in some cases, less suitable for golf course development.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Wetlands

## Guidelines for...

- Planning and Siting
- Design
- Construction
- Maintenance
- Facility Operations
- What Golfers Can Do

- Habitat for threatened or endangered plant or animal species
- Sensitive aquatic habitats

5. There may be opportunities to restore or enhance environmentally sensitive areas through golf course development by establishing buffer zones or by setting unmaintained or low-maintenance areas aside within the site.

6. Golf course development can be an excellent means of restoring or rehabilitating previously degraded sites (e.g., landfills, quarries and mines). Golf courses are also excellent treatment systems for effluent water and use of effluent irrigation is encouraged when it is available, economically feasible, and agronomically and acceptable.

## Design

1. When designing a golf course, it is important to identify existing ecosystems. Utilizing what nature has provided is both environmentally and economically wise. Emphasizing the existing characteristics of the site can help retain natu-

ral resources, allow for efficient maintenance of the course and will likely reduce permitting and site development costs.

2. A site analysis and feasibility study should be conducted by experienced professionals. The identification of environmentally sensitive areas and other natural resources is important so that a design can be achieved that carefully balances environmental factors, playability, and aesthetics.

3. Cooperative planning and informational sessions with community representatives environmental groups and regulatory agencies should be part of the initial design phase. Early input from these groups is very important to the development and approval process. This dialogue and exchange of information should continue even after the course is completed.

4. Native and/or naturalized vegetation should be retained or replanted when appropriate in areas that are not in play. In playing areas, designers should select grasses that are best adapted to the local environmental conditions to provide the necessary characteristics of playability yet permit the use of environmentally sustainable maintenance techniques.

5. Emphasis should be placed upon the design of irrigation, drainage and retention systems that provide for efficient use of water and the protection of water quality. Drainage and stormwater retention systems should, when possible, be incorporated in the design as features of the course to help provide for both the short and long term irrigation needs of the maintained turf and the unmaintained areas of the course.

6. Water reuse strategies for irrigation should be utilized when economically feasible and environmentally and agronomically acceptable. It is important that recycled water meets applicable health and environmental standards and

# BANOL® FUNGICIDE

## THE PROBLEM:

Pythium is the most common disease affecting overseeding programs in southern turf. There are three main types of seed and seedling diseases caused by Pythium fungi.

### PYTHIUM DAMPING-OFF

This disease generally occurs in moist conditions from frequent watering during seed germination. It affects the new plants as they grow from seedlings, with symptoms appearing either pre or postemergence. Preemergent symptoms are seed decay, or necrosis of newly emerged roots (radicle). Postemergent symptoms include wilting and collapse of seedlings shortly after emergence. Foliar mycelium may occasionally be evident, but is usually more indicative of Pythium Blight.

### PYTHIUM BLIGHT

This disease generally occurs during warm and humid weather. Initially small tan-to-bronze colored patches appear, with larger areas becoming blighted in a few hours. The most obvious evidence of this blight is foliar mycelium, which is easily detected in the morning hours (particularly if there is dew).

### CROWN AND ROOT ROT PYTHIUM

This disease occurs in either cool or warm conditions, as long as it is moist. More commonly found in established turf, it can create problems for seedlings. In cool conditions, symptoms include yellow or reddish-brown patches (2-3" in diameter). In warm conditions, initial symptoms appear as tan, brown or bronze patches which may be confused with dollar spot symptoms at this stage. Severe infestations cause larger areas of turf to wilt or die under heat stress. No foliar mycelium is noticeable.

## THE SOLUTION:

The use of BANOL® Fungicide in overseeding programs provides insurance for a successful fall transition of overseeded turf to maintain a playable surface.

- Banol provides broad spectrum fungicide control of many of the species of Pythium associated with Damping-Off, Blight, and Crown and Root Rot.
- Banol is rapidly absorbed by leaf, stem and root tissues, and quickly supplied to the entire plant.
- Banol is safe to use on young seedlings.
- Banol provides excellent control of cool season Root Rot Pythium.
- Banol has never had a documented case of Pythium resistance, and is an excellent rotational disease resistance program partner.
- Banol can be used in a preventative or curative program.

### BANOL USE IN OVERSEEDING PROGRAMS

**Preventative programs for control of Pythium are preferred.** Treatment timing can range from prior to overseeding through "green cast" and turf establishment. Preventatively, Banol should be used at 1 1/3 - 2 fl. oz. in 2-5 gallons of water per 1000 sq. ft. Curative rates are 3-4 fl. oz. of Banol in 2-5 gallons of water per 1000 sq. ft.

For Pythium Damping-Off and Crown and Root Rot Pythium, Banol works best when watered-in with about 1/4" of water.

For control of Pythium Blight, watering-in is necessary for control.

## APPLICATION RATES

TURFGRASS-AREA	BANOL-RATE	REMARKS
1000 sq. ft.	Preventative Treatment: 1 1/3 - 2 fl. oz. in 2-5 gal. of water	ESTABLISHED-TURF:-Apply as a preventative treatment during periods of high temperature and humidity favorable to the development of Pythium Blight and Crown and Root Rot Pythium.
	Curative Treatment: 3-4 fl. oz. in 2-5 gal. of water	OVERSEEDED-AREAS: Apply after germination to control Pythium Damping-Off.
		RETREATMENT:-Retreat at 7-21 day intervals if conditions remain favorable for disease development. Use the lower rate for the shorter interval and the higher rate for the longer interval within the application rate range. Under severe disease pressure conditions, use the highest recommended rate and

NOTE: Do not enter treated areas until spray deposit has been dried completely. IMPORTANT:-Always read and follow label directions carefully when applying any chemical. This information is provided in good faith without express or implied warranty. Buyer assumes all responsibility for safety and use not in accordance with label directions.

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Brian MacCurrach





that special consideration be given to water quality issues and adequate buffer zones. Water reuse may not be feasible on some sites that drain into high quality wetlands or sensitive surface waters. Suitable soils, climatic conditions, groundwater hydrology, vegetative cover, adequate storage for treated effluent and other factors will all influence the feasibility of water reuse.

7. Buffer zones or other protective measures should be maintained and/or created, if appropriate, to protect high quality surface water resources or environmentally sensitive areas. The design and placement of buffer zones will vary based on the water quality classification of the surface waters being incorporated into the course.

Regulatory agencies and environmental groups can assist in the planning of buffer zones.

8. Design the course with sustainable maintenance in mind. The design should incorporate Integrated Plant Manage-

ment and resource conservation strategies that are environmentally responsible, efficient, and cost effective. Integrated Plant Management includes integrated pest management and emphasizes plant nutrition and overall plant health.

9. The design of the course should enhance and protect special environmental resource areas and when present, improve or revive previously degraded areas within the site through the use of plants that are well adapted to the region. Seek opportunities to create and/or preserve habitat areas that enhance the area's ecosystem.

### Construction

1. Use only qualified contractors who are experienced in the special requirements of golf course construction.

2. Develop and implement strategies to effectively control sediment, minimize the loss of topsoil, protect water resources, and reduce disruption to wild-

life, plant species and designated environmental resource areas.

3. Schedule construction and turf establishment to allow for the most efficient progress of the work while optimizing environmental conservation and resource management.

4. Retain a qualified golf course superintendent/project manager early in the design and construction process(es) to integrate sustainable maintenance practices in the development, maintenance and operation of the course.

### Maintenance

#### Plant Protection and Nutrition

1. Employ the principles of Integrated Plant Management (IPM), a system that relies on a combination of common sense practices of preventing and controlling pests (e.g., weeds, diseases, insects) in which monitoring is utilized to identify pests, damage thresholds are considered, all possible management options are

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evaluated and selected control(s) are implemented. IPM involves a series of steps in the decision-making process:

a. Through regular monitoring and record keeping, identify the pest problem, analyze the conditions causing it, and determine the damage threshold level below which the pest can be tolerated.

b. Devise ways to change conditions to prevent or discourage recurrence of the problem. Examples include: utilizing improved (e.g. drought resistant, pest resistant turfgrass varieties, modifying microclimate conditions, or changing cultural practice management programs.

c. If damage thresholds are met, select the combination of control strategies to suppress the pest populations with minimal environmental impact, to avoid surpassing threshold limits. Control measures include biological, cultural, physical, mechanical, and chemical methods. Biological control methods must be environmentally sound and should be properly screened and tested before implementation.

Non-chemical control measures should focus on practices such as the introduction of natural pest enemies (e.g., parasites and predators), utilizing syringing techniques, improving air movement, soil aeration techniques, and mechanical traps. The selection of chemical control strategies should be utilized only when other strategies are inadequate

When chemical and nutrient products need to be applied the following practices should be utilized:

2. Always read and follow label directions when using any plant protectant products. Strive to treat problems at the proper time and under the proper conditions to maximize effectiveness with minimal environmental impact. Spot treatments may provide early, effective control of problems before damage thresholds are reached.

3. Store and handle all pest control and nutrient products in a manner that minimizes worker exposure and/or the

potential for point or non-point source pollution. Employ proper chemical storage practices and use suitable personal protective equipment and handling techniques.

4. Use nutrient products and practices that reduce the potential for contamination of ground and surface water. Strategies include use of slow-release fertilizers, selected organic products, and/or fertigation.

5. Test and monitor soil conditions regularly and modify practices accordingly. Choose nutrient products and time applications to meet, not exceed, the needs of the turfgrass.

6. All plant protectant products should only be applied by or under the supervision of a trained, licensed applicator or as dictated by law.

7. Maintain excellence in the continuing education of applicators (including state licensing, professional association training and IPM certification). Training for non-English speaking ap-



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plicators should be provided in the worker's native language.

8. Facilities should inform golfers and guests about golf course chemical applications. Common methods include permanent signs on the first and tenth tee boxes and/or notices posted in golf shops and locker rooms.

### Water Usage

1. Use native, naturalized or specialized drought-tolerant plant materials wherever possible. For areas in play (greens, tees and fairways), using plant materials that are: well-adapted to local environmental conditions; can be efficiently managed; and provide the desired playing characteristics.

2. Plan irrigation patterns and/or program irrigation control systems to meet the needs of the plant materials in order to minimize overwatering. When feasible, use modern irrigation technologies that provide highly efficient water usage. Inspect systems regularly for leaks and monitor water usage.

3. Water at appropriate times to minimize evaporation and reduce the potential for disease.

4. Consider converting to effluent irrigation systems when available, economically feasible and agronomically and environmentally acceptable.

5. Manage water use effectively to prevent unnecessary depletion of local water resources.

### Waste Management

1. Leave grass clippings and other organic materials in place whenever agronomically possible. If clippings are removed, compost and, if possible, recycle them.

2. Dispose of chemical rinsate in a manner that will not increase the potential for point or non-point source pollution. Methods include rinsate recycling or "spraying out" diluted compound in previously untreated areas.

3. Dispose of chemical packaging according to label directions (e.g., triple rinsing, recycling or returning to manufacturer).

4. Other waste products, such as used motor oil, electric batteries and unused

solvents, should be recycled or disposed of according to the law and available community disposal techniques.

5. Seek to reduce waste by purchasing products that minimize unnecessary packaging.

### Wildlife Management

1. Habitat for wildlife species that help control pests (e.g., bats, bluebirds, purple martins, etc.) should be protected. Additional habitat for these beneficial species should be created whenever feasible and environmentally desirable.

2. Manage habitat to maintain healthy populations of wildlife and aquatic species.

3. Species such as skunks, non-migratory Canada geese, and deer, when they become damaging should be managed through non-harmful means whenever possible. Non-harmful control methods could include dogs, noisemakers, repellents, and trapping and removal. Managed hunting may be appropriate where legal and safe.

### Facility Operations

1. Facilities should conduct an environmental assessment in order to develop and implement an overall environmental policy and/or long-range plan that reflects or expands upon these principles.

2. Maintain ongoing records to measure and document progress towards environmental improvement.

3. The environmentally responsible practices adopted for the maintenance of the golf course should extend to all areas of the overall facility grounds.

4. Facilities should adopt practices and technologies that conserve natural resources, including water and energy.

5. Facilities should develop and initiate comprehensive programs for recycling reuse and waste reduction.

6. Facilities should properly store and dispose of solvents, cleaning materials, paints and other potentially hazardous substances.

7. Facilities are urged to join programs that help to foster effective environmental management and policies.

8. Facilities should take active steps to

educate golfers, neighbors and the general public about their environmental policies and practices

### What Golfers Can Do To Help

The American golf community is dedicated to preserving the game's treasured links to nature. As a result, golf courses are now being developed, designed and managed more responsibly than ever before.

However, we who play the game also have a responsibility to help ensure that golf remains compatible with nature and that our courses are well-managed and in harmony with the environment.

As golfers we should:

1. Recognize that golf courses are managed land areas that should complement the natural environment.

2. Respect designated environmentally sensitive areas within the course.

3. Accept the natural limitations and variations of turfgrass plants growing under conditions that protect environmental resources (e.g., brown patches, thinning, loss of color).

4. Support golf course management decisions that protect or enhance the environment and encourage the development of environmental conservation plans.

5. Support maintenance practices that protect wildlife and natural habitat.

6. Encourage maintenance practices that promote the long-range health of the turf and support environmental objectives. Such practices include aerification, reduced fertilization, limited play on sensitive turf areas, reduced watering, etc.

7. Commit to long-range conservation efforts (e.g., efficient water use, Integrated Plant Management etc.) on the golf course and at home.

8. Educate others about the benefits of environmentally responsible golf course management.

9. Support research and education programs that expand our understanding of the relationship between golf and the environment.

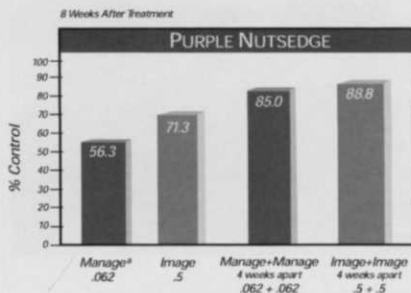
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Source: University of Florida 1994

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By All Accounts - Except the Count That Counts...

# FTGA Conference Scores high Marks

*'But where WAS everybody and exactly why didn't they come?'*

**T**he numbers aren't all in yet for the FTGA Conference and Show, but it was obvious that attendance was less than expected, which is a shame, because everybody who came was pleased with the University of Florida location.

The campus was beautiful. Parking and access was free and easy while the students were on semester break. Hotels were 50 to 80 percent less expensive than Tampa. The classrooms and Touchdown Terrace were excellent. The tours covered turf plots and athletic fields.

The question association leaders and committee chairman are asking is, "Where was everybody and exactly why didn't they come?"

I didn't hear a single person attending the education and trade show voice a hard-core negative about the Gainesville site. The only obviously unhappy people were the vendors who pay for this show with their exhibitor fees. They want and need to get a better bang for their buck or they simply will stop supporting the show.

It is obvious everyone needs to do some candid soul-searching and identify why people aren't supporting this event in the numbers necessary to make it possible for the FTGA to function.

By all the accounts, the educational sessions got good reviews and were well attended. The show will be held in Gainesville again next year, Aug. 14-18.

Members need to speak up with constructive input to help leaders identify what needs to be done, whether it's the location, timing, content, or competition from other events.

Meanwhile, the event did fulfill its obligations by conducting the business of the association as a new slate of officers took the helm for the new year. Mark Jarrell, CGCS is the new president. Erica



From left: Secretary/ Treasurer Alan Puckett, Vice President Erica Santella, President Mark Jarrell, CGCS and Past President Scott Wahlin, CGCS were elected at the FTGA Annual Meeting in Gainesville. All Conference photos by Joel Jackson.



GCSAA Secretary/Treasurer Tommy Witt, CGCS presented a GCSAA/Etonic seminar on "Communicating with Your Employer."



Lisa Micunek, president of her company, Accent on Success gave a GCSAA/Etonic seminar on "Enhancing the Image of the Golf Course Superintendent."



Brad Kocher, CGCS, Director of Golf Course Maintenance for the Pinehurst Resort kicked off the Golf Concurrent Session explained the scope and detail of the preparations necessary for holding the 1999 U. S. Open .



From left, Mike Brown, Coastal Turf Company; Alan Puckett, Lake Region Y&CC; and Frank Cone, Legends Golf Course led a panel discussion of maintenance practices for the ultradwarf bermudagrass varieties.



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Santella of TruGreen-Chemlawn is now vice president and Alan Puckett is secretary/treasurer. Scott Wahlin, CGCS becomes past president.

A lot of non-golf FTGA members complain that the FTGA is just another golf organization, but very few people from the other branches of the turf industry ever step up and volunteer their time.

This year a concentrated effort was made to recruit board members from the various other turf organizations and no one would make the commitment. So, I guess the old saying is true, "Associations are run by those who show up!"

UF President John Lombardi gave a tremendously inspirational and forceful keynote address at the Annual Banquet. The optimism and vision he projected stirred the audience to a standing ovation at its conclusion. Sadly, a few weeks later President Lombardi announced his resignation as president of the University. We will miss his vitality and his



From left, labor panelists Jerry Redden, Professional Turf Maintenance, Inc.; Lou Conzelmann, CGCS, WCI Communities; and Roy Bates, CGCS, Imperial Golf Club discussed tips and strategies to deal with current labor trends in the turf industry.

friendship. He never was a golfer, but he had learned to respect our role in the turf

industry and what it meant to the people and economy of Florida.



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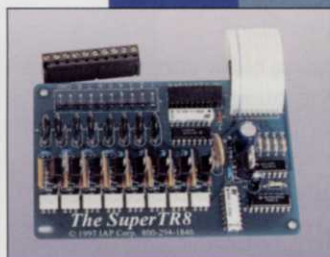
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# News Off The Net

## From the University of Florida's eHort News:

### Awards

Dr. Robert Black, Dr. Grady Miller and Gerald Kidder have won the 1999 ASHS Extension Division Educational Materials Award in the category of Commercial Landscape Management for their Roadside Turf Management Guide. They were honored at the ASHS Extension Division banquet, which was held on July 30

### Publications

Have you visited with the "Featured Creatures" of the Entomology and Nematology Department? This web site provides in-depth profiles of insects, mites, plant diseases, and other organisms that are of interest to Florida's residents. An associated purpose is to support professionals in agriculture, horticulture, and urban pest control. If you have items to add, contact Thomas Fasulo at [fasulo@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:fasulo@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu) or visit <http://www.ifas.ufl.edu/~insect/>

Best Management Practices for Florida Golf Courses (SP 141 \$20)

Completely updated for 1999, this indispensable reference features new photographs and a chapter on bermudagrass varieties. New information on putting green construction and IPM strategies also is included, to create current, research-based information available for professional golf course managers and field management staff, students, and regulatory agencies. Written by J. Bryan Unruh, extension turfgrass specialist at the West Florida Research and Education Center in Jay, and Monica Elliott, extension plant pathologist at the Ft. Lauderdale Research and Education Center. To order, call (352) 392-1764 or (800)226-1764.

### What's New?

University of Florida specialists are using a new system that uses digital cameras and the World Wide Web to send photographs of insects and diseased plants from the field to the lab for rapid diagnosis and identification. Researchers, extension agents and software developers with UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural

Sciences developed the Distance Diagnostics and Identification System, or DDIS, to speed up identification of plant and animal physiological disorders. To view the entire release, go to: <http://www.napa.ufl.edu/digest/old/1998-99/webplants.htm> For more information contact: Fedro Zazueta (352) 392-0429

### Take Note...

Dr. Phil Busey, Associate Professor at the Fort Lauderdale REC has assisted the designers of an exhibit titled, The American Lawn: Surface of Everyday Life which will be showing at the Museum of Art in Fort Lauderdale, September 3, 1999. Dr. Busey provided factual background and samples of various warm-season turfgrasses, which were used in the exhibit. For more information, call the museum at 954-525-5500 or visit: <http://www.floridaturf.com/americanlawn/>

MARIE NELSON  
University of Florida

### Florida Golf Course Owners Association

Congressman Bill McCollum acknowledged and praised the economic impact that the golf industry has on the state of Florida in his keynote address at the Florida Golf Course Owners Association state conference at the Wyndham Resort in Ft. Lauderdale. This was the first state conference for the Florida Chapter of the National Golf Course Owners Association.

McCollum discussed current issues pertaining to the day to day operations of Florida businesses and the community, as well as to keep children on the straight and narrow path for the good of our future.

A round table discussion of the current Americans with Disabilities Act proposed regulations jump started the FGCOA town hall meeting and was facilitated by NGCOA consultant Cynthia Smith.

The FGCOA currently has 136 members and was formed to keep Florida owners and operators on top of and in touch with the ever changing golf industry.

Ray Finch III, president of the Emerald Dunes Golf Group was named president of the FGCOA replacing Bill Stine, COO of Meadowbrook Golf Group, who completed his two-year term. Stine will take over as president of the NGCOA in January.

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## 6th Annual Harrell's Turf Academy held at Innisbrook Resort

Six years ago Harrell's Fertilizers started hosting an all-expense-paid, two-day turf academy and golf



GCSAA's CEO Steve Mona gave a "State of the Association" update.

championship for their customers. The event had been staged at the Grenelefe Resort in Haines City for the first five years and, due to a schedule conflict this year, it was moved to the Westin Innisbrook Resort in Tarpon Springs. Nearly 350 attended this year's event.

The event includes a golf championship on the afternoon of the first day with a banquet, keynote speaker and product showcase in the evening. This year's after-dinner speaker was Bert Hamilton, one of the few survivors of the infamous Potomac River airliner crash in Washington, DC. Hamilton related the way divine intervention spared and changed his life.

Following a bountiful breakfast and product showcase at 6 a.m. on the second day, attendees split into groups to hear 11 speakers discuss late-breaking news and research data from the turf industry. At lunch, Steve Mona, CEO of the GCSAA, gave the audience a "State of the Association"

update. Following lunch graduation commenced with GCSAA and pesticide CEUs being distributed.



Affable host and founder of Harrell's Fertilizers, Jack Harrell, Sr. has been a friend and mentor to many Florida superintendents over the years.

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## Tidings From The TC

# UF to Offer Doctor of Plant Medicine Degree

## FTGA Conference, Faculty Moves Also Conversation Topics in Academia

BY JOHN CISAR

University of Florida, Turfgrass Coordinator

### FTGA a Blast

I had a lot of fun at the FTGA Conference and Show at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Aug. 9-12. I enjoyed the education and the new venues added a breath of fresh air. It was great to see old friends, make new acquaintances, and pick up some new tips.

Moreover, a lot of money was handed over for scholarships and research projects and I deeply appreciate the support given to our turf team. I hope we can build upon this to have an even better Conference and Show next year. I tip my hat to the FTGA and for putting on a first class event.

### They're back

The turf team is just about at full staff right now. Monica Elliott, Robin Giblin-Davis (both at 954-475-8990), and Russell Nagata (please note that the EREC new phone and FAX are 561-993-1500 and 561-993-1582, respectively) have

returned from sabbatical leave.

### She's here

I am pleased to announce two newcomers to the team. Dr. Laurie Trenholm is on campus since August. She has filled the lawn turf/landscape faculty (50% research/50% extension) position in Gainesville and will be in charge of the plots at the GC Horn Field Research Laboratory. As many of you know Laurie received her B.S. and M.S. from UF and spent the last three years in Georgia working on seashore paspalum management in Ronnie Duncan's and Bob Carrow's program at UG.

### She'll be here

Also welcome aboard another Georgia escapee, Dr. Carol Stiles from Valdosta State. Dr. Stiles has accepted the turfgrass plant pathologist position at Gainesville. The position has 30% research/70% teaching responsibility. She will be conducting turfgrass pathology research and teaching a turf and ornamental disease course.

Dr. Stiles earned her Ph.D. from Washington State University, and held a post-doctoral position at Rutgers University before being appointed to Valdosta State. Dr. Stiles will be on campus Jan. 1 right after Y2K2.

Two turf faculty positions are in the process of being filled. Interviews are being set up for the new soils position at

the EREC in Belle Glade. The entomologist position at the Ft. Lauderdale REC is set to close this September.

### He's going

It's my sad duty to inform you that after Dr. Robert (Bob) Dunn, professor, extension nematology may be retiring this fall. Bob has been a great supporter of the turfgrass industry in Florida. His leadership and program on turfgrass nematodes will be sorely missed. Please join me in wishing all the best to Bob and his family on their new endeavors in Virginia and the longest, healthiest, and happiest retirement.

I just heard that I was elected the C-05 Turfgrass Division of the Crop Science Society of America's national representative to the American Society of Agronomy.

### New Doctor of Plant Medicine Degree Program at UF.

This summer, the Board of Regents gave final approval for UF to offer the doctor of plant medicine program. UF is now proceeding with admission of students for the fall semester 2000. The DPM program is a three-year, post-baccalaureate, graduate, interdisciplinary and interdepartmental, professional practitioner's degree program.

It is a 120-credit, non-dissertation degree that will include a 30-credit internship. Its purpose is to educate and train

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practitioner plant doctors that will parallel the MDs and veterinarians of the sister professions. Graduates will be trained to diagnose, and offer recommendations for management-control, of anything that adversely affects plants: from weeds to diseases, and everything in between.

Plant doctors are expected to provide a greatly needed truly expert service to commercial and urban plant growers, and to the agricultural and general economy of the state and nation. They

will also help to better protect our environment and water supplies of the areas in which they are employed.

For more information about the program contact Dr. George Agrios, director, Doctor of Plant Medicine Degree Program, University of Florida, 1453 Fifield Hall, Gainesville, FL 32611-0680; phone 352-392-3631, Fax 352-392-6532, E-mail GAN@GNV.IFAS.UFL.EDU; web site: [Http://plantpath.ifas.ufl.edu](http://plantpath.ifas.ufl.edu).

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## Golf Retirement Plan for Superintendents

TO: Affiliated Chapter Presidents and Executive Directors/Secretaries

FM: Don Bretthauer, Director of Member/Chapter Services

RE: GCSAA's newest member benefit: Golf Retirement Plus

Recent GCSAA studies show that 70% of golf course superintendents do not have access to a retirement plan through their golf facilities.

Why? Because the cost, tax and regulatory burdens are prohibitive for most "small businesses" like golf facilities.

That's why GCSAA recently partnered with the PGA of America and the CMAA to offer our members an easy and affordable new retirement benefit: Golf Retirement Plus.

Golf Retirement Plus gives our members a convenient way to save for retirement. And now, we're counting on your leadership to communicate this new benefit information to your members.

Golf Retirement Plus provides members with the following benefits:

- **Affordability:** GCSAA golf course superintendents and assistant superintendents only need \$50 to start an account. This low minimum requirement makes it easy and affordable for members to build a retirement account and save on a regular basis. Contributions can also be made at the member's own pace. A customized program - based on the member's situation - can tailor an investment schedule to fit any budget.
- **Accepts individual and employer contributions:** GCSAA members and their employers can contribute to their accounts. These contributions are tax-deductible for employers. Employers can add to employees' accounts, whether as a yearly bonus, employee-employer contribution match, or percentage of salary. And the employers won't have to worry about the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) concerns, tax liabilities, investment decisions or administrative burdens of maintaining their own plan. (Please note: members will be taxed on employer contributions.)
- **Convenience:** Saving for retirement is so important in our industry - that's why GCSAA teamed with the PGA and CMAA. And by including all three association members in one retirement program, employers will have the convenience of handling one program for all the key staff at their clubs.
- **Reliable provider:** The Golf Retirement Plus investment provider, Security Benefit Life Insurance Company (SBL), is one of the nation's top-notch annuity providers and is one of the most respected names in the industry because of its expertise in variable annuities and financial strength and stability.
- **Numerous investment options:** With SBL, members can choose among 10 various investment options, depending on their age and risk tolerance.
- **Personalized retirement counseling:** GCSAA members have a dedicated Golf Retirement Plus services team available to provide program or account information and answer any questions they may have. Golf Retirement Plus Specialists know the program inside and out and are just a toll-free phone call away at 1-877-RET-PLUS (1-877-738-7587).

If you have any questions about the program or about this memo, please contact me directly at (785) 832-4418. Additionally, I would like to hear what your members are saying about this program.

## Orangebrook West Course Reopens Completing Phase 1 of 6-Year Master Plan

The City of Hollywood and Golf Hollywood, a local golf course management company, are finalizing preparations for the re-opening of the 18-hole, par-71 West golf course.

"West Brook," closed since late April 1999, received \$300,000 in improvements from a city public bond project. Sanford Associates prepared a West course master plan for all 18 holes and construction drawings for the front nine. Tifton Golf Services completed the project in July.

The scope of work included renovation of the entire greens complexes including new bunkers, and slope and green surface contour changes on holes 1 through 9 and the practice putting green.

USGA-spec greens were installed, and Quality Grassing sprigged the greens with Tifdwarf.

The summer season was busy on "East Brook," the par-72, 18-hole track that shares the 230 acres of city property with the West course. Orangebrook members and guests are excited about the changes that Sanford has made to the West.

Grand Opening of "West Brook" took place Sept. 1. The Grand Opening golf tournament and ribbon-cutting ceremony followed Sept. 9.

Golf Hollywood is very excited about the City of Hollywood's commitment to improve the golf courses at Orangebrook. In July, a capital construction surcharge was approved to generate fees for ongoing construction projects.

Upon completion of the six-year master plan, all 36 holes will have fairway drainage improvements, USGA-spec greens, new bunkers, new forward tees, and all existing teeing areas will be renovated.

ROBERT KLITZ CGCS  
General Manager

# UF Field Day/ Gulf Coast Turf Expo Draws Crowd to Panhandle



Over 300 golf course superintendents and other turf professionals from northwest Florida, southwest Georgia and southeast Alabama attended the combined UF Field Day/Gulf Coast Turf Expo at the WFREC in Milton this past June. All Expo photos by Joel Jackson.



From left, Dr. John Cisar, UF Turf Coordinator; Dr. Terril Nell, Dean of Environmental Horticulture; Dr. Bryan Unruh, Field Day Host and Organizer; and Dr. Richard Jones, Dean of IFAS Research survey the education, equipment demonstrations and product information booths at the Field Day.



Dr. Bryan Unruh, left, thanks Wiley McCall of Emerald Isle Turf, Inc. for providing the food for the Milton Field Day. Emerald Isle Turf, based in Punta Gorda, Fla has gone the extra mile this year by catering and cooking the food for the South Florida Turf Expo in Ft. Lauderdale and for the UF Field Day in Milton. That's a lot of miles on that barbecue rig.



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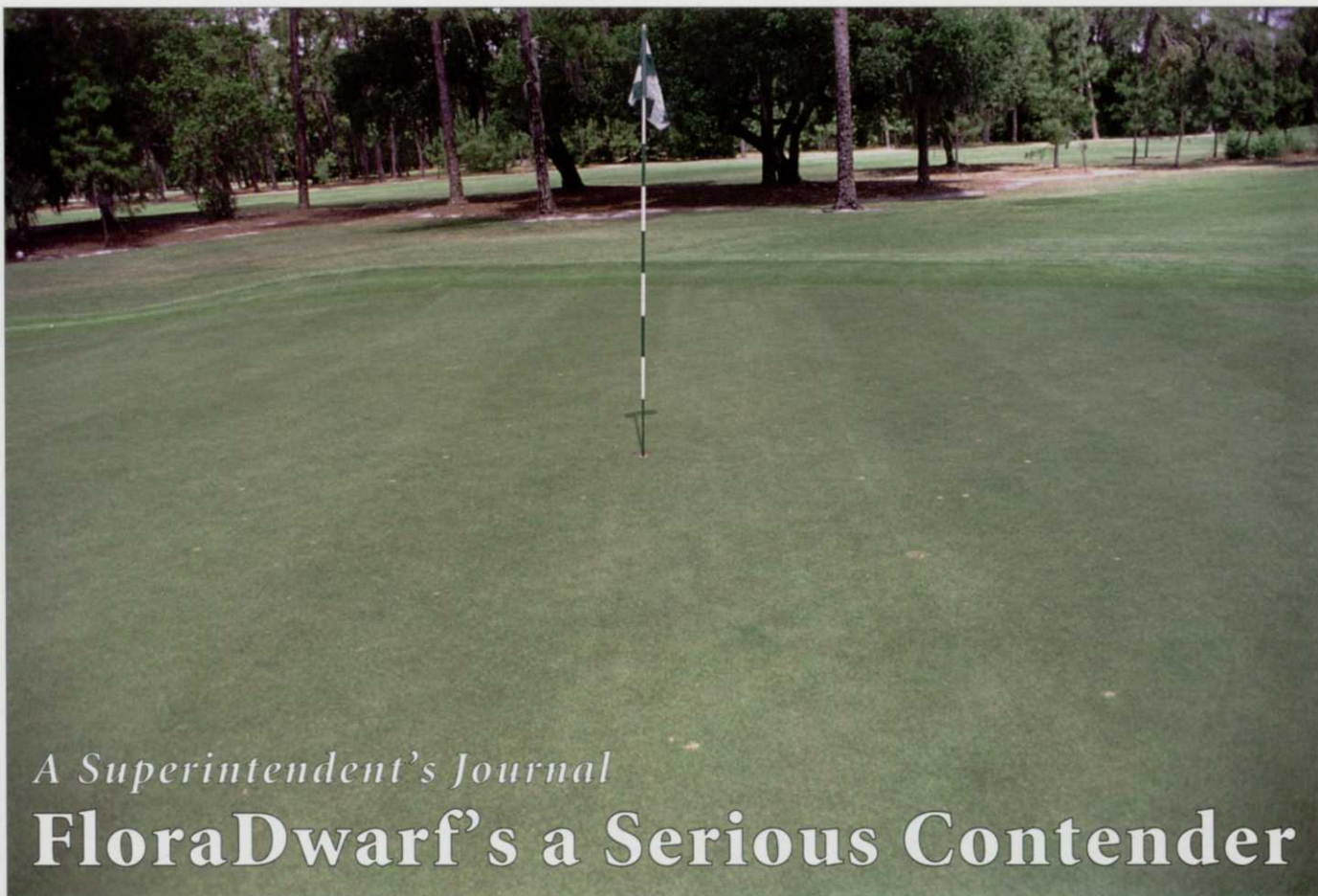
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## FloraDwarf's a Serious Contender

*One-year-old FloraDwarf green at the Lake Region Y. & C.C. in Winter Haven. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

*(Part 2 in a series on management of the new ultradwarf bermudagrasses)*

In the summer issue, Matt Taylor kicked off the discussion of management practices for the new ultradwarf bermudagrasses with an article on his experiences with Champion at Bonita Bay East Golf Club in Naples. In this issue Jay Reister, Ponte Vedra Inn & Club in Ponte Vedra Beach; Alan Puckett, Lake Region Y. & C.C., Winter Haven; and John Lammrish, CGCS, Orange Lake Resort, Kissimmee answered the "Call for Articles" to tell you about what they are doing to grow in, cultivate and manage greens with FloraDwarf.

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#### **Turfgrass Density**

The density in FloraDwarf is far greater than any dwarf on the market today.

The density is equal to the density of Champion ultradwarf. I just returned from playing bentgrass greens in Las Vegas.

I would say that FloraDwarf is equal to the density I saw on those greens. I am sure if you compared the two under a microscope, the bentgrass would have more density. But that is only because the bentgrass leaf blade is smaller. To the naked eye you could not tell the difference.

The density is so great, you will never have to worry about replacing greens every 10 to 12 years because they have been encroached upon so severely. Weed infestation will also be very difficult in this turf due to its density.

#### **Low Growing**

Obviously this grass has a low-growth habit. I have been on some fields that had not been mowed in over six months. The height of that grass could not have been more than a quarter inch. You would not

want to maintain this turf at .187 inches or higher. I don't believe it would be a good turf for tees, fairways or collars and approaches.

#### **Purity**

From what I have seen so far, this turf is as pure as it gets. It has been two years now and I have not found any off types.

#### **Mowing Heights**

I have never cut this turf above .155, including grow-in. This is very important. You can't treat this turf like Tifdwarf. You need to start mowing it low and continue to a point you feel comfortable with. Normally I keep my greens at .110 to .125. During stress situations, I go up to .155. If you have severely sloped greens you need to invest in some training wheels for your walk mowers or you will not be able to go as low as you want without scalping the slopes.

### Type of Equipment

I use Toro 1000 walk mowers. I highly recommend the use of walk mowers on the new ultradwarfs. I also believe you need to use a direct-suspension walk mower, not a floating-head mower like the Series 5 Toro unit. By using the floating head mower, you are promoting a biomass buildup that will eventually cause you problems.

### Top Dressing

When the turf is actively growing, I topdress lightly every other week. If the turf is not actively growing — and by that I mean, when nighttime temperatures drop below 55 degrees — I would not topdress. If you do topdress when the turf is not actively growing, all you will do is pick the sand up with your mowers even if you mow without buckets for a couple of days.

Equipment I recommend for topdressing: Either the Terra Topper or the new Meter Matic light topdressing unit. These two units seem to distribute the sand at the rate you need for these new grasses, which

is very light.

### Verticutting

I verticut once every two weeks when the turf is actively growing, I verticut at a depth of 1/32 inch. Sometimes, depending upon the amount of growth I am receiving, I go two directions at the same depth: 1/32. If you don't use verticutting as a tool with these new varieties, you're dead. The biomass will overtake you.

While you are growing in this turf, you need to be on an aggressive verticutting program. In my grow-in, I verticut once a week after we reached 50 percent coverage. This turf really likes to be verticut lightly and often.

### Fertility

For grow-in, we incorporated the following pre-plant materials: 50 lbs. of Milorganite/1,000 sq. ft.; calcium carbonate CEC at 25 lbs/1000 sq. ft.; 0-0-59 Polyon at 5 lbs. of K/1000 sq. ft.

After one week, apply Bio-Pro 12/3/9 at

1 lb. N/1000 sq. ft.; Apply .75 lbs. of K From Sul-Po-Mag weekly. Apply 1 lb. N from ammonium sulfate /1000 sq. ft. once every two weeks. Grow-in should be accomplished in six to eight weeks.

For established turf, we foliar-apply 1/8 lb. N, 1/16 lb. P, and 1/2 lb. K per 1,000 sq. ft. We add a micronutrient package as indicated by tissue sample analysis. I apply this every five to seven days year round. I do tissue samples once every two weeks to establish the needs of my turf. I think this is very important. Once a week I also apply .75 lbs K/1000 sq. ft. in granular form. I prefer a 0-0-28 from Lesco.

During the winter, the only granular fertilizers I use are Potash and it needs to be a material that will break down with one night's irrigation or you will end up picking it up with your mowers even if you go without buckets for a day or so.

### Water

I irrigate as needed. Presently it seems we need to irrigate every other night 10

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**Overseed programs**

I have never overseeded.

**Summary**

If treated properly this turf is far and above the quality of Tifdwarf. It will definitely be the turf of the future. If you are not growing it now, you will be in the next three to five years.

JAY REISTER

*Golf Course Superintendent*

**Lake Region Y. & C.C.**

**Establishment/Grow-In Program**

**A**t Lake Region we reconstructed our green surfaces during the summer of 1998. We started the project on June 22 and opened the greens Oct. 1. We cored them out to a depth of 6 inches and put in a No.1 sand greens mix. We filled in the 6 inches with the new mix and rototilled them to a depth of 13 to 14 inches. We basically created an 85/15 mix.

We also made a few changes to some greens' contours but mostly just rebuilt them as they were. As to the establishment of the new greens, we first wanted to grow them in as fast as possible. We had a very tight window to pull this off. We planted the front nine July 23 and the back nine on Aug. 3. We upped the sprigging rates on the front nine to almost 30 bushels per acre with the norm being 20 bushels.

When we got to the back nine, our grow-in window was getting smaller so we used almost 35 bushels back there. This helped us get to the date we needed. Prior to the last floating of the new surfaces, we prepped them with Triple-Super-Phosphate, Milorganite, and Dol-Lime. Then we made our final tilling and leveling while working in these three products. Then we sprigged them and cut them in two different ways.

From this point on we poured the water to them. We started running 20-minute programs per green throughout the entire day.

We wanted to keep the soil profile as wet as we could. We ran this program for two to three weeks and then started to back off some. We went to 10-minute cycles

eight times a day. This seemed to keep them with good moisture throughout.

Now we started to get into the fertility. We put at least a pound of N out per week. We used ammonium sulfate one week, a complete 10-10-10 one week, and ammonium nitrate one week. We continued this throughout the majority of the grow-in.

As we got closer to our opening date the last three to four weeks, we began hitting them twice a week with ammonium nitrate to push them really hard. This helped close up some thin spots. We were able to redo 21 greens and get them opened on time.

We started to roll them after four to five weeks. We put a large 7-foot-wide roller with water in the cylinders on them to begin the smoothing phase. We would roll three times a week in different directions. This worked really well and from there we started to topdress them.

We would open the topdresser wide open and cover them thoroughly. We began our topdress regime about five weeks into the grow-in. We continued this throughout the grow-in and with the rolling and topdress together we ended up with some very nice surfaces.

When we were 70 percent grown in, we began to mow them. We used solid rollers and a mowing height of .170. We continued to mow every couple of days for a week or two, and then began mowing almost daily.

We were still topdressing and rolling as we continued mowing. All three operations went well and the surfaces started to look pretty good.

After a couple of weeks at that height, we went to .150 and at opening we were at .125 using Wiehle rollers with tournament bedknives, which we were using anyway.

**Routine Cultural Practices**

**A. Mowing**

Our mowing program today uses Toro triplexes. We keep them at .120 with Wiehle rollers and we use tournament bedknives. We spin grind our reels weekly. We use 11-bladed reels and we're getting eight to ten weeks out our bedknives. We use a greens roller twice a week and we also use Primo at a rate of 1-1/2 ounces per acre every two weeks.

This helps on a daily basis in two areas: It seems to minimize clippings and keeps good speed in the late afternoon. We are able to provide a quality surface for our membership with triplexes and will continue to use them as long as we are able to do so. We add one new mower to our fleet each year and rotate the older mower out.

**B. Verticutting**

We use a Toro mower with their standard verticut reels. We verticut our surfaces biweekly. With each application we are set to go at 1/4 inch in two different directions. We adjust those two directions on each verticut cycle. We make a cleanup mowing and follow that with a light topdressing. We also plan to use verti-groomers this season.

**C. Topdressing**

We use a 90/10 mix with Canadian peat. We topdress behind the verticutter twice a month. We use a Ransome topdresser which we set at just over 1/2 inch. We drag it in with a triplex and we pull a carpet. This drags in the light sand and is easier on the green surface than a golf cart. We will do this operation on a Monday morning and play is held to a noon start. We have never interfered with play. We feel light and frequent is the best for us.

**D. Fertility Program**

We apply a granular mix every two weeks. We also put out a tank of liquid each month. For granular blends, we use a 17-1-10 and rotate with a 9-3-9 mini prill through the growing season and will use IBDU through the winter. During the season we apply almost 3/4 lb. every two weeks. We also spray weekly with a minor package. The liquid normally is a 32-0-0 and at times we will put out 8-0-8. We try to keep them pumped up and very healthy.

**E. Aerification**

We start to aerify greens as early in the season as we can. We will come in with 1/4 inch solid tines in February to March depending on the weather and temperatures. We will punch them monthly with 1/4 tines til the middle of May when we will bring in an outside service to do a deep-tine aerification. They use a 5/8-inch-di-

ameter tine and go 8 inches deep. We topdress heavily behind them.

We use our small tines through the summer if needed for compaction or hot spots. In August we will come in ourselves and aerify with a 5/8 tines on Coremasters. We will also topdress heavily behind this operation. We also spike greens monthly in the winter with every topdressing.

#### F. Irrigation Practices

We irrigate on a daily schedule normally. We are always adjusting the amount that we put on them. We are a test site for Toro Irrigation and are presently testing a new controller system for them. We run set amounts and change percentages almost daily. We use a rain gauge for automatic shut off. We will put a wetting agent on them biweekly and will hand-water them on a regular basis during the week.

#### G. General Comments

During our greens construction, we did make several minor changes to some of the greens with severe contouring. We took areas that had a 9 to 10 degree fall to 3 to 4 degrees of fall. They still have very good movement but now have more cup locations.

Scalping with the new surfaces has not been a factor.

The greens seem to get a little harder and drier under drought conditions, but overall in their first year have done very well. As for ball speed, they are not as quick as I would have thought from changing grass types, but they have the ability to become very fast without stressing the turf.

We rebuilt 21 greens and completed seven other projects and we only spent \$217,000. We opened in 110 days. We are very happy with the FloraDwarf!

ALAN PUCKETT

Golf Course Superintendent

### Orange Lake Resort

**O**range Lake is a time share resort. The decision to use FloraDwarf on the new Legends Golf Course was recommended by the architect, Harrison Minchew of Palmer Design, and one that I was very excited about.

After numerous meetings with Orange Lake management discussing the pros and cons of using this new grass, we decided to use FloraDwarf.

#### I. Grow-in and Establishment

On July 8, 1998 the first green was sprigged with FloraDwarf at the rate of 30 bushels per 1,000 sq. ft.. The greens were built to USGA specifications (no choker layer) with an 85/15 greens mix. I was alarmed by the initial appearance of the sprigs. In comparison to Tifdwarf sprigs, they looked more like clippings instead of stolons.

#### A. Irrigation

We watered the new sprigs for 10-15 minutes every hour from daybreak until 7 p.m. This watering schedule continued for two weeks. At that point we reduced the watering to two daily cycles and adjusted as conditions dictated. As the turf filled in and a root system developed, we backed off to a single cycle during the evening hours.

#### B. Fertility

Prior to sprigging, a preplant fertilizer was applied. One week after sprigging, we alternated 21-0-0 and 15-5-15 weekly for the next five weeks. During the fifth and sixth weeks, we were not pleased with the results. Soil testing showed calcium and magnesium deficiencies. This was corrected by an application of dolomitic limestone at 20 lbs./1,000 sq. ft.

In the sixth week we began applying 14-4-14 with an increased minor package alternating with the 21-0-0. All applications were calibrated to apply .5 - .75 lbs. of nitrogen/1,000sq. ft. During the tenth week we started fertilizing on a two-week interval using 13-2-13 or 17-1-10. Soil tests were conducted three times during the grow-in phase to assure proper nutrients were being applied.

#### C. Rolling

We started rolling the greens during the fourth week of the process. A 1.25-ton roller was used only once due to concerns of flattening or reducing the original contours in the putting surfaces. We shifted to a standard Speed Roller and rolled weekly or as needed.

#### D. Mowing

In week three we began mowing the green with John Deere 220A walk mowers set at .187 inches. Some of my peers suggested mowing them at .125 during grow-in, but we were not happy with the results. A couple of the greens were nearly mowed to death at this height in less than two weeks. Needless to say I became very conservative and the HOC was raised to .150

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until the greens were fully covered, which took about eight to ten weeks.

We had three greens that could have been considered playable in six to seven weeks. As we approached opening day, the HOC was lowered to .130 and provided a quality putting surface with a stimpmeter reading of 8.5. The goal for opening day was 8.5 - 9.0. This is when we realized that we could achieve good speeds under normal daily mowing conditions.

## E. Topdressing

This program also began in the third week of grow-in. Great care was taken not to rut or disrupt the putting surfaces with the turning motion of the equipment. A Meter-Matic with the gate set wide open was pulled behind a John Deere Gator 4x2 to apply the maximum amount of sand.

The first three applications of 85/15 were made once a week. Then we switched to 90/10 in week four and began using a Terra Topper for lighter applications. The gates were also wide open but we adjusted our ground speed to apply the necessary amounts of mix.

We verticut before topdressing during the fifth week after sprigging. The bench setting on the verticut reels was 1/8 inch. Verticutting was performed on a 14-day cycle during grow-in and continues to this day.

## II. Routine Cultural Practices

### A. Mowing

The greens are mowed with a combination of John Deere 220A walk mowers and 2243 triplex mowers. Walk mowing is done exclusively from November through April. All mowers have Wiehle rollers on the front only. Tournament bed knives are used and replaced every three to four weeks. The reels are ground with a spin grinder with a relief grind.

The height of cut can vary from .130 to .090. This is based on the health of the turf and the time of the year. Since we do not overseed the greens, the HOC will be raised to .150 to increase the overall plant health. This will help the turf recuperate from the cooler temperatures and 250-plus rounds during our peak season.

### B. Verticutting

We verticut with John Deere 2243 triplex mowers. The depth of the blades varies from 3/16 to 1/8 inch depending on what we want to accomplish. The standing verticut schedule is every 14 days but is not always needed. During the summer we have more flexibility with this procedure. By contacting our director of golf, we can alter the schedule to meet the needs of the grass. The use of a Mat-A-Way has been considered, but at this point, it does not seem to be necessary.

### C. Topdressing

This may be considered the most important aspect of maintaining FloraDwarf. We topdress every two weeks with a Terra Topper. While the amount applied can vary from green to green, it is usually light enough that a couple of turns of the heads are all that's needed to work the sand into the turf. Now that the course is open for play, a straight sand is used for all topdressings. It appears the greens are creating enough organic matter through maturity that the addition of peat moss in the mix is no longer needed. No layering is evident in the green profile.

### D. Fertility

We use a combination of granular, soluble and micro-nutrient fertilizers. Granular 17-1-10 or 13-2-13 is applied every six to seven weeks at .75 lbs of N/1,000 sq. ft. Two weeks after a granular application, we spray a soluble fertilizer at a rate of 1/8 lb. N and K/1,000 sq. ft. A week later 6 oz/1,000 sq. ft of Lesco's Iron Plus (12-0-0) will be applied. After this I will alternate complete soluble and micro-nutrient fertilizers weekly.

The granular products provide a good growth spurt to promote roots and increase recuperative potential. They can also reduce green speed, so we take tournament schedules and special events into consideration. Generally in this cycle, weeks four and five produce the best putting surfaces and appearance. The sixth and seventh weeks are very lean and the use of chelated iron maintains the color. This is when our green speeds are best (9.0 - 10.0) for the resort course. After a year of monitoring this program, I feel it provides the

best playing surface and has slowed down thatch development.

### E. Aerification

The greens are aerified three times per year: April, June and July. This process is performed by a subcontractor, Golf Course Services. The aerifier is a modified Core Master with 1/2-inch hollow tines that penetrate to a depth of 3-4 inches. Spiking is used only when environmental conditions favor algae growth. With the intense topdressing and verticutting schedules, I have used spiking less than my past experiences with Tifdwarf.

### F. Irrigation

Typically, our greens are watered 15-25 minutes daily. This decision is made daily based on using a soil probe to check moisture and monitoring the morning dew patterns. No hand watering has been necessary nor has the use of specialized wetting agents other than the Lesco Wet we put into our liquid fertilizer applications.

### Summary

In summary, the FloraDwarf has been a learning experience in all aspects. From mowing heights so low that your bedknife becomes a bulldozer blade instead of a cutting edge, to implementing different fertility programs.

The cold tolerance seems to be similar to Tifdwarf with the purplish color. Diseases have been almost non-existent with the exception of some *Helminthosporium* last November and December.

The green speed issue is one for great debate, but FloraDwarf is easier to keep at 8.5-9.0 in relation to Tifdwarf without directly affecting the budget.

We have only managed FloraDwarf for a year, and so far it still appears to be a pure stand. I have seen some Tifdwarf greens less than two years old that show signs of mutation or contamination. Hopefully, our FloraDwarf will remain pure for many years to come.

JOHN LAMMRISH, CGCS  
Director of Grounds Maintenance

## 5th Annual Florida Green Photo Contest

A record 22 photos were submitted for this year's competition with at least five in each category. Wildlife drew the most with seven entries. A panel of three Central Florida superintendents helped judge and select the following winners for 1999. Enjoy the artistry and imagination of some of your peers.

**Wildlife**  
Includes mammals, birds, reptals, amphibians



**First Place**, left. A rarely seen limpkin by Gary Grigg, CGCS, MG, Royal Poinciana Golf Club.



**Second Place**, above. Osprey by Tina Presenti, Imperial Golf Club



First Place,  
above. Imperial  
Golf Club by  
Tina Presenti.

### Formal Landscape

Formal planting including annuals, shrubs, trees, entrance and tee signs



Second Place,  
above.  
Bougainvillea on  
No. 7 by Rick  
Cerna, Links at  
Fisher Island.



First Place  
left  
Olde Florida Golf Club  
by Jim Whalen.

First Place, left.  
Olde Florida Golf Club by Jim Whalen.

**Native Landscape**  
Native plantings, including aquatic vegetation, grasses, shrubs, trees and wildflowers



Second Place,  
above. Tough Tree by Gary Grigg, CGCS, MG, Royal Poinciana Golf Club.

**First Place, left.**  
Winter Sunrise by  
Darren Davis, Olde  
Florida Golf Club.



### Scenic Hole Layout

Sunrises, sunsets, frosts, storms and any other golf-hole view

**Second Place,**  
above. Storm  
Warning by  
Trevor  
Brinkmeyer, Olde  
Florida Golf Club





**Editor's  
Choice**

Best overall  
photograph

The Frog and The Snake by Mike Hamilton, Foxfire Country Club.

## Call for Articles

This is a call for articles for the 2000 issues of the Florida Green.

Contact Joel D. Jackson, Editor for more information. Phone: 407-248-1971. Fax: 407-248-1971. E-mail; FLGrn@aol.com. All slides and photographs should include identification of persons in the picture and the name of the photographer.

**HANDS ON TOPICS** for 2000: Share your best practices and tips for these upcoming topics. Slides or photographs are encouraged.

- Winter 2000 Issue - Microbes: The Millennium Bugs?
- Spring 2000 Issue - Pre- and Post-emergence Weed Control Programs
- Summer 2000 Issue - Insect Control Since FQPA

- Fall 2000 Issue - Maintenance of Native Areas

**SPOTLIGHT:** People and events making news in Florida. From award winners to chapter tournaments and other accomplishments. Send in your story.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S JOURNAL:** Personal observations or experiences related to any phase of the turf management profession.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** General management topics beyond turf. Examples: Education, facilities, personnel, computers, training, etc.

**INDUSTRY NEWS:** News items of interest to Florida superintendents from allied associations in the turf/ horticulture industry.

**OPINION:** Exactly what it means! Articles voicing a personal point of view on any topic concerning Florida superintendents.

**RESEARCH:** A section reserved primarily for university and technical authors to report on research results within the turf industry. Also reports of practical on-course testing.

**RUB OF THE GREEN:** Articles and anecdotes with a humorous twist.

**STEWARDSHIP:** Superintendents are invited to submit ideas and articles about environmental issues and initiatives at their courses.

**Wanted:** Slides and photographs to help tell the stories!

**W**here were you? Where are you? Appropriate questions to ask, having just returned from another lightly attended FTGA Conference and Show. We had a great event in Gainesville, with the only negatives being the poor attendance and the hot weather.

The first question is for every superintendent and turfgrass professional in the state. You should have been there, but I recognize that there are legitimate reasons for non-attendance. First and foremost, I think there are too many opportunities available in this state for

continuing your professional education and sharing fellowship with your peers, and you must make hard choices regarding the numbers and types of events you attend. I refuse to believe that apathy is a serious factor among the dedicated professionals I've come to know in the golf industry, but

I do believe that job, family, and societal stress combine to create a reaction that is often interpreted as apathy.

The second question is for those who never seem to find time to attend anything. Some join the various associations (we call them checkbook members) and are rarely seen at meetings, while others have never joined anything. Only about half the superintendents in the state belong to one of the Florida GCSA's chapters. Apathy may be a factor among this group, but I truly believe other financial and psychological factors play a bigger role. Clearly, I am not qualified to comment or analyze further, but somehow we've got to reach out to this large group and gain their participation, as they are the ones needing education the most and most likely to cause regulatory problems for our industry.

Though much deep thinking and gnashing of teeth has gone into the problem of what seems to be endemic poor attendance at local, regional, state, and national meetings and events, those of us in leadership roles cannot draw definitive conclusions. We do our best to

create a schedule and venue that appeals to us as professionals, and assume that it will also appeal to other golf and turf professionals. We try to meet the needs of our exhibitors — those who are actually financing the association's activities — though their number-one priority has always been seeing potential customers. We listen to suggestions and criticisms, making appropriate adjustments that make sense.

As the president of the Florida Turfgrass Association, and a past president of the Florida GCSA, I'd like to give you the main reasons why I think the FTGA's annual conference and show is the one event you shouldn't miss.

**1) The solvency of the FTGA depends upon the success of the annual Conference and Show.** As a superintendent, you might not really care, as we have a strong state association and solid local chapters. This is misguided thinking. One of the most important functions of the FTGA is to unite the various turfgrass industries to have greater influence on our Legislature and regulatory matters. Simply put, our strength is in numbers, and though we have not yet gotten large numbers of members from the other turf-related fields, we are working hard to increase their participation. Superintendents "going it alone" may sound appealing, but it is ultimately counterproductive.

**2) Florida has a unique environment, and most research needs to be done within the state to have relevance to our situation.** Florida's turfgrass problems will be solved by Floridians. Past problems with the University of Florida are just that — past! Much progress has been made in the last few years and UF is poised to become the strongest turfgrass program in the country. Led by new IFAS VP Mike Martin, the UF administration now clearly understands the importance of golf and turfgrass to the people of this state, and is dedicated to supporting our efforts. There are highly qualified UF researchers ready, willing, and able to tackle our problems. The ball is now in our court! Over a half million dollars worth of projects were submitted for our consideration this year, and we were able to fund only a quarter of them. Research will not

## Where WERE You?

### Mark My Words



Mark Jarrell, CGCS  
President, FTGA

get done — not here or in any state — unless we pay for it.

3) Every strong university turfgrass program in the country is closely aligned with its state's turfgrass association. We are working to build such bonds. We have a definite disadvantage in Florida within our own ranks due to the small number of UF grads in the turfgrass business, eliminating automatic support and loyalty to the university. Many of Florida's wealthiest golfing businessmen, on the other hand, are UF grads, and aligning ourselves with the University of Florida, and working hand-in-hand with UF officials in our new fund-raising campaign spearheaded by Don Benham, has great potential in finally raising the big dollars we've always dreamed of.

4) Growing grass is at the core of our complicated and complex business. Superintendents have more in common with sod producers, sports field managers, parks and recreation people, and landscape maintenance people than we do with our golfing members. We have many common interests and goals, and need to work together through an "umbrella" organization like the FTGA.

Please think about these points when next year's conference and show rolls around.

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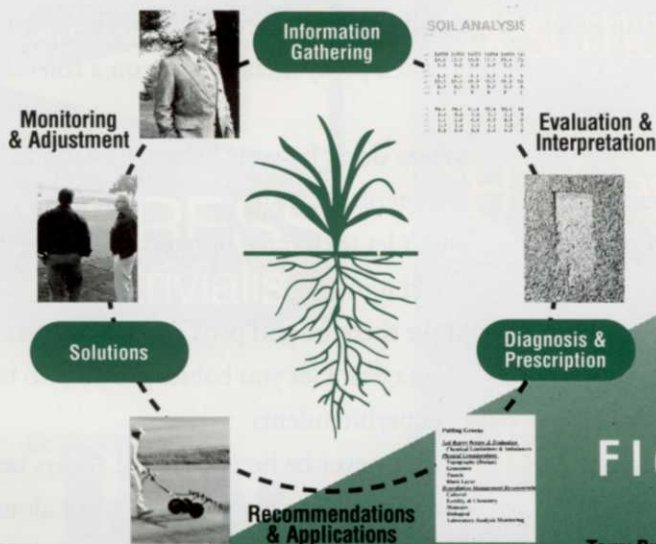
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**M**ama don't let your babies  
grow up to be  
superintendents

Don't let them rake bunkers and drive them  
old mowers

Make them be golf pros or GM's and such  
Mama don't let your babies grow up to be  
superintendents

They'll never be home. They'll always be out  
on the course even if it's at  
night alone

Superintendents ain't easy  
to love and they're even  
harder to hold  
And they'd rather grow  
grass than chase silver or  
gold

They like old Jake hats and  
faded boots, and each dawn starts a new  
day

If you don't understand him and he don't  
die young, he'll probably get fired anyway

Mama don't let your babies grow up to be  
superintendents

Don't let them set cups and flymow all  
those bunkers

Make them be salesmen or tech reps or such  
Mama don't let you babies grow up to be  
superintendents

They'll never be home. They'll always be out  
on the course even if it's at night alone

Superintendents like two-toned striped  
fairways and mild sunny days

Nice clean shops and crew members and  
irrigation running at night

Them that don't know him won't like him,  
and them that do sometimes won't know  
how to take him.

He ain't wrong he's just different, but his  
pride won't let him say some things  
Even when he knows you're wrong and he's  
right

Mama don't let your babies grow up to be  
superintendents

Don't let them repair heads and drive them  
old Cushmans

Make them be doctors and lawyers and such  
Mama don't let your babies grow up to be  
superintendents

They'll never be home. They'll always be out  
on the course even if it's at night alone

Superintendents get wrinkled and  
sunburned and gray haired

From worry over things they can't always  
control

Doing their best to work miracles to keep  
the grass green and golfers happy

But they seldom get credit for the effort  
when picky members are on a roll

Mama don't let your babies grow up to be  
superintendents

Don't let them rake bunkers and drive them  
old mowers

Make them be golf pros and GM's and such  
Mama don't let you babies grow up to be  
superintendents

They'll never be home. They'll always be out  
on the course even if it's at night alone

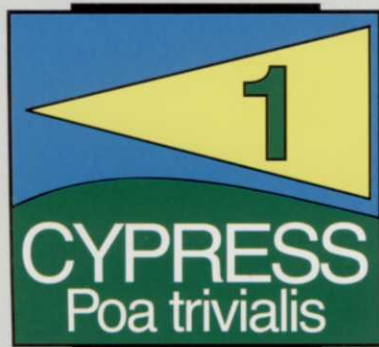
*Wisdom  
from Willie  
Nelson*

**Green Side  
Up**



Joel Jackson, CGCS  
Editor

It's hard to  
beat the  
performance  
of Stardust  
and Cypress  
Poa trivialis!



**TMi**

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In multi-year trials from the East to the West Coast, these Poa trivs have been tops in color and texture since their release re-defined the overseeding market. An additional bonus, is their higher seed count which give superintendents more coverage for the money. Both are grown under the certification program and this makes the quality of these Poa trivs the standard by which other Poa trivs are measured. **But don't take our word for it, take theirs:**

Cypress 50% Stardust 50%

**"Best average weekly ground cover"**

estimates of all Poa trivs in test--University of Fla, Gainesville 1997-98 putting green trials highest seed count of all Poa trivs - University of Florida. - 1997-98.

Stardust

**"Highest density"**

1995-96 overseeded greens University of Arizona

**"Highest percent ground cover"**

University of Florida. 1995

**"Highest mean ball speed scores"**

1994-95 overseeded Bermuda greens--University of Arizona.

**"Best monthly/seasonal turf color"**

of all Poa trivs overseeded on tifway Bermuda--University of Fla. 1994-95.

**"Highest seasonal average"**

of all Poa trivs"--putting greens evaluation--1997-98 Mississippi State University.

Cypress

**"Highest mean for turf color"**

1996-97 putting green overseeding trial, Clemson University.

**"Highest quality rating"**

of all entries in the 1996 Bermuda Triangle Research Center, Palm Springs, California.

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