



# The Florida Green

Spring 1999



Number 18  
Indian Creek C.C.  
Indian Creek Village  
Photo by Daniel Zelazek



LEADERSHIP

# Experience



In an industry where tradition is sacred, experience essential and innovation vital, the Toro reputation for leadership is legendary. Build on a track record of more than 35 years of service to golf, the Toro name has come to represent the finest in total turf solutions for thousands of courses around the world. In fact, 74 of America's top 100 courses\* are irrigated with Toro systems.

When it comes to golf course irrigation, the Toro commitment ranges from offering the industry's largest and most diversified selection of quality products to providing unprecedented programs for after-installation service. But the Toro golf package is more than just products and service. It is a carefully woven fabric of key elements that combine to create the "right" irrigation system for each course.

Toro leadership is further exemplified through its strong commitment

to the golf industry in general. Toro is the official turf equipment and irrigation supplier to The First Tee, an organization committed to making golf more accessible and affordable to young people throughout the nation. The Toro Scholars Program supplies scholarships through the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), and Toro is an Old Tom Morris-level supporter of the GCSAA Foundation.

## The Total Renovation Package

Maintaining the quality of established courses is an ever-present challenge for golf course superintendents. While the maturing of a course often brings character and tradition to the overall layout, it also creates a need to replace and update an aging infrastructure.

Toro leads the industry with a comprehensive package of professional services expressly for golf course renovation. System assessment, irrigation design and installation referrals, quality products, and after-sale support and training all are brought together in a centralized program through the Toro distributor. It is this total-package concept that ensures a dimension of cost efficiency and customer convenience unequalled in today's golf industry.

Flexibility is another important element. From irrigation systems specifically designed to meet rigid cost and watering requirements to a menu of after-installation service programs tailored to ensure successful performance, Toro offers the options and expertise to make it the number one renovation expert in the world.

# Dependability

Product innovation is the hallmark of The Toro Company. From development of the first plastic golf sprinkler to the first central/satellite control system, Toro has blazed a trail that others have only followed.

## Golf Sprinklers

Simply said, Toro products are built to last. Manufactured of durable engineering plastics, Toro golf sprinklers feature the performance and long life required on today's courses. In addition, Toro sprinklers have the industry's lowest maintenance cost and are the easiest to service. Ideal for renovation projects, Toro sprinkler technology is backward compatible so that older sprinklers easily can be updated with simple conversion assemblies.



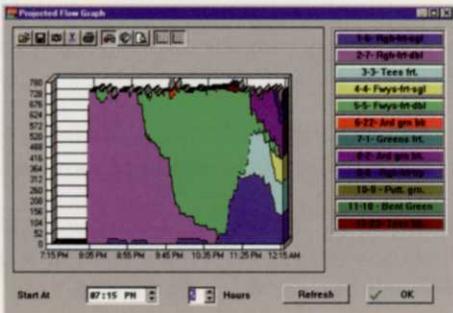
Among Toro's many outstanding models is the new 720 Series, which is particularly well suited to the golf course renovation market. Its advanced design provides superb coverage in challenging areas. With a radius of 20 to 55 feet, the 720 Series has an adjustable gallonage, arc and trajectory that allow the watering pattern to be customized for hard-to-reach spots.

Toro golf sprinklers also offer a full range of features such as adjustable part-circle and full-circle operation, manual control at the sprinkler, factory-set pressure regulation, durable stainless-steel risers, and up to four-inch pop-up heights. Electric or hydraulic valve-in-head models help reduce pressure spikes and damage to hydraulic systems. Check-O-Matic technology, which prevents low-head drainage, also is available. All Toro sprinklers offer color-coded nozzles for easy in-field identification.

## Central Control

Built with the superintendent in mind, Toro's central control systems are designed to ensure programming flexibility and optimum watering precision in any golf course application. Used at more than 1,000 sites throughout the country, SitePro offers precise programming capability to save time and money. And, of course, SitePro is backed by Toro's comprehensive NSN, as well as the distributor sales and service group.

The wireless OSMAC® field satellites are also well suited to renovation projects because there is little disruption to the golf course. For renovation projects requiring the ultimate in flexibility, Network LTC Plus satellites can be installed wireless, wireline or hybrid (a combination of wireless and wireline), depending on the specific site conditions. Network LTC Plus also allows up to 64 stations for more precise control.



Toro satellites are ideal for golf course renovations. Existing hydraulic systems and old control boxes can be upgraded with either OSMAC or Network LTC Plus, providing enhanced control and programming flexibility. This in turn means better playing conditions. And isn't that the ultimate purpose of golf course renovation?



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Indian Creek Village,  
Florida

**SPRING  
1999**

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About the use of trade names: The use of trade names in this magazine is solely for the purpose of providing specific information and does not imply endorsement of the products named nor discrimination against similar unnamed products. It is the responsibility of the user to determine that product use is consistent with the directions on the label.

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Working with you.

**N**ote: February 18, 1999. I am filling in for President Mike Perham, CGCS, as he recuperates from a second surgery in the past six months. It is not related to his recent lung surgery, but it was something he needed to take care of. He is easing back into work this week. Get well and back to full speed real soon, Mike!

If there is an overall theme running through this issue, it is about the many relationships superintendents have throughout the golf industry.

We had a strong working relationship with the GCSAA as many of our fellow FGCSA members were

involved in helping to make GCSAA's 70th International Conference and Show in Orlando such a tremendous success. Once again attendance records were set with attendance exceeding 23,000. See details in the Spotlight Section.

The all-important business relationships of superintendents and vendors will be discussed in the Hands-On section. Being a successful superintendent these days includes practicing good business etiquette and building partnerships with reliable sources.

In the Professional Development section, I asked Bob Lohmann, president of the American Society of

Golf Course Architects to write about the benefits of golf course architects working with superintendents to keep maintenance costs in mind when a course is being designed and built.

Relationships with the golf media took a positive turn with the debut of two new superintendent publications, *Golfdom* and *Superintendent News*. More on that and other public relations information in the Afterwords section.

Allied Associations continue to play a major role in our relationships with the turf industry as the Florida Golf Alliance forges ahead with the Golf Impact Survey supported by the Florida Golf Course Owners Association. Meanwhile over at the Florida Turfgrass Association, my counterpart Don Benham, director of public affairs is working with IFAS faculty and administration to develop a comprehensive fund-raising plan that will at last involve the grass roots golfer.

Relationships with government agencies and environmental protectionist organizations continue to improve as we learn to talk to each other instead of confront each other. While we have a way to go with the Food Quality Protections Act implementation, the potential for cooperation in the mainstream of common sense and common ground continues to look promising.

There will always be extremists who will have their 15 minutes of fame, but the real progress and change belongs to those who are willing to work together in successful relationships.

## Successful Relations

### WHAT'S UP DOC?



Joel Jackson, CGCS  
FGCSA Director  
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# 'Big Show' Keeps Getting Bigger and Better

## World of Golf Comes Together in Orlando

The conference slogan, "Where the world of golf comes together," rang true as more than 23,000 attendees gathered in Orlando to partake of the wide variety of educational opportunities afforded at GCSAA's 70th International Conference and Show. With all of golf's major allied associations in attendance, it truly is a melting pot of ideas and information.

It was a heartfelt "thank you" speech that Dan Jones gave as he accepted his 1999 GCSAA Distinguished Service Award at the Opening Session. What a marvelous gentleman and what a tremendous leader he is for the FGCSA.

And who would have guessed that Barbara Bush would turn out to be a stand-up comedienne? Mrs. Bush did a great job as the keynote speaker at the Opening Session and had the audience in stitches a couple of times with her comments and quips.

It was great to see all of the heads of the major golf associations together on the dais of the Golf, Government and Environment General Session. Jim Fingerling of the Club Managers Association gets my vote for making the most cogent statement when he implored the audience to put aside the prejudices of old golf pro, club manager and superintendent stereo-



GCSAA President George Renault, III, CGCS (left) presents Dan Jones, CGCS with a 1999 GCSAA Distinguished Service Award during the Opening Session of the 70th International Conference and Show. GCSAA Photo.



Matt Taylor of Bonita Bay East accepts the 1999 GCSAA Environmental Stewardship Award for Private Clubs during the Golf, Government and Environment General Session in Orlando. GCSAA Photo.



Gary Grigg, CGCS, MG was perhaps the busiest FGCSA member at the conference. Grigg taught two 1 day seminars; gave the invocation at the Opening Ceremony; ran the annual meeting elections and joined with other past presidents to greet 127 new trade show exhibitors. GCSAA Photo



Kevin Downing, CGCS of the Willoughby G.C. in Stuart, FL talked about having written standards for golf course maintenance during the Innovative Superintendents Session early Saturday morning. GCSAA Photo.

types and work together for all of golf. Alas, I found most of the questions to the panel preconceived and formulaic rather than the spontaneity we expected from audience submissions.

Maybe there were too many old stereotype questions submitted?

The Greens & Grassroots Forum for anyone interested yielded an FQPA Action Kit for chapters to

use to keep hammering away at Congress and the EPA over implementation and tolerance reassessments. I hate to be pessimistic, but the panel discussion between Allen

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Joel Jackson, CGCS, Editor of the Florida Green (second from the right) picked up the Category 5, Best Overall Award in the 1999 GCSAA Newsletter Editors Contest. He joins other chapter winners at the Chapter Editors Forum in Orlando: (left to right) Michael Simpson, CGCS, Tee to Green (Louisiana-Mississippi GCSA); Ken Krausz, CGCS, The Greener Side (GCSA of New Jersey); Fred Opperman, On Course (Midwest Assoc. of GCS); Karen White, Through The Green (Georgia GCSA); and Monroe Miller, CGCS, The Grass Roots (Wisconsin GCSA). GCSAA photo.

James of RISE and Mike Farrar of EPA didn't reveal

any new insights on how things are going, except

slower. One thing that can be

said about the Orange County Convention Center is that it is certainly big enough to hold our event... and several others at the same time. I did a lot of walking, but for a desk rider like me these days that wasn't a bad thing. The only real knock I had on the conference education was the background noise I kept hearing: it sounded as if a convention center worker had to be rolling the same rumbling cart outside every room I was in. The only other distraction was the double-ended rooms in the 300 section where people tried to enter behind the speaker after the class or meeting had started.

The show size was overwhelming and didn't

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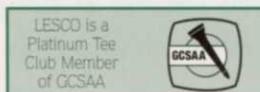
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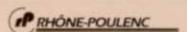


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**GCSAA Field Seminar**

*Clockwise from top left: Tom Schlick, CGCS talks about the Faldo Golf Institute; Frank Cone and John Lammrish tell about course construction and Floradwarf greens at The Legends; Jon Strantz takes the group on a tour of Disney's Wide World of Sports; Dr. Al Dudueck shows off fairway bermudagrass trials at Grand Cypress; and Tom Alex explains the maintenance complex operations at Grand Cypress. Photos by Joel Jackson*

get my full attention since my focus is no longer on managing turf. I spent most of my spare time in the Media Room or the GCSAA



*Mark Black of the Quail West C.C. in Naples spoke on training new employees at the Friday morning Innovative Superintendent Session. GCSAA photo.*

Services Area networking with staff and asking questions. I know it's a sore point, but I would really like to see this area in the center of the show and not located in Siberia like it is every year. They have some good information available to members and the Member Services area deserves a more prominent location. It was obvious that the suppliers were happy with a good turnout on Friday and Saturday. Sunday was predictably slower as people started heading back home for work on Monday.

Friday night the Florida GCSA held its annual

reception and it was a big bash with more than 1,400 in attendance. Entertainment was provided by the Dueling Pianos and they roasted several members of the audience throughout the night. Impresario Paul Crawford put on another spectacular event with the help of the Kilpatrick Turf Company, celebrating their 40th anniversary, as a presenting sponsor. Many thanks to Kilpatrick and the Platinum, Gold and Silver sponsors for helping us celebrate the conference and show.

As the "host" chapter of the event, several of our Florida GCSA members

acquitted themselves well in helping to make this a successful week. Take a look at the photos in this section to see some of your peers that gave of their time and efforts during the conference. Next year we go to the Big Easy!

*JOEL JACKSON*

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*Clockwise from top left: Master of Ceremonies Paul Crawford put together another awesome FGCSA Reception at Orlando; Guests of honor were Dan and Irene Jones; Marie Roberts and FGCSA Board Members Joe Ondo, CGCS; Geoff Coggan, CGCS, Craig Weyandt; Steve Pearson, CGCS and Roy Wilshire, CGCS volunteered to greet reception guests; Wild and wacky entertainment by the Dueling Pianos. Photos by Joel Jackson.*



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didn't have to contend with bad weather except for a fog delay one morning.

This year's tournament courses were The Copperhead, Island and Hawk's Run courses at the Westin Innisbrook Resort in Tarpon Springs and the Pine Barrens and Rolling Oaks courses at World Wood Golf Club in Brooksville along with Southern Woods Golf Club in Homosassa Springs. With the GCSAA Conference and Show coming to Orlando every three years now, the golf committee is trying to offer the players a variety of venues.

Scores for Florida's #1 team: Buck Buckner (151); Jim Torba and Chris Cartin (152); Joe Pantaleo (153) and Joe Ondo (156). All these

players were in the top 20 scores. The low gross team was the #1 Team from the Midwest Association of GCSA from Illinois. Chandler Masters, playing out of Henderson, Nev., won the individual low gross title with a 145 and a three-shot margin over defending champion Al Pondel.

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the GCSAA Conference and Show is in New Orleans.

*JOE ONDO, CGCSA  
FGCSA Golf Chairman*

PRESIDENTS AWARD, PBGCSA

### Stanley Carr Retires After 30 years at Gulfstream

Thirty years ago Stanley Carr, a graduate of Glasgow Technical School, was appointed superintendent of the Gulfstream Golf Club. Nothing so unusual about that except Carr was an electrical engineer by trade and was in charge of the clubhouse.

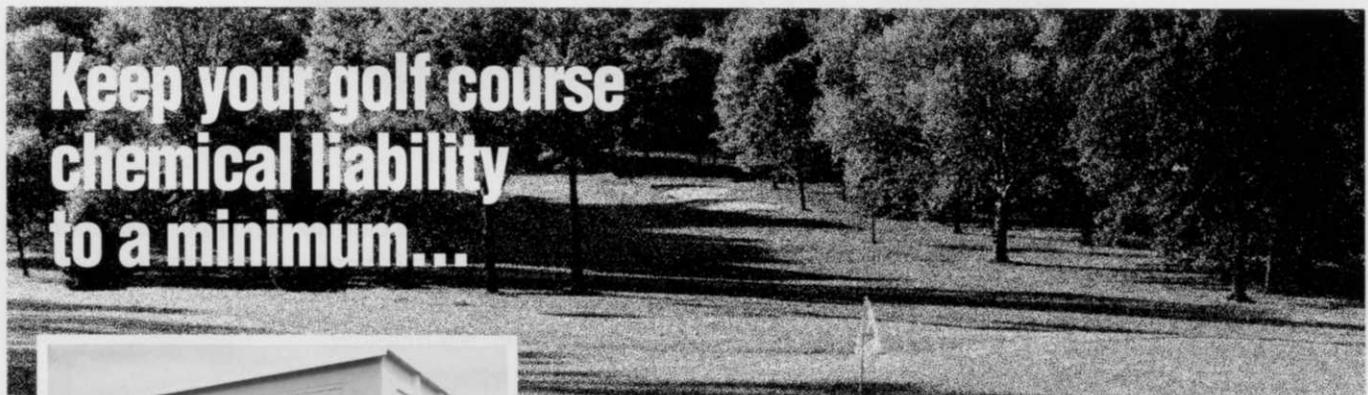
But Carr was also a thorough and creative professional in the conduct of his business and that caught the eye of the

### 1998 FGCSA Presidents Awards

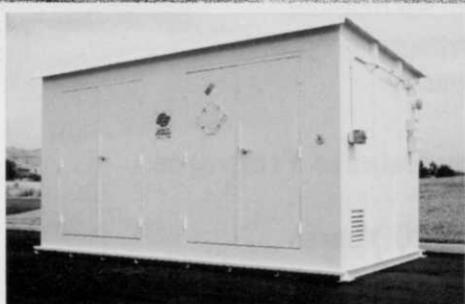
- Jim Callaghan
- Stanley Carr
- Dwight Wilson

members.

Carr came to Gulfstream from the Bethesda Hospital in Boynton Beach where he was employed in the engineering department. He took the hospital job after he immigrated to the United States in 1963 from his native Scotland. His early years after school were spent as an apprentice electrical engineer aboard luxury ocean liners like the Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth, the Franconia, the



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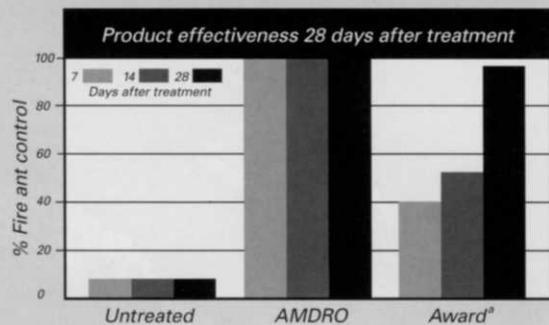


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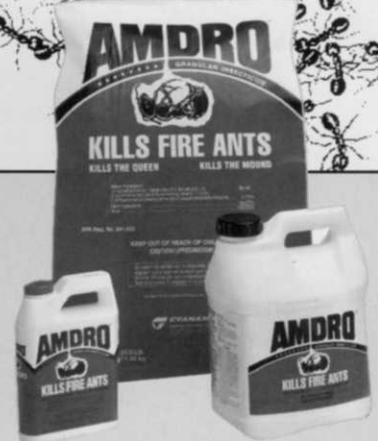
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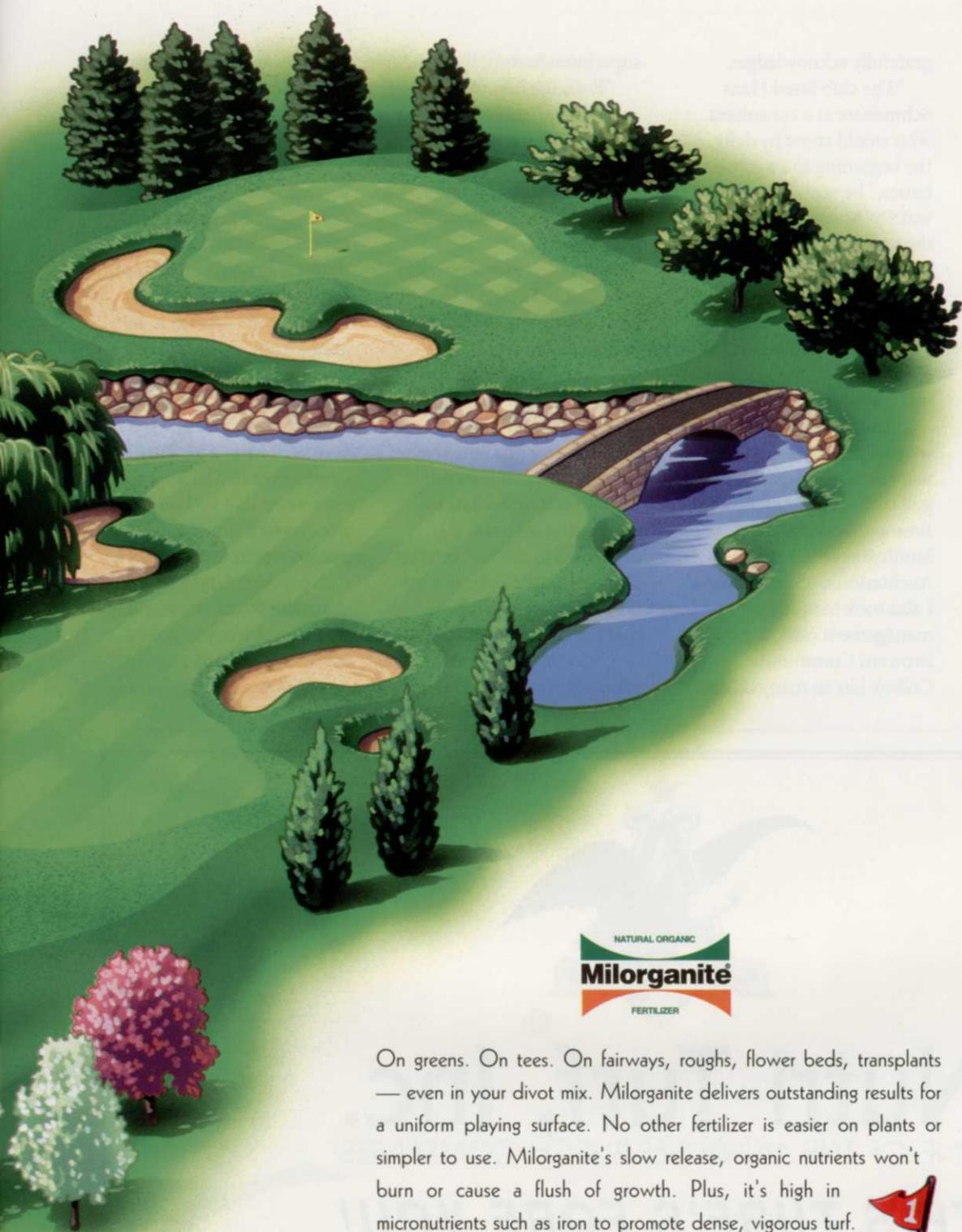
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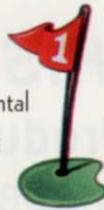
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France and the S.S. United States. In 1969, he heard about the opening for a maintenance engineer at Gulfstream, and was hired to take care of the building and the adjacent grounds.

After a few years of that assignment and improving the landscape around the club, which had been sadly neglected, the club president asked Carr if he would take over management of the golf course as well. Like a true Scotsman, Carr negotiated the \$2.85 per hour offer up to \$3.00 per hour and accepted the position. Thus began the Stanley Carr years at Gulfstream.

Carr began learning turf management through the school of hard knocks, but he had lots of help, which he

gratefully acknowledged.

"The club hired Hans Schmeisser as a consultant who would come by daily in the beginning to show me the basics," he said. "Then there was Dr. Max Brown and through him I met Tom Mascaro and it seemed like every couple of weeks we would all sit down and have an informal meeting and talk about turf and the golf course and how things were going.

"And there were others who helped teach me the ways of bermudagrass and golf course operations like Jimmy Blackledge, Karl Smith and even Laurie Auchterlonie of St. Andrews. I also took Max Brown's turf management class at Broward Community College like so many other

superintendents of that era.

"Even Joe Lee, the golf course architect became a friend and advisor. He was always a friend to the superintendents. I am deeply indebted to them for their help."

With such rare longevity at one club, I asked Carr what were some of the secrets to his success.

"I would tell each new green chairman two things. One, I can't give you a problem-free golf course all the time. It's just impossible. Two, I want to feel safe in disagreeing with you if I believe it's in the best interest of the golf course. If we agree on everything, then they don't need one of us.

"Create a 'we' atmosphere at your club. Make

sure you keep your chairmen advised of what you're doing and be sure and ask their opinions on issues.

"Take care of business. If you are scheduled to go to a meeting or conference and conditions at the course are shaky, stay home and tend to business. It's not a good image for the captain to be gone if the ship has sprung a leak. Or as Hans Schmeisser used to say, 'If the cows need milking, you can't go.' I once flew back from a SE Turf Conference in Alabama when I got word that we had been flooded by a storm and the pumps weren't working. The club president and green chairman found me working on the problem when they assumed I was out of town.

"Maintain a high profile



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After 30 years at the Gulfstream G. C. and receiving his 1998 Presidents Award from the Palm Beach Chapter, Stanley retired to the DeLand, FL area to grow orchids and play the bag pipes. Photo by Joel Jackson.

or high visibility, especially at a private club. Members want to feel that 'their' superintendent is on the job. I made time each day during our season to ride through the course and let the members see me walking greens and making notes, whether those notes were critical or not. I talked to groups and answered any questions they might have. I have seen top-notch superintendents who put in lots of hours at their clubs get fired because they just weren't visible or didn't communicate effectively."

- "Cultivate working relationships with outside experts. USGA, IFAS, county agents, etc. Invite them for a tour of your course during the good times and have

lunch with them and introduce them to your green chairman or board members. Then when you ask them back to consult on a problem, they are not just strangers brought in to defend the superintendent.

- "When disciplining an employee, appeal to their feelings, not their intellect. People need to be motivated not managed. Acknowledge the good things they do but let them know how disappointed you are with their poor performance.

- "Remember, a superintendent's job is 70 percent working with people: employees, management, members, and committees. The other 30 percent is growing grass, so develop

sufficient communications skills.

- "When you go to meetings and conferences be sure and bring back information to share with your green committee. Make a report and talk about the new regulations and equipment and how it will affect your course or your responsibilities. It will help them understand the value of your continuing education."

I asked Carr what he thought the major advancements in turf management were in his career. He didn't have to think long to come up with two rather quickly:

- "Automated irrigation systems has to rank right up there as one of the top improvements in turf

management. I can remember trying to find our night water man out on the course running only one or two heads at a time. The system was so poorly designed. Being able to apply water when and where you needed it was a major breakthrough."

"The other area I think has to be the superintendent's image. We have become executives. The superintendents has the most responsibility of any member of the team at a club because he is in charge of the most significant asset. We have to keep more records and attend more meetings and be managers instead of doers as in the old days.

"Therefore it is important that we dress the part. That means coat and tie for committee meetings and it means rain suits and rubber boots during a storm. I am troubled when I see young people in the business coming to meetings in tee shirts and sneakers with shirt tails hanging out."

By taking care of business and conducting himself as a professional, Carr was able to retire comfortably to DeLand, where he and his wife purchased five acres. They plan to take two months to tour the U.S. and Canada this spring, traveling over an estimated 12,000 miles. This summer Carr will attend a Scottish bagpiping school in North Carolina and then they will spend a month in Europe visiting old friends.

Carr has a fine orchid collection and he meets with a Scottish pipe band once a week at Stetson University. He hopes to do a little side work playing his bagpipes at

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county club and golf association events.

Carr did play at a GCSAA Conference the year that Mel Lucas was president and he met President Gerald Ford. Ford shook his hand and said, "We beat the hell out of you during the War of Independence, but you got even. You gave us golf!"

And Scotland also gave us Stanley Carr, a gentleman and a true professional in our business.

JOEL D. JACKSON, CGCS

PRESIDENTS AWARD EGCSA

### Wilson Took Early FGCSA from Shoe Boxes to Computers

When Dwight Wilson was president of a loose threesome of local chapters in the 1970s he carried the association's business in a shoe box. By the end of his tenure he had doubled the association because he had to use two shoe boxes to hold everything.

This past September, Wilson was presented the Presidents Award for his pioneering service to the profession at the Everglades Chapter meeting in Naples. President Mike Mongoven, CGCS made the presentation.

Wilson spent a lot of time traveling among the three chapters: South Florida, Everglades and West Coast. Long before fax machines and computers, he pioneered the association in Florida.

Dwight grew up in Palm Beach County where he spent a lot of time in and around the Jupiter inlet. He attended the University of Florida, where he studied agriculture



Dwight Wilson, left, received his 1998 FGCSA President's award from Mike Mongoven, CGCS at an Everglades chapter meeting last fall. Photo by Bill Kilpatrick.

and entomology until the Korean War robbed him of his last year of college. While in the service, he met his wife Christa when he was stationed in Germany.

After the war he returned to Florida but was unable to complete his degree. He went to work with his father who had a garden supply and spray business. Eventually they expanded the business to grassing bermudagrass lawns. This started to go well and someone suggested that the Ormond bermudagrass that they were planting would work well on golf courses. They started planting golf courses with bermuda.

If you work on a course

built in the late 50s to mid-60s you may be on a course planted by Dwight. Jupiter Island and Rio Mar in Vero Beach are two beachside examples of his work. In 1966, Dwight did some work at the South Seas Plantation on Captiva Island. The developer liked his work so much that he convinced Dwight to stick around to manage the course. Dwight planted the golf course on a sandbar then stayed around to manage that sandbar for 17 years. He lived on the course and raised his two children on Captiva. What a spot for kids to grow up!

While at South Seas Plantation, he hooked up

with Bob Sanderson to start the Everglades Chapter. He held all of the offices and eventually presided over the state association.

In 1983 Dwight helped to build and grow in Hideaway G.C. in Fort Myers. Dwight eventually retired from the Hideaway after years of battling Tifway II on his greens. Dwight relaxed by sailing his boat in the Gulf and continues to do so in retirement. He has a couple of grandchildren who visit. He is really enjoying his retirement and when he is not sailing he is playing his guitar, gardening or traveling. The Wilsons like to return to Europe and Germany to see his wife's family.

Dwight saw our industry and association grow from infancy to this huge business that it has become. He has seen grass change from common to Ormond to Tifway. He has seen the FGCSA grow from a shoe box to what we have today.

SCOTT BELL

NIKE TOUR FLORIDA CLASSIC

### Hosting Tour Event is a Winner for Gainesville C. C.

Hosting the Nike Tour's Florida Classic this past February turned out to be a win-win situation for all parties involved. The Nike Tour got a superbly conditioned golf course to play and Gainesville C. C. got some long overdue improvements.

Superintendent Buddy Keene learned last October that his course would be hosting the event this

February. Soon after, the Nike Tour officials made some recommendations that they felt would help the club host the event. Upgrading the irrigation system was high on the list, and Keene and his crew spent a busy couple of months getting the new system installed.

"It was hectic," said Keene, "But we pulled it off. The only glitch was we had some defective gaskets in some of the tee fittings and they leaked. The manufacturer stood by the product and got them replaced labor and all, but it was nerve wracking with the clock winding down toward the tournament. We got it all finished by December and we've had a month to clean things up."

Another big gain for Keene's operation was the purchase of two lightweight fairway mowers.

"We had been surviving with a 7-gang, pull-behind unit, which worked great in dry weather. But we have some pretty heavy soils and when it gets wet we couldn't mow. We definitely need these new units to mow the fairways when conditions got softer."

The Gainesville C.C. board and members as well as the community were behind this event 110 percent. More than 700 volunteers turned out to help run the tournament. Keene applauds the open-minded and proactive attitude of the members.

"They went out and got this event and have supported everything necessary to make it happen," he said. "But beyond that, they have

also wholeheartedly supported my involvement and board work in the Florida GCSA and the FTGA. They are hosting the FTGA Golf Tournament during the Conference and Show in August."

Keene and his crew have maintained a hectic pace all fall and winter. In addition to installing the new irrigation system, a couple of new tees had to be built to lengthen some holes, and a couple of poorly draining bunkers were repaired with new drain lines. On top of all that, Keene had to oversee fairways and roughs for the first time in his seven years at the club.

Cooperation for this event also included some of Keene's suppliers and neighboring superintendents.

"I have to give a big thank-you to a lot of people who helped us out. One of our biggest needs was crew transportation vehicles during the course setup and preparation. Joe Holden over at Haile Plantation, Rick Watts at Oak Run/Royal Oaks, the University of Florida and Tresca loaned us vehicles and equipment.

"Special thanks to Jeff Hayden and Don Delaney of Golf Ventures. They really came through with some extra equipment and parts support in a pinch. We also had volunteer workers on the crew like Brian Schaffer of West End G.C. and two students from the University of Florida and one from Lake City."

The event is also being televised and Keene and his crew had to make room for

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Gainesville C.C. Superintendent Buddy Keene (left) goes over Thursday course conditions for the Florida Classic with head Nike Tour official John Slater. Photo by Joel Jackson.

the TV production trailers and support vehicles in his small maintenance area.

"The folks from the Golf Channel have been just great. They have taken great care not to tear up the golf course as they lay out the cables and set up the TV towers behind the greens. They carry everything by hand from the cart path to the location. They also feed us pretty well and we sure appreciate that with our split work day schedule.

"This whole experience has been good for the club. It has taken our maintenance up a notch, but of course now we have to hold this level. The whole process has been quite a learning experience to see what we could accomplish

when challenged."

Everyone including Nike Tournament Official John Slater had high praise for Keene and his crew and all they have accomplished.

"The course is in great shape," said Slater. You can't even tell that they have been through a major construction effort getting ready for this event. Last night we had over an inch of rain, and Buddy and his staff worked really hard to get the course ready for today's round. Because of their hard work in overcoming those extra difficulties we're going to start and finish on time today."

A lot of work by a lot of people went in to hosting the Florida Classic this year in Gainesville and by all

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accounts everybody came away a winner. Congratulations to Buddy Keene, the members of the Gainesville C. C. and the city of Gainesville for displaying such great support for golf.

JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

LAKE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**\$1 Million-plus Endowment Keeps GLO Glowing**

**O**n Jan. 8, the 7th Annual Lake City Community College Endowment Golf Tournament was held at the Pelican Sound Golf and River Club in Estero.

What is the LCCC Endowment and why should an overflow crowd of golf course superintendents and industry partners get together to support a small, rural community college in North Florida? The following is a brief history of the strong bond that has developed over 32 years between the golf industry and Lake City.

In 1967, Lake City Community College started two new programs: Golf Course Operations and Landscape Operations (now called Landscape Technology by state mandate). These programs were developed with strong industry input, and an industry advisory committee has met every six months on campus for the past 32 years to review and critique the LCCC programs which now include Turf Equipment Management; Irrigation Management; and Forest Management beside GCO and LT. The Forest Management does have a separate



*Pelican Sound Superintendent Randy Korf, left, and his assistant, J. W. Stidham got lots of well-deserved praise for the excellent course playing conditions for the LCCC event. Photo by Joel Jackson*

advisory committee as production forestry is quite different from the other agronomy/horticulture based programs.

Faculty and staff on the LCCC campus began to call the division in which these programs existed "GLO" for Golf/Landscape Operations. The GLO name stuck even as the Division grew to include other programs.

In the late 80s, the GLO Industry Advisory Committee began talking about raising supplemental funds for these specialty programs to assure that scholarship and program enhancement funds were always available for students and the teaching faculty. This industry concern was typical of the tremendous golf and landscape industry support the programs have always enjoyed

It was the GLO-IAC members who initiated the GLO Endowment Fund with the Lake City Community College Foundation. Their concept was to raise significant dollars and use the earnings to supplement support for the GLO programs. Although it was an ambitious concept for a small community college with only education to sell, it was the right thing to do to assure the continued long-term success of the GLO programs which, over time, have developed a national and international reputation for quality education.

Thus, the GLO endowment was born. The alumni were quick to respond. Pledges big and small added to give the endowment concept real credibility, and industry partners also

generously responded. Key golf alumni took a leadership role in organizing various golf tournaments as fund raisers, and the S.W. Florida superintendents developed this concept into a continuing annual event.

Another big boost to the GLO endowment is state matching money for community college endowments. For every three dollars raised, the state will match with two dollars. Thus a \$10,000 contribution becomes \$16,000 with a state match. Mike Lee, foundation director for the past two and a half years, works hard to take maximum advantage of the state matching funds.

In 1997, the GLO endowment received a large estate gift which, when fully state-matched, will produce a scholarship fund of around \$450,000. Five percent of the endowed funds are used every year to produce a steady stream of income for the endowment's two main purposes: scholarships and program enhancements.

With alumni and industry gifts, proceeds from special events like the Annual Lake City Community College Endowment Golf Tournament, and the estate gift coupled with state matching money, the GLO endowment recently passed the \$1 million mark. Thanks a million to all who helped the college reach this economic milestone for the GLO programs.

Many students have applied for and received scholarships from the endowed funds, and more money will become avail-

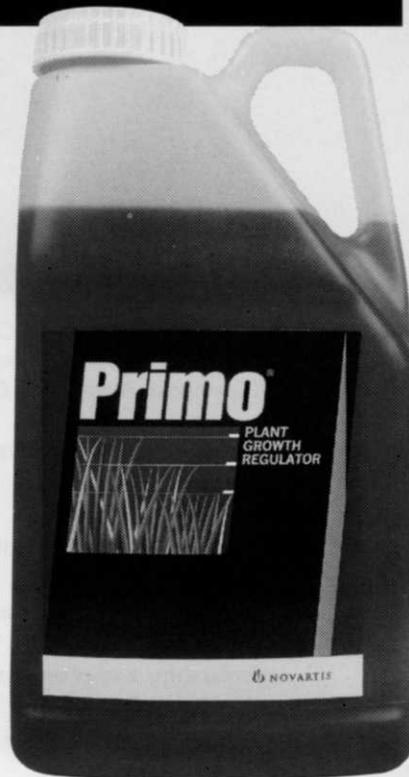
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From left, John Piersol and Mike Lee from Lake City Community College are seen here with the 7th Annual LCCC Endowment Tournament Committee: John Johnston; Dick Bessire; Glen Zakany; Scott Hamm; David Fry and Mike Smith. Not pictured Odell Spainhour. Photo by Joel Jackson.

able to GLO students as the large estate gift gets matched and produces the 5 percent earnings.

Endowment earnings are also made available to faculty to buy teaching aids or to take advantage of professional development education if regular budget funds are insufficient. Raised funds are also used to purchase promotional items for recruiting and to respond in a businesslike manner when industry reps come to campus for seminars, etc.

The college is very fortunate that so many industry people are willing to share their expertise with the students for no fee, so it is nice for the faculty to be able to treat our guests to a lunch.

As the endowment fund grows, the faculty will be

able to consider new ways to invest endowment earnings in the golf, landscape, turf equipment and new irrigation programs. Such supplemental funding will assure that scholarships and program enhancement funds are available to keep the Lake City programs strong allowing the college to produce the trained professionals that the ever-changing golf and landscape industry demand.

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The Palm Beach Chapter took community involvement very seriously by

providing holiday gifts to children in the pediatric oncology unit of the Richard and Pat Johnson Children's Hospital at St. Mary's Medical Center.

Ms. Helen Hoffberg, Data Manager of the Pediatric Oncology Group, wrote these comments to Jeffrey and Denise Klontz after the 1998 Christmas holidays:

"On behalf of the pediatric oncology patients and staff, I want to take this opportunity to thank you and the Palm Beach Golf Course Superintendents Association for all the holiday gifts for our patients. These gifts were distributed to the children in the Pediatric Oncology Unit during the holidays and the smiles on the children's faces were incredible.

I want to thank you for your commitment to the Richard and Pat Johnson Children's Hospital at St. Mary's Medical Center. Many, many thanks for your continued support."



Patients and staff in the Pediatric Oncology Group of the Richard and Pat Johnson Children's Hospital were all smiles after receiving holiday gifts from the Palm Beach Chapter.

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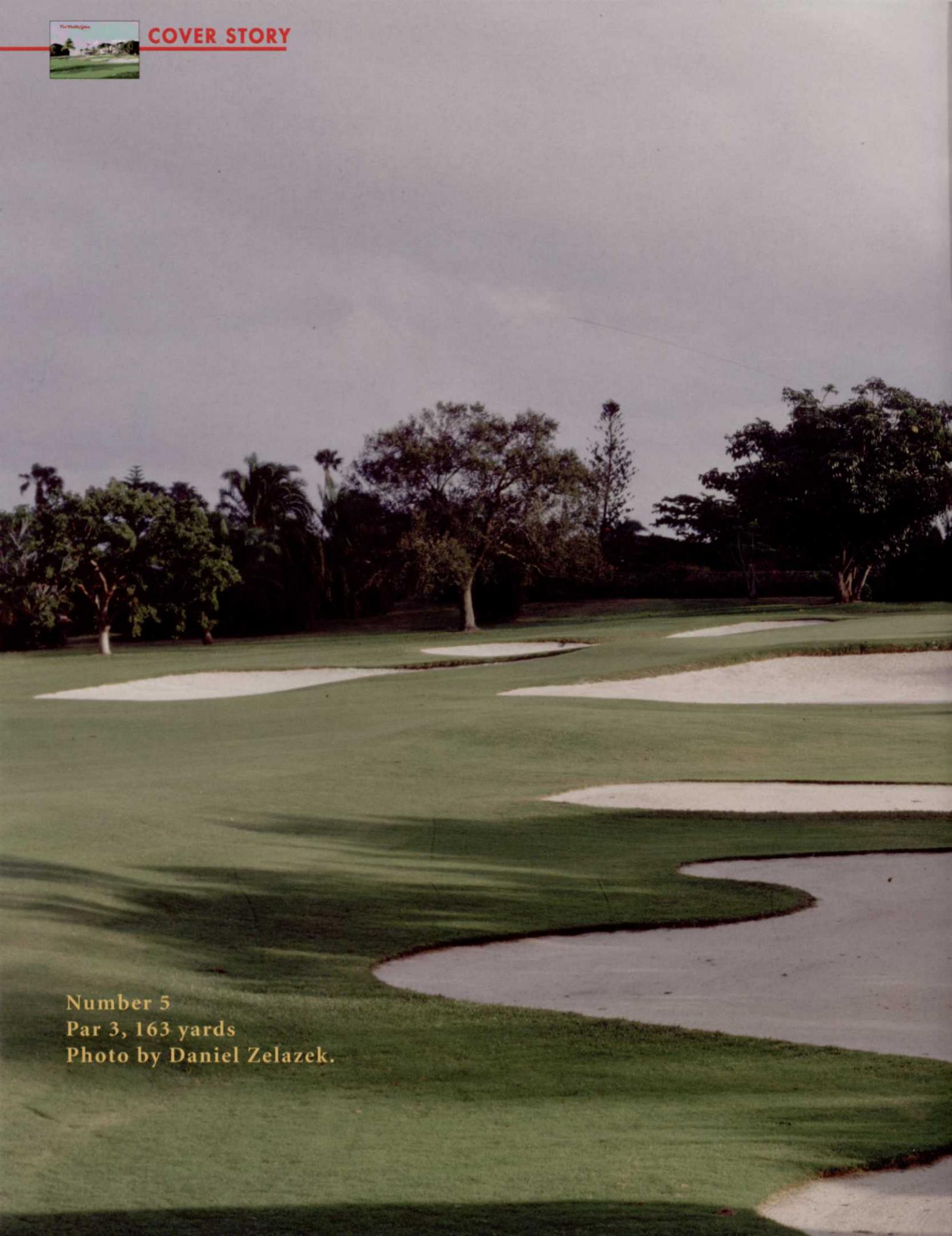
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**SPECIAL THANKS to Ray Carruthers, Emerald Island Turf Inc.,  
for supplying the delicious bar-b-que lunch.**



Number 5  
Par 3, 163 yards  
Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

# Island in the Stream

## The Indian Creek Country Club

BY JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

One of the great joys of my job is that once in a while, I get to travel back in time on some of Florida's venerable, historic golf courses. This is one of those assignments and I wasn't disappointed. Come with me as we journey back 71 years to a little mangrove island in Biscayne Bay thanks to a written history of the club. The year is 1928.

A group of Midwesterners — Harold Metzinger, Walter Briggs, Fred Todd, Edwin Gould — and John Brander from Virginia, have just purchased a little speck of mangrove swamp in Biscayne Bay just west of North Miami Beach in what is now the Bal Harbor/Surfside area. Chartered as a real estate venture, they had plans drawn up and sold 41 lots from the plan before the land was filled in. The lots cost \$20,000 each.

After the original dredging and bulkheading was completed, golf course architect William F. Flynn designed the Indian Creek course. Robert F. Lawrence, a junior member of the firm Toomey and Flynn, came down from the firm's Pennsylvania headquarters to supervise construction of the course. Lawrence



*In the past, this beach area on the par 3, 12th hole was used by sea planes to ferry passengers to and from Indian Creek Village. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.*

is also credited with the construction of several other south Florida courses including the Miami Shores G.C., the Pompano Municipal G.C., 36 holes at Boca Raton when it was privately owned, Orange Brook G.C. in Hollywood, the Diplomat C.C., and the Fort Lauderdale C.C.

Another noteworthy person of the time was Jim Vigliotti, one of the original greenskeepers employed by the construction firm. Vigliotti was left behind to care for the course. He stayed for 35 years.

In those days, golf courses were built more by men and mules than by machinery. Lawrence once recalled of seeing man and beast sinking up to their shoulders in the shifting mud and sand, "All golf courses have their problems, but when you build a golf course on a filled island in the tropics, you have a few

extra problems and the main one is drainage."

In tribute to Lawrence and his diligence, the course was so well constructed that in all of the subsequent tropical storms, the network of swales has carried off the waters and the course has remained relatively undamaged.

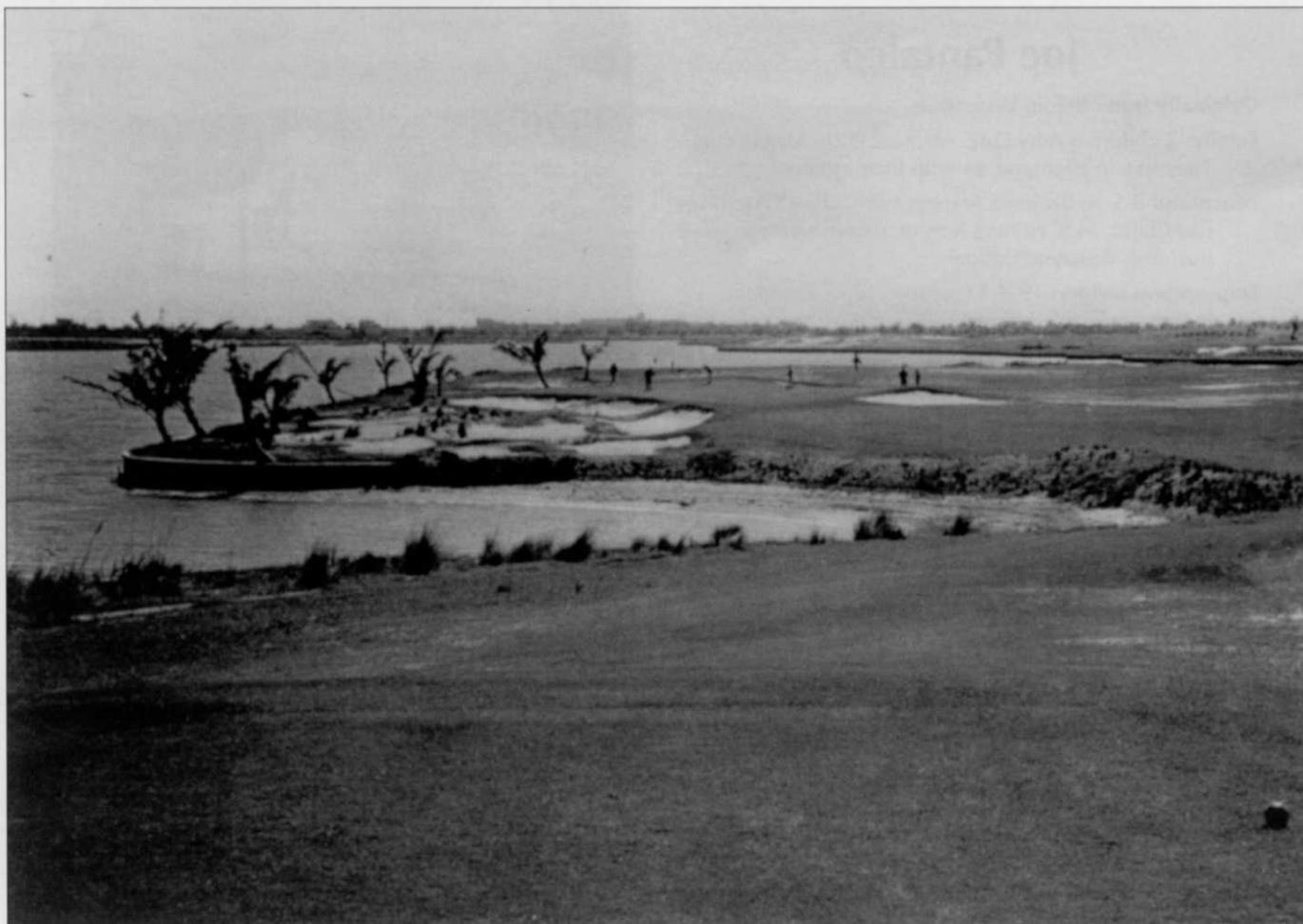
After construction was completed, it was time to grass the course. Lawrence is again quoted, "There was not a bush or even a weed on the whole island over 18 inches in height."

The original turf varieties used are not documented, but in 1964 an anonymous club historian writes, "At the time of construction such hybrid bermudagrasses as 328 had not been perfected. Now these cover all of the fairways and tees." The Ormond still survives today. The historian also mentioned that the course maintenance budget was

approximately \$90,000 at that time.

Surrounded by salt water, the course needed a reliable supply of fresh water to survive. Potable water was purchased from the towns of Surfside and Miami Beach. In the 1940s two deep wells were sunk on the island and the brackish water was mixed with the potable water in a holding pond. This worked for awhile, but eventually the course had to revert to potable water to flourish.

Besides a golf course taking shape on the emerging island, a magnificent clubhouse was also erected... one that would dominate the bayside skyline for decades. The clubhouse site on the southwestern side of the island was the highest point in Dade County at 35 feet above sea level. Built on concrete pilings 45 feet long, the architect once boasted that a hurricane could wash away the soil and the clubhouse would still be standing on its pil-



*This photo from the club archives also shows the 12th hole in the early 1930's. There are many photographs displayed in the clubhouse which document the history of the club. Photo courtesy of Indian Creek CC.*

ings. Because of its elevation, hurricanes have bothered the clubhouse very little. The Mediterranean-style building sprawls over several acres and reigned as the most elegant club in the county.

When the doors opened In 1929 or 1930 (the dates get a little contradictory in the record) only 50 guests were there. Ozzie Nelson made his first radio broadcast from Indian Creek and played there the first season.

"Those were extravagant days," Harold Metzinger once told the *Miami Herald*. "After the stock market split open, only two or three people would show up for dinner. Twenty or thirty waiters and bus boys would be hanging around, and Ozzie would play bravely on every night."

In 1930 the club was refinanced and, after retrenching two more times, things settled down in 1938 and have been run-

ning smoothly ever since.

Now fast forward to 1999.

It's a bright, clear day in late January. I'm driving east on 125th Avenue in North Miami. It has been many years since I lived on South Beach when I was in the Coast Guard and, while the street names are familiar, the sights have changed with time.

As I cross Broad Causeway and slow down for the toll booth, my gaze is captured by a broad band of emerald green turf and dazzling white bunkers off to the right across the water. Indian Creek, an island in the Stream, is a tropical paradise, contrasting against the background of white and pastel high-rise buildings on the beach. A right turn on A1A another right on 91st Avenue and I find myself at the security booth at the bridge leading to the island. My visit to the modern day Indian Creek has begun.

Ironically, the modern Indian Creek finds itself in the middle of a master restoration plan, seeking to regain its historic past. Under the influence of fashion, mowing patterns change over the years and so do bunker locations, size and shape. Trees are sited by committees and they often grow in unexpected ways that change the character of the golf course.

According to superintendent Joe Pantaleo, the restoration master plan came about in part because of damage from Hurricane Andrew. Several hundred ficus trees were blown over during the storm and the members realized how much the course had closed in from its original layout. So only a few of the trees were replaced, and the wheels were set in motion for an eventual makeover.

Ron Forse, a golf course architect who specializes in classic golf course design



## Joe Pantaleo

**Originally from:** Beloit, Wisconsin.

**Family:** 3 children: Amy (14); Michael (12); Megan (11). They live in Highland, IA with their mother.

**Education:** B.S. in Business Management, U. of Wisconsin - Eau Claire; M.S. Human Resource Management/Sports Business, Biscayne College.

**Employment history:** 1996 to present, superintendent, Indian Creek CC, Miami; 1995 - 1996, superintendent, Delaire CC, Delray Beach; 1990 - 1995, superintendent, Ft. Lauderdale CC; 1989-90, superintendent TPC Eagle Trace, Coral Springs; 1984-89 superintendent Key Biscayne Links; 1980-84 superintendent of various parks and golf courses for Dade County Parks and Recreation Dept.

**Professional affiliations/Honors:** GCSAA, FTGA and South Florida GCSA. Service: 1985-90 served on South Florida Chapter board; president in 1989-90.

**People who have influenced your life and career:** My parents (both deceased). We had a very loving family with many friends and relatives living within a short distance. Spent a lot of quality family time together growing up. Parents allowed me to be myself, make decisions and mistakes, but supported me through everything.

**Jim Walker, superintendent at Palmetto GC.** Jim gave me my first book on turfgrass in 1980 and told me to read the chapter on bermudagrass management in my spare time. I was managing the pro shop at Greynolds Park GC at the time. One thing led to another: changing cups, driving tractors, mowing, etc. Jim has been there all along for inspiration and advice especially during my early years in the business.

**Other colleagues, too many to name, but:** Since I don't have a turf degree, it was tough at first to gain technical knowledge. I had to be very aggressive attending classes and seminars galore. Questions! My peers fear my coming! I'll ask hundreds of questions looking for their experiences, knowledge, advice, etc. My friends warn my golfing partners to be ready for a grilling during the round.

**How did you get into the business:** While completing my masters degree in Sports Business, I did an internship with the Dade County Parks and Recreation Dept. I had actually been training to pursue athletic-director-type responsibilities, but while interning at the Greynolds Park GC, my interest in turf management was sparked.

**Philosophy/Advice:** Those people that really know me know that I don't satisfy easily. I'm always looking to improve my position (both current and future). I always try to elevate the facility where I work to new levels of excellence. I encourage team effort and only consider myself the "head coach" of the operation. My players do all the work and should share the credits. Since I don't have a formal turf education, it was necessary for me to be very aggressive early in my career. I couldn't stand mediocrity and I could see early on that getting to the top wasn't going to be easy. Hard work, long hours, patience, perseverance, and many questions later, I've arrived here. That formula for success has stayed with me for my entire career. Anyone knows that staying on top requires an intense effort. The down side to this effort is the strain it can put on family relationships. It led to a divorce for me recently. I knew only one speed, full ahead! Be careful to keep the big picture in perspective, especially with your family and friends away from the golf course.

**Memorable moments:** Sports: High finish state golf tournament; State championship in swimming in 1975; Poa Annua Classic champion 1993, FGCSA Tournament champ 1997; Moving away from home the first time in 1975; Getting married in 1982 and raising a family; Getting divorced in 1998; Losing both parents at an early age, Dad was 49 and Mom only 64; Hosting pro golf events - Royal Caribbean Classic, Sr. PGA Tour and PGA Tour's Honda Classic at Eagle Trace; valuable construction and renovation experiences at Ft. Lauderdale CC, Delaire CC and Indian Creek; working on volunteer staff at the Masters in Augusta.

**Hobbies and interests:** Very sports minded. Love golf, basketball, billiards, water sports, fishing. Starting to become interested in classic golf architecture through my association with Ron Forse's work at Indian Creek. And if the lady I'm dating now has anything to say about it, I'll be taking dance lessons soon.



*After work Joe Pantaleo mows the practice green in the back yard of the superintendent's on-course residence. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

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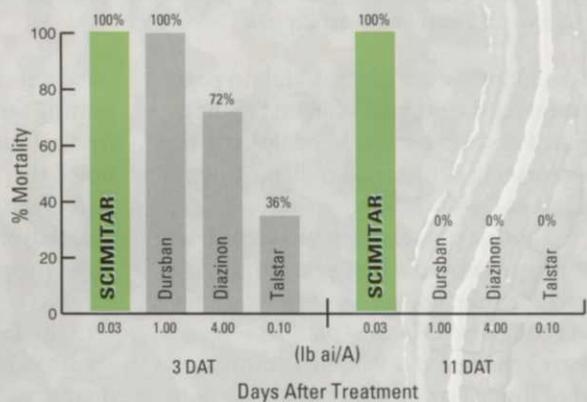
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*This short but challenging par-4, 13th hole is part of Indian Creek's "Amen Corner," holes 11, 12, and 13. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.*

was commissioned by the club to begin restoring the original William Flynn layout. Forse had recently completed the restoration of historic Pine Tree County Club in Delray Beach.

The first phase, which was completed during Pantaleo's first year on the job, included the greens' surfaces and bunker complexes. Flynn's "platform" greens have returned and Pantaleo pointed out the "draped over" effect where the putting surface extends slightly downslope creating interesting shots as balls can easily run off the greens. To amplify the effect, the greens slopes are mowed at fairway height which makes for interesting chips, pitches and putts around the greens.

I have to admit that the look of the platform greens is quite intimidating for the first time viewer. At first I thought

these were all redan-style greens with the putting surface falling away from the front of the green, but Pantaleo quickly noted that there is only one true redan-style green on the course, No.13. The rest are relatively level. It is the elevation that hides the putting surface from the fairway view.

Pantaleo admits to getting hooked on classic architecture by working with Forse on the project.

"The course strategy and shot making values by the early architects is so compelling and interesting. The cross bunkers in fairways for example. They are classic risk-and-reward features. Carry them off the tee and you will get an extra 25-30 yards carry from hitting on the backside downslope. Play it safe on your drive away from those cross bunkers and you have a generous landing area but a

more difficult approach shot over greenside bunkers."

Pantaleo, an accomplished golfer and holder of several FGCSA titles said, "Members here at Indian Creek must develop quite a short game arsenal and become accomplished bunker players to score well."

But I noticed that for bogey golfers

## Wildlife inventory

Osprey (tower platforms provided on holes 4 and 12), Pelican, Sea Gull, hoot owl, peacock (recently purchased a male for female), hawks, egrets, crows, 2 albino squirrels, rat snakes, land crabs, iguanas, opossum. Indian Creek is a member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program.



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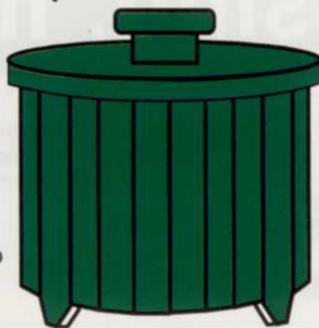
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like myself, there was usually an opening to the green where the higher handicapper could lay up on his approach and then chip and putt for par or bogey. Indian Creek seems to be a hallmark of classic architecture. Heroic birdies, difficult pars, challenging bogeys.

The restoration story continued as we toured the coral and keystone clubhouse. In 1998 Pantaleo and his crew, under the direction of landscape architect Buzz Jaskella, had just completed a complete rehab of the clubhouse landscape.

"The magnificent architecture of this beautiful old building was being dwarfed and hidden behind spreading Sheffleras and ficus trees," Pantaleo said. "Jaskella had us rip out everything and we started from scratch to open up the view of and from the clubhouse.

"We came back in with trees and foliage that wouldn't spread and grow so tall to hide the building ever again. In the pool and courtyard area, we removed several large ficus trees and now the

members have a view of the Miami skyline across the bay.

"We only have two people dedicated to landscaping, so in selecting the new plant material we wanted something that was classy, but not so labor-intensive. We have intentionally limited the amount of annuals that have to be changed out frequently, but use plants that provide variety and interest in growth habit and color. We also were able to rehab the clubhouse irrigation system and put it on the weather station and central controller to help monitor ET and watering cycles."

A quick tour of the interior of the clubhouse yielded hallways filled with photographs of Indian Creek over the years, snapshots showing the changes and maturity of the club. The history said the building sprawled over several acres and it seemed like I was touring a small hotel as Joe took me from the card room and ballroom to the kitchen and the offices. I met the club president, the

green chairman, the head pro, the head chef and even visiting PGA pro Dudley Hart. We enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch in the dining area overlooking the starting tees and finishing holes of both nines.

After lunch it was back out on the course to see up close some of the unique challenges Pantaleo faces to maintain this veritable 300-acre island park for which he is responsible.

Being responsible comes naturally to Pantaleo. He earned a BS degree in business management and an MS degree in human resources with an emphasis on sports business. Pantaleo is a devoted sports nut. On his radar screen he could see a career as an athletic director. He came to his turf management career through the side door at the Dade County Parks and Recreation Dept.

"I was doing an internship in the pro shop at Greynolds Park G. C. during my master's degree studies at Biscayne College," he said. "I started getting interested in what was going on out on the

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## Indian Creek Country Club

**Location:** Miami Beach, Florida.

**Ownership:** Member Owned.

**Playing policy:** Private Members and Guests.

**18 holes.** 6,662 yards. Par 72. Course/Slope Ratings: Blue Tees - 72.1/130; White Tees - 70.1/128; Gold Tees - 68.3/123; Red Tees - 70.7/120.

**Design and Construction:** William F. Flynn, architect. Clubhouse designed by Maurice Fatio; construction by Toomey and Flynn. Dick Wilson reportedly worked for Flynn on this job. Opened: 1929

**Management:** Joe Somers, club president; Robert Post Fordham, club manager; Tony Morosco, head golf professional; Wayne Beckner, green chairman; Joe Pantaleo, golf course superintendent.

**Major Renovations:** Ron Forse, golf course architect. Buzz Jaskela, landscape architect. Construction by MacCurrach Golf Course Construction, Co.; Dale Wittig, Laser Turf, Inc for tee tops. Following a master plan for restorations. Completed so far: Greens complexes including putting surfaces and bunkers; tees; clubhouse landscaping and irrigation; clubhouse building. Future projects by priority; (1) Fairway regrassing; (2) Fairway bunkers; and (3) Native grasses in deep roughs, treescaping and native landscape accent beds.

**Acreage** under management: Total property 300 acres. Golf turf acreage: 150 acres.

**Greens:** 4 acres. Average size: 7,500 sq. ft. Turf type: Tifdwarf. HOC (inches) = 9/64 to 1/8. Overseeding: None. Green Speed Goals November to May: 9.0+.

**Tees:** 3 acres. Turf type: Tifway 419 . HOC = 3/8. Overseeding: None.

**Fairways:** 60 acres. Turf type: Mixture of Ormond, common, Everglades, etc. HOC: 9/16. Overseeding: None.

**Roughs.** 84 acres. Turf Type: St. Augustine and mixture of old bermudagrass varieties. HOC: 1 3/4. Overseeding: None.

**Waterways/Lakes/Ponds:** No ponds or lakes. Property surrounded by Indian Creek and Biscayne Bay. Maintain a small beach area which was once a seaplane landing area.

**Irrigation: Source:** Potable water. Equipment: Syncroflo VFD Pump Station with horizontal flooded suction. Controls: Rainbird Nimbus Central Control with additional Freedom hand-held controller. 700 Rainbird 900 and 950 heads on greens, tees and fairways only. Fertigation system with pHairway injection system.

**Staff:** Total including Supt.22. Marcus Prevatte, assistant superintendent (started Feb 1999); David McWilliams, foreman; Ivan Capeles, chief mechanic; George, assistant mechanic; Paul Henry, Spray tech; Elissee Tassy, irrigation tech; Ariel Perez, arborist; Jean-Claude Jean Pierre and Calixte Lubin, landscapers.

**Communications:** Monthly column in club newsletter during season; weekly staff meetings with crew; Grounds Committee meeting monthly during season. "I write the agenda and run the meeting;" Board and Finance Committee meetings as needed. Meet regularly with peers for golf outings and to share information.

**Cultural Practices:** Aerify: Greens-3x/yr, 5/8" tines; Tees- 2x/yr, 5/8" tines; Fairways-3x/yr, 3/4" tines. Spray Program: Greens biweekly as needed with Primo @ 2-3 oz/A; Orthene or Seven @ 4 lbs/A; Micro nutrients @ 1-2 gal/A; Wetting agent @ 1 qt/A. Tees monthly as needed with Primo @ 10 oz/A; Orthene @ 4 lbs/A; Wetting agent @ 1 qt/A; Iron @ 1-2 gal/A. Fairways monthly with Primo 10 oz/A April to October. Fertility Program: Greens biweekly granular 1:0:1 blend Nov-April and 1:0:2 blend May-Oct. Supplemental fertigation. Tees: Fertigation mainly with occasional granular as needed. Fairways: Six week interval with granular Nov-March. Rest of the year fertigation only. Roughs: Fertigation only.

**Weed Control:** May-Aug MSMA/Sencor timed with moist conditions for grassy weeds. "Manage" as needed for sedges. "Escort" as needed for spurge and other broad leaf weeds. Biggest challenges: Alexandergrass, goosegrass, sedges, spurges on Tifdwarf greens slopes.

**Mole Cricket Control:** Average 10 -20 acres of infestation each year. Treat with Orthene and baits.

**Equipment:** Greens -Toro 1000 walkmowers (8) and a Jacobsen Greens King IV w/groomer attachment; collars-Jacobsen 22-inch walk mower; slopes-Toro 3400. Tees-Jacobsen Greens King IV and a Jacobsen 22-inch walk mower for rectangle cut; Fairways-Toro 6700 (2); Roughs-Jacobsen Blitzer (2) and a Jacobsen Turf Cat w/72-inch mulching deck.



*This photo of the 358-yard fourth hole shows the opening to the green for the bump and run player. The old traditional course designs always had risk and reward shot values. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.*

course and started asking superintendent Jim Walker tons of questions. One day he hands me a book on turf management and tells me to read the chapter on bermudagrass. That's how it all started.

"I have high expectations, so when I got into this business, I made it a point to take classes and seminars to learn as much as I could about turfgrass and golf course operations. Much to the dismay of many of my peers, I bombarded them relentlessly with questions about how and why they did things. Just ask them. If they see me coming, they try to hide."

When Pantaleo was placed in charge of the Key Biscayne G.C. back in 1984, he learned that they would soon be hosting the Gus Machado Open, a Senior PGA Tour event.

No one in the Dade County Parks system had ever prepared for a tour event before, so Pantaleo started making phone calls looking for information. Eventually, Ray Hansen suggested Pantaleo call Paul Latshaw at Augusta to see if he could work on the volunteer staff at the Masters. Luckily, he landed a fairway

mowing job at Amen Corner and managed to get two years experience of tournament preparations.

This commitment to excellence and a willingness to ask questions and aggressively seek information has guided Pantaleo throughout his career. After beginning with Dade County 16 years ago, it brought him to Indian Creek after stops at Key Biscayne, TPC Eagle Trace, Ft. Lauderdale C.C. and the Delaire C. C. in Delray Beach.

That's how Pantaleo got to Indian Creek and now as we rode down the 10th hole after lunch, my first question concerned the soil and growing conditions. Dredged-up bay bottom didn't seem like the ideal medium for growing turfgrass under exacting conditions.

"Actually we have very few problems with the soil and drainage," he said. "Only during extreme high tides and persistent rains do we get some standing water problems in a few low areas."

"The high cation exchange capacity values and finer soil texture hold our applied nutrients and make them readily

available to the turf and trees. We have been very successful with our tree-transplanting ventures. We do get some dry spots around the greens where that "draped over" short cut extends beyond the green's well profile, and we have foot and equipment traffic. But those are like any sensitive area on any golf course that a superintendent has to be aware of.

"The one concession we make to the soil type is that we don't aerify the greens surrounds at the same time we do the putting surfaces. We don't want to mix any of the marly, shelly native soil into the green's profile, so we aerify the collars and slope areas 3 weeks after we do the greens and the holes are healed over.

"Some of the bunkers also show some of the native coquina and crushed shell content as the native soils works up into the bunker sand. On the plus side, the finer material does help to keep the bunkers on the firm side."

With 300 acres to maintain including golf course and roadway, mowing is a major factor in the maintenance plan. A combination of walking and riding mow-



## Unique to the Creek

**W**e have a large amount of short-cut turf. We have the largest fairways I've ever seen and we have no rough around the greens which is an interesting feature. 124 bunkers, many large in size pose a huge labor undertaking with raking, edging, weeding, and sand plowing. Wind on this nearly seaside course poses a challenge not only to the player but the turf manager as well with blowing sand, dry spots, turf stress, tree and shrub debris cleanup.

Built on a small mangrove island in Biscayne Bay in 1929, this is a six-month-a-year club — November to May. While the course is technically open all year, the amenities and service virtually close down for all practical purposes after May 1.

The course conditioning expectations are also relaxed as we focus on project work. Tony Morosco, the head pro here is also the head pro at the Weston CC in Boston and most of the caddies all have summer jobs on northern courses. There are 41 resident homes on the island. It remains one of the few clubs in Florida which has a residence for the superintendent on site.

*Joe Pantaleo*

ers is used to groom the greens surrounds. The slopes are mowed with a lightweight five-gang mower. No riding mowers are allowed between the bunkers and the putting surfaces. Triplexes are used to tie in the slope cut on the approaches, but walking mowers finish off the collars to prevent wear on the native soil surrounds.

The tees now sport an old, classic rectangular cut accomplished by using a triplex to do most of the mowing and a walk mower to groom the clean-up pass and the square corners. To maximize the teeing ground area, Pantaleo had Laser Turf, Inc. level and rebuild the tees, which was also part of the master plan.

The big job is the 60 acres of fairways and 84 acres of rough. Two Toro 6700, seven-gang mowers cut the fairways three times a week. Pantaleo helps keep the fairways tight and the clippings yield minimized by using an aggressive Primo program from April to October. He fertilizes sparingly with granulars during

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the winter and uses only fertigation in the summer to prevent over-feeding and unwanted growth. The fairways are a mixture of Ormond, common and 419 from repairs and sodding over the years. Regrassing the fairways is the number-two priority in the restoration plan

The roughs not only have the bermudagrass mixture, they also contain St. Augustine. This throws in a weed control glitch since chemicals used on St. Augustine are not necessarily compatible with those used on bermudagrass and vice versa. It takes a whole week's worth on mowing to go over the roughs just once in growing season.

In order to reduce the amount of time and money spent maintaining out-of-play rough areas, the club is experimenting with some native grass now to see if they like the look. The same goes for some of the accent beds around the tees. Exotic, high-maintenance plants are being replaced on a trial basis with native grasses and perennials.

Beyond the mowing challenge, one of Pantaleo's next worries is containing and removing the mutated and or contaminated spots in the greens slopes. The slopes were grassed with Tifdwarf to accentuate the short game. Trying to keep such large areas trouble free during construction and planting was difficult. Now each year, Pantaleo and his staff replace nearly 14,000 square feet of turf, trying to eliminate the intrusive grasses. They have their own nursery area from which they cultivate and harvest new Tifdwarf each summer.

There's another item Pantaleo must get rid of each year. Simple everyday yard trash! With 300 acres of trees and shrubs, there are lots of limbs and leaves and stumps to cycle each year. In one corner of the golf course is a well-screened "lay down" area where the tree debris is collected. Sometime during the year, Pantaleo contracts a landscape company to come in and grind up all the organic debris into a usable mulch that he spreads

back out onto the golf course. The ultimate recycling job.

"There used to be a \$10,000 line item in the budget for trash removal until we started this program," he said. "We feel good about saving the money and being responsible stewards of our property."

Another area where environmental progress has been made is in the selective use of a grass variety to save water and reduce labor. During the restoration of the greens complexes, Forse and Pantaleo got permission from the board to restore a couple of fairway complexes to their original design.

Two were selected which needed drainage work anyway to solve standing water problems. After the reconstruction, El Toro zoysiagrass was used to sod the fairway bunker faces and immediate surrounds. The grass thrives at the 1-1/2 to 2-inch rough cut and it doesn't require as much fertilizer and water, which is sometimes hard to deliver properly to bunker edges.

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Afternoon shadows begin to lengthen across the green and fairway of the 16th hole. Tree and shade management is a key part of the turf maintenance program at Indian Creek. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

## South Florida Chapter

**History:** The granddaddy of all of the Florida chapters, the South Florida Chapter was organized in 1939 as the South Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association. Jimmy Blackledge was the first president. It spawned the Tri-County GCSA which later split to become the Palm Beach and South Florida associations. In 1973, the South Florida GCSA began an association publication called *The South Florida Green* with Mike Barger at the helm. In 1975, Dan Jones stepped in and took over the editorship. Four years later, in 1980, after the entire state mobilized into the Florida GCSA, the magazine was named the official voice of the FGCSA and the name changed to simply *The Florida Green*. So, we all owe the founders of the South Florida GCSA a debt of gratitude for getting it all started 60 years ago.

**Activities:** The South Florida chapter hosts two important annual events: the **South Florida Turf Expo**, which funds over half of the technician salary at the FGCSA research green. The planning and construction of the research green, built at the University of Florida Research and Education Center in Ft. Lauderdale, was spearheaded by the South Florida chapter. Named for legendary superintendent Otto Schmeisser, the green has been the site for many research projects and turf evaluations by IFAS faculty. The other event, **The Missing and Exploited Children Tournament** supports the work done on behalf of abused children in the Dade/Broward area. In addition to these major events, the South Florida Chapter carries out an aggressive monthly meeting schedule to provide education and networking opportunities for its members.

**Current officers:** Jim Walker, Palmetto G.C., president; Gilly MacGregor, Westview C.C., vice president; Bryan Singleton, Riviera C.C., secretary/treasurer; Jim Goins, Hollybrook G & T. C., external vice president.

**Membership:** 191 total members for 1998-99.

It is a win-win solution so far.

A tour of Indian Creek wouldn't be complete without a visit to the superintendent's residence adjacent to the maintenance complex. Once a fixture at many of the exclusive private clubs built during bygone days, only a handful of courses in south Florida still have superintendent residences.

Located in the interior of the golf course behind the 7th green, Pantaleo lives in a house that has its own share of Indian Creek history as room additions were added over the years to accommodate superintendents and their families. The daughters of the legendary superintendent Otto Schmeisser grew up here and often helped mow fairways in the summertime.

Pantaleo invited me to bunk overnight and we shared histories of our own golf experiences far into the night.

A lot of Florida history is to be learned and appreciated at Indian Creek: from real estate development in the "boom" days, classic golf course architecture once lost and now found again, to the stories of the lives of the people who have inhabited this island in the stream.

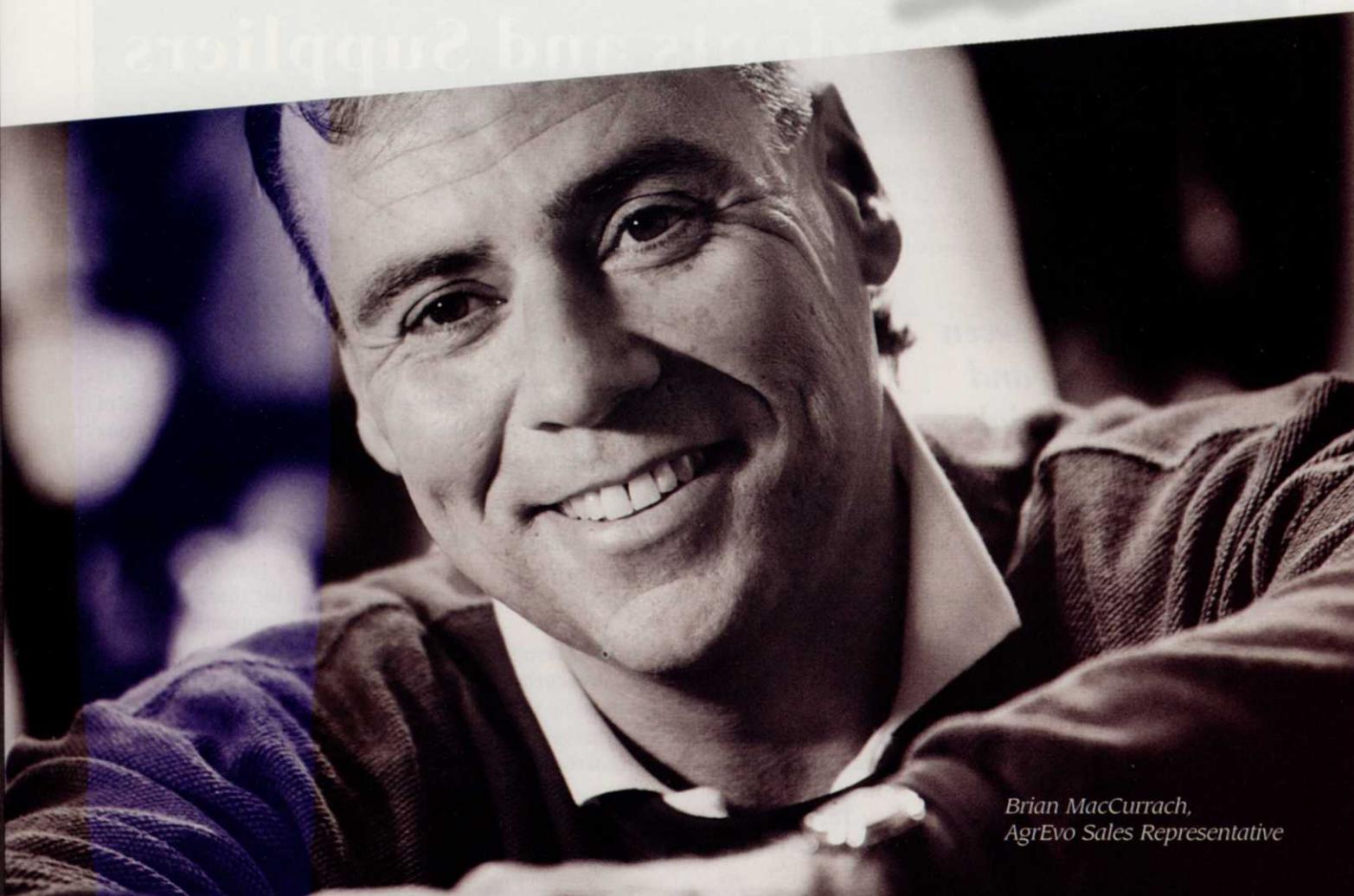
*A problem as common as goosegrass shouldn't promote a panic. But it did.*



*Here in Florida, a goosegrass escape isn't exactly front page news. But when a super who I've dealt with for years called me in something close to panic because his goosegrass treatment was leaving ugly brown spots, it got my attention. Seems the problem was caused by an old fashioned herbicide that he'd used for years. I suggested he change to an Illoxan® Herbicide postemergent program to control goosegrass right through the year. He liked the idea, incorporating it into his IPM program. Even sent me a goose call in the mail, just in case the problem should ever reoccur. Fortunately, it hasn't.*



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*Brian MacCurrach,  
AgrEvo Sales Representative*



# Superintendents and Suppliers

Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products conducted a series of "New Equipment Road Rally Days" in January to bring new equipment into the field for hands-on inspection by potential customers. Here Travis Tresca (far left) and Jim Headley, Textron's Regional Sales Manager (2nd from right) go over Ransome's Enviro Jet unit with a group of Disney superintendents and assistants. Photo by Joel Jackson.

## Relationship Between Superintendent and Suppliers is Crucial

**B**ehind the scenes at every golf course, one of the most crucial relationships in the success of that operation takes place. It is the working relationship established between the superintendent and the vendors and suppliers who service that golf course.

These relationships range from very formal arrangements dictated by purchasing department policies and national account agreements to the informal handshake and phone call transactions where a man's word is his bond.

Superintendents who don't plan

ahead and keep track of inventory and expect a supplier to bail them out on a moment's notice are just as unprofessional as a supplier who promises things he can't deliver and tries to sell a product without really knowing if it's a good fit for his customer. Each side of this partnership need to respect the other's valuable time and should make or cancel appointments promptly so no one wastes time waiting for the other or traveling out of the way to make a call that can't happen.

Following good business ethics is still the best way to go for your job security and personal integrity. Fortunately the old stories of purchasing kickbacks and gratuities is becoming a thing of the past in our business.

The background and training of suppliers has changed over the years from

purely sales and marketing types who may or may not have had an agricultural background to a sales force made up of many ex-superintendents. While that change has many positives in terms of the salesperson understanding your problems, ex-superintendents must learn the business side of the equation.

I think it takes a special person to be able to go from being a superintendent to an effective sales person. The ideal personality profiles for those two occupations aren't always interchangeable.

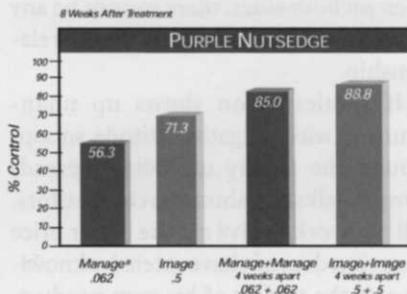
Superintendents partner daily with suppliers for the conduct of normal business at the course. They also rely heavily on the support of industry to help finance turf research through the support of scores of state and local events. We owe the excellent network of distributors and companies throughout Florida

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Source: University of Florida 1994

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for their generous contributions each year that help our associations fund scholarships and research.

Many superintendents have made it a practice to purchase only from those companies that support our events and projects. That's one of the reasons we print those "Thank you" ads in the magazine, so you can see the vendors in your area that are supporting our causes.

In this issue a couple of superintendents and suppliers write about what the superintendent and supplier relationship means to them.

### **Good Relationship is Built on Positive Traits Both Ways**

**W**hat do you look for in a good superintendent/vendor relationship? Good Prices. Fast reliable deliveries. Solid technical knowledge. Good golfing partner! These are all major components of a good relationship.

As a former superintendent for over 20 years, I have seen quite a few vendors come through my office door. I always seemed to be closer to the salesman when I felt confident that he wasn't trying to shove a product down my throat that was going to solve all my problems.

I was always comfortable with the sound technical sales rep that really went out of his way to get an order to me when it wasn't a normal delivery day. One that called me back quickly to confirm an order I had placed. One that wasn't afraid to recommend a competitor's product if it was the best answer to my problem. The vendors I respected never talked badly about another company's product or personnel.

I also learned over a period of time that, while price was important, good service also had a value that could be factored into purchasing decisions.

As the North Florida rep for United Horticultural Supply, I have tried to maintain those very positive traits of what I believed to be right. I have noticed that I have an excellent relationship with all my customers, no matter what amount of business they do with me.

In this day and age of short stints that superintendents are faced with at some

clubs, it is very important that all sales reps continue to strive for the highest professional standards that our industry demands.

Be a friend and a source of reliable information and we won't ever have to worry about the relationships that superintendents and vendors have

*GARY MORGAN*

*United Horticultural Supply*

### **Salesmen Are Part of the Course Management Team**

**W**hen one defines the word "team," you can get varying degrees of definitions from literary sources such as the Oxford English and Webster's Dictionaries. Team is defined as a group of individuals working together; or a group of individuals coming together to achieve a common goal. Team spirit is the feelings of camaraderie among members of a group, enabling them to cooperate and work well together.

This is essentially what a superintendent would use in his description to envision his maintenance staff. However, one person who is not thought as being in "the family" or team but is an extremely important key person in the overall operation is the golf course salesperson.

For many years this traveling mix of ex-superintendents, professional turf maintenance suppliers, fertilizer, equipment and chemical vendors has gotten a bum rap about what they do, their knowledge of the field of golf and the technological intricacies associated with their products.

When one considers the salesperson's background and education it may just overwhelm you with a whole different light into where they are coming from. That is why whenever a salesperson calls on me for the first time I make sure that when they make an appointment I let them know when would be the best time to come to the course and the ground rules under which we will conduct business.

If a vendor drops by without an appointment be courteous but let him/her know you have your set of procedures on

how and when to make an appointment. A professional salesperson in this field will follow the wishes of his client to uphold the company's name and reputation. Making future sales is their desire. Therefore it is mandatory to call ahead.

A friend can be hard to come by in the dog-eat-dog competitive golf industry but, if given the chance, the salesperson can be that as well. I recall many times talking about personnel problems to a select salesperson that had gained my trust through their knowledge, devoted service and friendship.

There are unwritten codes that I explain to all salespersons calling on my golf course for the first time: nothing discussed during the day will be repeated like the products I use or any aspect of the operation or its personnel without my permission. That way no unsubstantiated rumors (which are epidemic in south Florida) can be started.

If this code is broken, then it is pretty clear that the salesperson and their products will not be making any return trips to my golf course. It is trust and professional ethics that bind good quality vendors to quality operations.

Every salesperson that calls on me for the first time will get a tour of the facility and the golf course. They cannot sell me their product unless they see the product I am trying to achieve or the operation I manage.

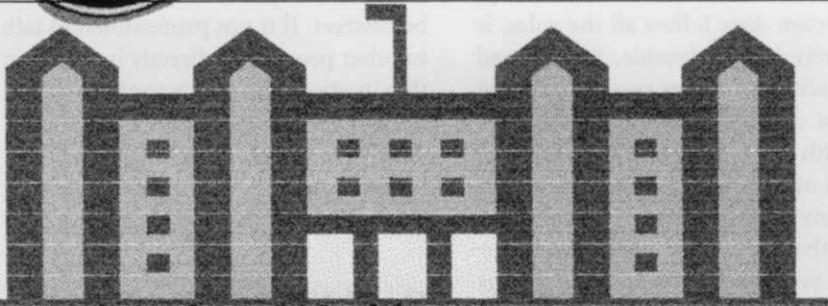
Usually in that one-hour ride, I interview them for their knowledge, their personality (a salesperson should never argue or tell a superintendent how to run his operation) and their ability to listen. This also allows them to hear my philosophies, get used to my personality and see our team in operation. With eyes open on both sides, there cannot be any hidden agendas to strain the future relationship.

If a salesperson shows up unannounced, with a negative attitude, snoops around the facility uninvited, spreads rumors, talks bad about his competitors, will not work to give me the better price or service, does not have extensive knowledge of the turf or of his own product, then this person will not have many op-

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### Monday, August 9

- ◆ University Tour
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### Tuesday, August 10

- ◆ Exhibitor Set-Up Day
- ◆ GCSAA Seminars
- ◆ University Tour
- ◆ Golf tournament
- ◆ Toro Event

### Wednesday, August 11

- ◆ Concurrent Sessions
- ◆ Tradeshow
- ◆ Equipment Demonstration
- ◆ Annual Meeting, Awards Dinner

### Thursday, August 12

- ◆ Concurrent Sessions
- ◆ Tradeshow
- ◆ GCSAA Seminar
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opportunities to call on me.

Anyone I just described (I have seen it all before) will probably not be in the industry very long anyhow. However, think about what I just described. If a salesperson does follow all the rules, is extremely knowledgeable, has a good personality and serves you well, should you not consider a long term relationship with this person and give them the respect of their position in your operation. Any person who can be a salesperson in the competitive golf industry for several years and maintain their clients and reputation has earned my respect and the privilege to help our operation.

There are a few exceptions to the rule. Sometimes there may be a product that is so important to the operation — and one company has the monopoly to sell it — that there may not be a choice as to whom you deal with in a salesperson, good or bad. When this occurs with a bad one, I will usually call the president of the company explaining that I will no

longer deal with his field representative and will make all my orders direct from the company itself.

At this time, be truthful about your reservations about that person and also be discreet. It is not professional to talk to other people not directly involved in the situation about your conflict with an individual. Life is too short and the industry too closely knit. Your reputation is also at stake.

*JOE HUBBARD, CGCS*

### Good Vendors Can Be Excellent Resources

**V**endors, just like superintendents, come in all shapes and sizes, and with a wide variety of experience and knowledge. A quality supplier can offer solutions to the challenges facing superintendents and be an excellent resource to him/her and their staffs.

It is an exceptional supplier will offer advice similar to Kris Kringle's in the

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movie, "A Miracle on 34th Street." Kringle, while working for Macy's department store, said Macy's "doesn't have what you want, but Gimbel's store does!" In other words, "If I don't have a product to solve your problem, I will steer you in the right direction."

A vendor can be a wealth of information for many reasons:

- Trained by a manufacturer on product usage
- Access to manufacturers reps and research data
- Background in the turf business
- Shared experiences of others in addressing similar issues
- Knowledge of a wide variety of products

Most of the problems facing a golf course manager are not unique to the business. A quality vendor can share the successes of other golf course managers who have dealt with similar problems. As a territory manager I see 80 customers and, as we know, most of them want to see their peers succeed and are happy to share information.

Truly professional suppliers will try to understand the unique problems of your course and your needs. They can help by providing proper training related to the products they sell to you and your staff. They can offer assistance on how to best use the tools they supply. Not just ensure that you use their products but that you use the products efficiently to achieve the best bang for your buck.

Often a problem on the course really can't be addressed by something a vendor has to sell. Correct cultural practices are the most important ingredient in healthy turfgrass growth — things like spiking and topdressing to reduce algae pressure or raising the height of cut for overcoming decline symptoms are important factors in turf health.

When faced with these problems do your vendors offer these solutions or do they try to sell you an unproven product with no good Southeastern United States university research on the product's application on the turfgrass you manage?

For golf course superintendents the amount of information available out

there can be overwhelming. Recognizing how a particular vendor and their product can help you is important. You must use the resources employers entrust to you in the most efficient manner possible. Knowing who can help you best accomplish that goal is essential.

I have been fortunate to see the super-

intendent/supplier relationship from both positions. My impression of this relationship is if I, as a vendor, can help a fellow superintendent succeed, then our company will succeed. We will all benefit by working together.

*BILL LANTHIER, CGCS, TERRITORY  
MANAGER  
Golf Ventures, Inc.*

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## The Little Tournament That Keeps on Growing

We started having a gathering of vendors and staff members in 1995. We invited our vendors and asked them to bring a gift worth no more than \$10 (preferably something with their company logo).

These were to be selected by the staff (kind of like a raffle). During the event the staff and vendors will play a 9-hole tournament, for bragging rights mostly. I will cook lunch while they are golfing. The first event showed me a lot about the appreciation that vendors have for our staff. This told me it needs to also go the other way.

In 1996 we talked about the party all year long. We added a new twist to it that year. We decided to involve our greens committee members.

I would say about six or seven members came to the party. I received a lot of positive feedback from everyone: staff, vendors and members

In 1997 the Men's Golf Association became involved and supplied key chains with our club logo to the staff. We had more involvement by the greens committee. This event had developed into an information exchange and camaraderie event.

Last year we eliminated the vendor prizes. We just wanted them to come and have a good time. The staff and members' involvement has increased tremendously. We now have members coming that are not on any committees.

We had about 75 to 80 participants in 1998. The event has evolved into an enjoyable and much-anticipated good time. We went from fewer than 30 people to more than 70.

This tells me it is working, especially when people start asking about the event in June, wanting to get their names on the list. This event has helped change the members' perception of the staff and our department.

This year the members changed the name of their annual "Tree Tournament" to the "Golf Course Maintenance 'OUR COURSE, OUR PRIDE' Beautification and Appreciation Tournament." The highlight of the evening was the awarding of the GCM Employee of the Year.

The award comes with a nice bonus, certificates and plaques to be displayed in the 19th hole etc.

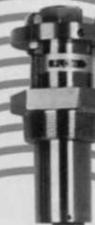
The great thing about it is the evening festivities are held at our GCM facility not the clubhouse. Staff members have the opportunity to stand up and introduce themselves and give brief descriptions of their duties here at San Jose.

I feel this member appreciation is a direct byproduct of the small event we started in 1995 with one or two members, 15 staff members and 10 vendors. This has become one of our biggest events of the year.

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## The Blueprint Board

The scenario... It is 8:45 am on Monday. The crew is all set with its morning assignments and you are trying to clear some of the mounds of paperwork off your desk in order to get ready for your 10:00 a.m. meeting with your green chairman, Mr. Jones. After all, it is an important meeting, your first chance to sell him on the \$900,000 irrigation system rebuild.

"What was that? Mr. Jones is here? Here, now?" "Oh gosh that's right, it was 9:00 a.m. not 10:00 a.m." Panic sets in, your desk has piles of paperwork on it, "Where can I show him the blueprints?"

Sound familiar, or at least possible? Well, there is an answer. One of my previous employers, Marsh Benson, golf course superintendent at Augusta National, is an extremely organized individual and this "Super Tip" is an idea that I adapted from him. The idea is a blueprint board that folds down off the wall and can be used for displaying prints or working on them.

The blueprint board is attached to the wall so it takes up no extra space. It can be completed for less than \$50 and in a few short hours. The blueprint board attached to the wall in my office is the handiwork of my shop and equipment manager, Kim Ellis.

### Measurements/Specifications;

- \* The blueprint board itself is a 41 by 37-inch piece of "cabinet grade" plywood that is 1/2 inch thick.
- \* The board that it is hinged to, that is attached to the wall, is 41 by 3.5 inches (a 1x4)
- \* The legs that are attached with hinges to the back of the board measure 13.5-inch 1x4s. The length of the legs can vary dependent upon the height of the desk or table that the board will fold down on to.
- \* The hinges that attach the legs to the board, as well as the blueprint board to the support board are all 3 by 2 inches.
- \* At the top of the board (or bottom if the board is in use) is a 1-inch piece of molding mounted to the blueprint board in order to keep the plans from sliding off when in use.
- \* To secure the blueprint board to the wall when it is not in use, a small piece of 1-inch wood is mounted to the wall and a sliding barrel bolt is screwed into the piece of wood.
- \* Once all of the boards have been cut, sanded and stained, if so desired, it is ready to be mounted. We feel the easiest way to install the blueprint board is to leave the large, "fold down" piece unattached to the board that is secured to the wall. After a location is chosen above a desk, filing cabinet or similar item you are ready to proceed.
- \* With a level and measuring tape, place the 41 by 3.5-inch support board to the correct place on the wall. Attach this board with screws directly into the studs or into hollow wall anchors.
- \* After the board is secured, the plywood can be attached to it with the hinges. It would be best to have two people perform this task.
- \* Finally, the small board that you will mount the barrel bolt on to can be secured to the wall above the blueprint board.

The blueprint board is an inexpensive, unobtrusive tool that can assist the golf course superintendent in maintaining an organized professional looking office. Money is not a limiting factor with this tool so all levels of budgets can benefit. Good luck, and by the way if the Mr. Jones scenario has ever happened to you, you may want to also work on your appointment organizational skills!

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



The blueprint board folded up flat against wall in storage position.



The blueprint board extended down in use. Photo by Darren Davis.

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# Course Design is a Team Effort!



*These bunker faces at the Hunter's Ridge G.C. in Marion, Ind. have been designed to be maintenance friendly and can be maintained efficiently with a riding mower. Photo courtesy of Bob Lohman's Golf Designs/Golf Creations, Inc.*

## **Architect, Superintendent Can Work Together to Create Golf Courses Friendly to Maintenance**

BY BOB LOHMANN

*President, American Society of Golf  
Course Architects*

**I** recently met with a golf course superintendent, clearly frustrated after we had walked his course. He was concerned about the long-term maintenance challenges that had developed from excessively sloped bunkers and poorly sized tees.

The superintendent said that the

course was an excellent aesthetic design, but it demanded a level of maintenance that could not be met with his budget. He asked, "Could this have been avoided?"

"Certainly," I told him, explaining "there is nothing more important than working with the golf course architect to ensure a layout that compliments maintenance capabilities and players' skills."

Granted, it's difficult to find the balance between aesthetic excellence and easy maintenance for a golf course — but golf course superintendents and architects should work together to formulate a design that best meets the needs of a given project.

### **Build A Partnership**

There are many issues to consider. For new or existing courses, the first and most important step to assure a golf course that will thrive for generations is for our professions to continue to work together. The superintendent and architect should discuss the maintenance capabilities, types of players and vision for the course at hand. Architects work within the maintenance guidelines and support superintendents with a thorough understanding of the maintenance implications of a design.

### **Maintenance Factors**

The superintendent and architect should detail a plan together to meet the

*The superintendent and architect should discuss the maintenance capabilities, types of players and vision for the course at hand. Architects work within the maintenance guidelines and support superintendents with a thorough understanding of the maintenance implications of a design.*

course's needs based on a few basic, but important factors:

- Available maintenance budget.
- Maintenance staff.
- Maintenance equipment.

The superintendent's input is essential. All aspects of design affect the maintenance of a golf course, and the superintendent can provide the course architect with vital information to make the project a success.

#### Bunkers

The number and shape or style of bunkers on the course can have a dramatic effect on maintenance. The architect will know from discussions with the superintendent if the maintenance budget will provide for the proper equipment and manpower required to adequately maintain the golf course.

Bunkers with intricate fingers and capes create a character, but require hard work to maintain them properly. This is fine — provided the budget allows for it.

More open-shaped bunkers with shallow faces are easier to maintain with riding equipment, and require significantly less work, but the aesthetic value is poor. Open shaped bunkers with deeper and steeper faces tend to add more drama to the course, but again, maintenance needs increase with the steeper slopes. The steeper slopes don't hold sand very well and must be repaired after heavy rains. On the upside, some of the newer maintenance equipment on the market today is excellent for maintaining steeper slopes.

Small pot bunkers can give a course

an interesting Scottish links character, but require hand raking and cutting, which the maintenance budget must account for.

Waste bunkers and waste areas provide contrast to manicured fairways, and in some cases can be low-maintenance areas. However, these waste areas can also be quite deceiving in terms of maintenance — erosion, stone picking, raking and trimming of negative vegetation can be labor-intensive maintenance items.

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Drainage is critical to bunker maintenance. Bunkers can deteriorate significantly if proper sub-drainage is not provided beneath the bunker floor. Not only is sub-drainage important, but surface drainage around the bunker is also critical. Surrounding surface area drainage must be directed away from or around the bunker. This minimizes washouts and subsoil erosion.

#### Tees

Tees may not always receive a great deal of attention from an aesthetic standpoint, but they require a great deal of attention from the maintenance staff. Playability is a critical design aspect for the architect, and the use of multiple tees at various yardages and angles to the line of play can dramatically affect playability for golfers of different abilities.

Tees are often the most difficult features to construct properly, because they must be as level as possible and drain properly at the same time. Generally, architects try to slope tees from front to back at a one-percent slope. The exception to this are tees built into hills that are sloped forward for better drainage and visibility of the target area.

Tees come in all shapes and sizes. The larger the surface area, the easier it is to evenly distribute wear on the tees. Tees usually vary from 7,500 sq. ft. to more than 10,000 sq. ft. If the architect uses multiple tees, it is imperative that the middle tees be sized larger than the front and back tees, as this is where the majority of play will occur.

Again, surface drainage on and around the tees is crucial to the health of the turf. This is especially true of hillside tees where surface drainage should be guided around the tees through diversion swales.

As with greens located in shaded locations, it is important to adequately clear around tee areas to provide proper sunlight exposure, and the superintendent should work with the architect to ensure this is provided for during construction.

On tees constructed on significant fill, the contractor should compact the fill properly and place it in small lifts.

***But it is the responsibility of both the architect and the superintendent to inform and sometimes educate the owner on how design and maintenance affect each other, as well as the initial and future costs of the project.***

Otherwise, settlement can occur, creating future drainage problems.

#### Fairways

Like tees, fairways can dramatically affect the playability of a course. Fairway width generally ranges from 30 to 50 yards, depending on the length of the hole and other considerations. Again, drainage is key to the fairway's maintenance needs. All areas of the fairway and rough should be sloped to provide appropriate drainage. On steeper fairways or on fairways with significant undulation, it is often important to capture surface water in smaller drainage areas with a catch-basin, and send it underground in a pipe to prevent erosion.

Fairway contours should flow smoothly and allow for easy mowing — eliminating areas where there is a danger of scalping high points, rutting on slopes that are too steep or spinning on turns that are too sharp. The architect and superintendent should discuss fairway acreage to determine requirements for equipment, fertilizer budgets and other maintenance expenses.

#### Cart Paths

Cart paths are important for controlling traffic and wear patterns on the golf

course, and this is where the superintendent should provide substantial input. Cart paths not only allow for movement of golfers, they also provide excellent transport routes for maintenance staff and equipment. Strategically placed cart paths will limit turf damage incurred from maintenance equipment. It is important that pathway access all high traffic areas, particularly around greens and tees.

#### Get Involved Early

Devising a course that maximizes beauty and playability while minimizing maintenance is never easy. Together, a golf course superintendent and architect will be able to draw upon their own experiences to help the project avoid pitfalls. Remember, the well-trained golf course architect has been through the process many times — and knowing the maintenance budget, amount of maintenance staff, available equipment and other important information allows the architect to design a course that meets the needs of the players and the superintendent.

The architect and superintendent need to work together to satisfy the owners needs. If owner wants a dramatic course, then the architect designs it and the superintendent maintains it. But it is the responsibility of both the architect and the superintendent to inform and sometimes educate the owner on how design and maintenance affect each other, as well as the initial and future costs of the project.

*Bob Lohmann is President of the American Society of Golf Course Architects. The Society publishes a wealth of information about golf course design, including "Remodeling Your Golf course," which details how to incorporate maintenance needs into a remodeling master plan. To obtain a free copy of the brochure, send a self-addressed, business-size envelope to the American Society of Golf Course Architects, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60601. Phone: 312-372-7090. Fax: 312-372-6160. Additional information can be found at the organization's web site at <http://www.golfdesign.org>.*

# All in a Day's Work.

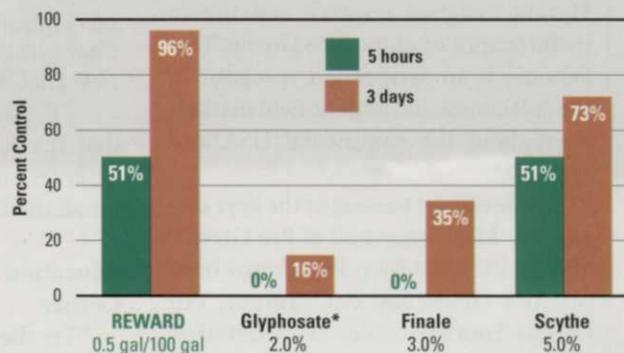


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*Tidings from the TC*

## UF/IFAS-Industry Ties Keep Growing

### *Pro Greens Donates Deep Drill Aerification System to UF FLREC*

BY JOHN CISAR, PH.D.

*IFAS Turf Coordinator*

**L**ike the song in the Sesame Street video "Elmo Saves Christmas" (remember I have a 2-year old at home so I get to watch the video every night) It's Christmas Again in South Florida.

On Jan. 7, Santa and his helpers from Pro Greens Turf Services of Safety Harbor stopped by at the Ft. Lauderdale REC to deliver an FM-60 deep drill aerification machine for University of Florida turfgrass research and use in maintenance of plots. Pro Greens Turf Services is an aerification specialist in the golf course and athletic field markets throughout the continental USA and Hawaii.

At the official passing of the keys ceremony, Mark Atherholt of Pro Greens, along with Tim Olsey, Pro Greens head of work crews, and Pat Kearney, Pro Greens Southeast sales representative, presented me (on behalf of the University of Florida) with the FM-60. The value of the gift was approximated at \$35,000. This great gift will go a long way in helping us maintain turf and set up new directions for research.

As stated in their press release on the subject: Pro Greens makes this donation in the spirit of educating and assisting research efforts in the turfgrass industry and to honor all golf course superintendents and sports turf groundskeepers that devote their livelihood to "Keep America Playing."

This equipment donation is very much appreciated by the turfgrass team at the University of Florida. We have been blessed with a range of equipment donations over the past few years that have really had a significant positive impact on our plot work. It bears repeating



*Mark Atherholt (left) of Pro Greens Turf Services presents IFAS Turf Coordinator, Dr. John Cisar with the keys to a totally refurbished FM-60 Deep Drill Aerifying Machine. Also on hand from Pro Greens are (l-r) Pat Kearney and Tim Olsey. Photo courtesy of Pro Greens.*

that the turfgrass industry of Florida deserves our continual heartfelt thanks for all their help.

### **Education Events Right Around the Corner**

"Tis the season" also for seminars, field days and workshops. The FTGA held its highly popular landscape management seminars throughout Florida in January. Held in locations throughout the state, seminars were jam-packed with Florida turf professionals. This year for the first time, the seminar series carried over to the panhandle and more than 140 attendees were in the auditorium.

On March 11, the 12th Annual South Florida Expo at the Ft. Lauderdale REC attracted turf breeders and developers of the new ultradwarfs to discuss adaptation to Florida conditions and address questions about the new grasses. Drs. Wayne Hanna and Al Dudeck, and representatives from Thomas Bros. Turf and Coastal Turf were on hand. Also, keynote speaker Dr. Will Hudson, entomologist at the University of Georgia,

provided an up-to-the minute report on the new uses of subsurface pesticide injection systems for turf and mole cricket control research. On March 18, Dr. Al Dudeck also hosted his annual Overseed Field Day in Gainesville.

Regarding upcoming events, on April 21, the Everglades chapter is hosting a turfgrass seminar in Ft. Myers. Contact Matt Taylor at 941-495-0073 for information. The 1999 USGA Regional Seminars are scheduled for April 26 in Orlando and April 28 in West Palm Beach. Contact John Foy at 561-546-2620. The tentative dates for the University of Florida Turfgrass Field Day is 23 and 24 June 1999. This year for the first time, the overall program field day will be held in Milton at the new UF turfgrass field plots. Contact Dr. Bryan Unruh at 850-983-2632 for further information on dates and directions.

### **Hellos and Goodbyes**

Hot off the presses: I just received an email from Terril Nell that Laurie Trenholm has accepted the turfgrass research/extension position at the Univer-



Laurie Trenholm  
(1995 file photo)

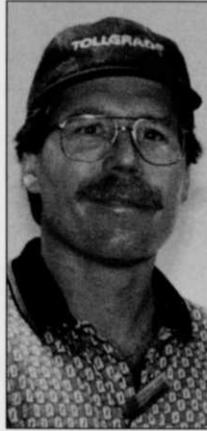
sity of Florida's Gainesville campus effective Aug. 1. Our sincere congratulations to Laurie.

Laurie received her B.S. at the University of Florida. She was an undergraduate student at the University's FLREC site.

Laurie received her M.S. degree from UF working with Dr. Al Dudeck, her major adviser, on FloraDwarf nutrition. She is completing her Ph.D. at the University of Georgia, working with major advisor Dr. Ronnie Duncan on new turf-type varieties of seashore *paspalum* grasses. Laurie was the first recipient of the Granville C. Horn Graduate Scholarship from the FTGA. Clearly, that prestigious scholarship is starting to bear fruit.

Drs. Robin Giblin-Davis, Monica Elliott, and Russell Nagata are on sabbatical leave in 1999. Robin just left for "down under" Australia, Monica is literally "chilling out" in Montana, and Russell is "surfing" for new grasses in Hawaii.

Marcus Prevatte, the long-time groundskeeper of the USGA green at the Ft. Lauderdale REC, announced that he would be leaving for an assistant superintendent's position at Indian Creek. Congratulations and best of luck to Marcus on his new career. Many thanks from everyone at the FLREC are



Marcus Prevatte  
(1996 file photo)

extended to Marcus for his tireless commitment to the Otto Schmeisser/FGCSA Research Green and UF research in general.

### Passing a milepost

This spring marks the first year anniversary of my appointment to the TC position. What a whirlwind year it has been. It's a great point in time to reflect on what has occurred during the past 12 months and look to where we are going.

One of the most difficult things to do objectively is evaluate day-to-day change from the inside. For example, looking in the mirror, to me, I always look the same and I just about always feel the same. Yet, if I look at a snapshot from one year ago or 10, wow, what a difference! The same thing holds with this job. I don't easily see the change from the inside and sometimes I get frustrated with the pace of change in my mind. But then once in a while it hits home just how much change has gone on.

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## 1999 Florida Plants of the Year - Part 3

**Editors Note:** Third in a three part series showing the Florida Nursery Growers 1999 selections of underutilized but proven Florida plant material.

### Common Name: Cross Vine

**Botanical Name:** *Bignonia capreolata*

**Hardiness:** Zones 6 - 9

**Mature Height X Spread:** Climbs 30 feet

**Classification:** Vine

**Landscape Use:** Pergola, trellis

**Characteristics:** Flowers orange to orange red

New hybrids are expanding in this under-used vine whose main flowering comes in late spring with occasional flowers through the summer. Growth is rapid and it will cling to a rough surface or twine as it climbs to the top of its support. Moist, rich soils suit it best, but growth is good even under less-than-ideal conditions. As a native is well adapted to the vagaries of our climate. Cool weather brings a bronzing of the leaves, but they will remain on the plant in most years.



### Common Name: Lake Tresca Ligustrum

**Botanical Name:** *Ligustrum japonicum* 'Lake Tresca'

**Hardiness:** Zones 7-10

**Mature Height X Spread:** 10' x 10'

**Classification:** Shrub

**Landscape Use:** Low hedges or a fine specimen plant

**Characteristics:** Very compact growth

A superior cultivar of the common landscape and hedging shrub, selected many years ago in a Florida nursery but only now becoming well known. Growth is compact and moderately slow, making a beautiful specimen when mature. Tight spires of fragrant, pale flowers are produced in spring and summer.



### Common Name: Chartreuse Sweet Potato

**Botanical Name:** *Ipomoea batatas* 'Margarita'

**Hardiness:** Zones 9-11

**Mature Height X Spread:** Trailing, about 9" tall, vines 6 - 8' long

**Classification:** Groundcover or basket plant

**Landscape Use:** Groundcover in light shade

**Characteristics:** Chartreuse green leaves

An exciting leaf color when used among more ordinary plants. Particularly effective in mixed baskets with purple-leaved plants or those with deep blue flowers. Light shade is best to avoid leaf burn, but plants getting plenty of water can take high light levels and even full sun once they are accustomed to it.



During the past year I have been going to different golf course chapters to promote our program. Recently, I gave a talk at a local chapter meeting on the Florida Gulf coast. One of the superintendents told me he heard me give an overview of the program six months earlier and that he was impressed by the number of new things going on at UF and how things had changed since my previous speech about our program. That really caught my attention. Frankly, I was pleasantly surprised because that means people on the outside are interested in what's going on, they are communicating back to me, and people are observing the difference.

### New in the Turf program

What are some of the great things going on? Here's a sample of four:

First, there are four new turf faculty positions at UF that are either being filled right now or will be advertised this spring 1999. Laurie Trenholm has accepted the offer to fill the turf position vacated when Bert McCarty left for Clemson University. The University is advertising for a turf entomologist for Ft. Lauderdale. In the near future we will be seeking a soil scientist (Everglades REC) with turf in the job description and a turf pathologist (Gainesville site). These positions fill gaps that have occurred either through attrition or anticipated retirements and expanded programs. These new positions will strengthen many of our program areas and ultimately enable us to provide better service.

Second, there will be more information from UF in readily accessible forms. Back by popular demand, we look forward to renewing our annual turf research and program report. This publication will contain a summary of all UF research projects, education efforts, and extension activities.

Terril Nell, the UF Environmental Horticulture Dept. chair, has been circulating a huge list of active projects by the UF turf team. Look for updates on those projects in the Annual Turf Report. In addition, extension specialists

*Back by popular demand, we look forward to renewing our annual turf research and program report. This publication will contain a summary of all UF research projects, education efforts, and extension activities.*

led by Bryan Unruh and additional turf research scientists are busy updating the Florida Turf Pest Control Guide and Best Management Practices for Florida Golf Courses book. The latter two guides should be available to the public by early spring.

Third, Field Days are off and running with the latest information and technology. This year the South Florida Expo brought together under one roof many of the developers of the new ultradwarf bermudagrasses to discuss management. Al Dudeck hosted his highly popular Overseed Field Day March 18. Jot down on your calendar June 25-26 for the IFAS Turfgrass Field Day. For the first time, the overall turf program field day will be held in Milton to help promote all the great things going on at our new panhandle location.

Fourth and maybe most important is the enhanced partnership between the Florida turfgrass industry and UF. Through your support, the ties between the turf industry and UF are getting stronger every day. A lot of the credit goes to those unsung heroes who are helping to keep the lines of communication open and who are forging more interaction. Two great examples are Don Benham, FTGA director for pub-

lic relations and Joel Jackson, FGCSA director of communications. Both Don and Joel are doing yeoman-like work keeping everyone up to date, acting as ambassadors of good will and advocates, and being good listeners. These two guys have really made life a lot easier for me. Thanks Don and Joel for everything you do.

We want to continue to improve our customer service and one of the best ways is through communication. Please keep inviting us to your chapter meetings and offering us the opportunity to speak about our work. Tell us what you think of our program, tell us what we need to be doing, and tell us how we can help. We appreciate your



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feedback and look forward to the best year ever in 1999. Let's keep on going.

## **Florida Golf Alliance Course Owners Help Conduct Impact Survey**

**J**ack Brennan, treasurer for the Florida Golf Alliance and head of Paladin Golf Marketing, reports that the Florida Chapter of the Golf Course Owners Association is taking an active role in helping to conduct the golf impact survey.

Mike Jamison, executive director of the FGCOA, will help coordinate the cover letter to course owners as a second round of surveys is being sent out to gather more information. Jamison is collecting the logos of all participating associations to go the letter to give more

credibility and appeal to the survey.

Since the surveys may contain sensitive financial information, they will be returned to the FGCOA office and Jamison will track the responses and delete course identification. He will also assign survey numbers and symbols as requested by Dr. Joe Cronin to fit into the survey matrix. This should provide course owners the comfort of knowing that the only association with access to their financial identity is their own association.

FGA board members will be given a list of courses to contact to alert golf course owners and officials to be on the lookout for the second survey and ask them to participate so the survey will be as accurate as possible and carry as much weight as possible when we discuss issues at local and state levels.

All Florida superintendents are urged to mention that this survey is taking place and to suggest his or her club participate to make it as meaningful as possible so we can establish credible lever-

*FGA board members will be given a list of courses to contact to alert golf course owners and officials to be on the lookout for the second survey and ask them to participate so the survey will be as accurate as possible and carry as much weight as possible when we discuss issues at local and state levels*

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age on important issues facing the golf industry in Florida.

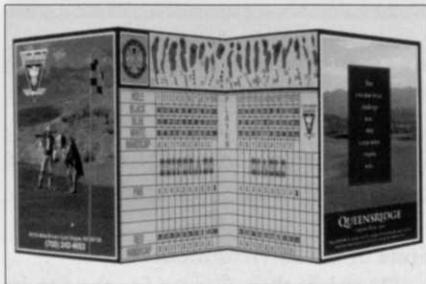
## New Products May Save You Time, Money

*Editor's Note: We don't normally run "new product" press releases because we get swamped with them. However, a couple of recent announcements caught my eye because they seem like real money and worry savers. Maybe they can help you or your club.*

### Free Scorecards for Golf Courses

Country Club Sports, Inc., through the newly launched CCS scorecard program, provides interested golf courses with scorecards at absolutely no charge.

The CCS scorecard program is offered free to public and private courses across the country. Utilizing a course's existing



scorecard layout and artwork, design professionals at Country Club Scoring simply add on a patented, perforated panel containing one advertisement. The enhanced scorecards are then supplied to the course at no charge for distribution to golfers. The

entire cost of production is absorbed by the advertiser.

Several things differentiate the innovative CCS Scorecard Program from traditional on-course efforts. Only one approved advertiser will appear per scorecard per course, resulting in an unobtrusive, tasteful product. Since the panel enhances an existing scorecard, the course retains its identity and control of its image. Best of all, Country Club Scoring secures all advertisers and the advertisers pay all expenses. The course approves the final product and receives high-quality, four-color scorecards at no charge.

"The program is catching fire with golf pros and property management across the country," said Lauren Donnelly, assistant vice president of Country Club Sports. The courses are receiving the same, and sometimes better, quality scorecards yet saving the entire expense of production.

The national program already is in place at golf course properties in Arizona, California, Florida, Idaho, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, Texas and Virginia. Major national and regional advertising participants, such as Golf Digest, Select Comfort, and Golf Tips, have already recognized the value of this innovative advertising vehicle. CCS Scorecards are also a perfect media for local advertisers wishing to reach the local golfing audience.

Country Club Scoring of Las Vegas, in partnership with Ft. Myers-based Country Club Sports, holds the exclusive patent to the perforated panel for scorecards.

Contact Lauren Donnelly at 888-889-1175. Web site: [www.countryclubsports.com](http://www.countryclubsports.com).

### HotWire

HotWire Connects Superintendents to "Heart" of Irrigation System

At the GCSAA Conference in Orlando, Flowtronex PSI unveiled a new product designed to immediately and accurately alert pumping system users to potential system problems. This new tool may help problems from becoming crises.

The device called HotWire, is the only auto-dialer on the market that informs the user of the specific problem through a paging system. With HotWire, the customer monitors up to four specific functions such as a power failure or a hard fault, by assigning a 1- to 5-digit code. If a problem occurs, HotWire picks up the phone, dials the pager service and punches in the code to appear on the end-user's pager.

HotWire also features a programmable timer for each function. The customer can set the timer so that HotWire sends the page anywhere from one second to two hours after the problem occurs. A repeat timer allows for continual paging until the problem is addressed. HotWire can easily be programmed through Windows 95 or 98.

At only 4 inches tall, 3 inches deep, and 1 3/4 inches wide, Hot Wire fits inside a pump station control panel of even the smallest stations. It will be available to customers in April.

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*Third Golf and The Environment Conference*

# Cooperate or Agitate, Issue is Here to Stay

BY JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

**T**he third Golf and The Environment conference took place in Orlando last December. This series of annual meetings by people representing the golf industry and those representing major environmental groups has been educational for both camps. It has provided a forum where understanding and dialogue can occur without mud slinging and rhetoric getting in the way.

While contrasts and concerns were voiced in the various panel discussions, there were also points of concession and acknowledgement in statements by and or about each others' viewpoints. The GCSAA was represented by Steve Mona, Joe O'Brien, Dave Bishop, Kim Heck and former government relations liaison, Cynthia Smith. Speaking on behalf of Florida superintendents were Ron Andrews of Grand Harbor (Wetlands) and Gary Meyers of Disney (Water Quality and Quantity). There were other golf industry folks there as well including, architects Mike Hurdzan, Jan Beljan and Mark McCumber. The media was represented by The Golf Channel, *USA Today*, *Golf Digest*, *Golfdom* and *Golfweek*.

"The flavor of G&E group will be changing," said O'Brien, "because they can see golf course superintendents are willing and in many cases already do the right thing. So now the focus needs to be on education of others and that will be a topic to be pursued."

The GCSAA, under the leadership of Information Services Manager Dave Bishop, has been fine-tuning a voluntary data collection project that was a pilot project this past year. They will be trying to get it online and more user friendly in 1999.

Real use and exposure-risk data is going to play a very important role in how EPA deals with pesticides used in non-food crop use. It will be imperative that superintendents be prepared to share their chemical application records to



GCSAA's Joe O'Brien poses the question, "Where do we go from here?" to the attendees of the 3rd Golf and The Environment conference in Orlando. Photo by Joel Jackson.

document reality instead of letting EPA make overly conservative default assumptions. I have heard over and over again from superintendents claiming less and less use of pesticides. It is getting to be time to prove it with a reliable data-collection system.

Here are some of the other comments and concerns from the conference:

### Welcome

Terry Minger, Center for Resource Management (Host): "The old verbs like legislate, litigate and agitate are out. Now is the time to cooperate, facilitate and disseminate and even celebrate. We are shaping the next generation. Have we picked all the easy low hanging fruit? The curve will get steeper as we progress."

Paul Parker, Center for Resource Management (Host): "The meeting in Pebble Beach was tense but productive. In Pinehurst we had 22 groups endorse the Environmental Principles. We have seen new projects like Widow's Walk and retrofit projects like the Presidio use them. Now here in Orlando we

strengthen trust and relationship and set objectives for a national agenda."

### State of the Environment

Daniel Botkin, Center for the Study of the Environment, Keynote Speaker: "Henry Thoreau viewed nature as it affects man and how it benefited man in every way. Modern environmentalists often take themselves too seriously and are too puritanical. On the other hand golfers also often take the game and course conditions too seriously. People who work in nature often have a truer relationship with nature than the idealists who have expectations but no practical experience."

Paul Portney, Resources for the Future: "State of the Environment. Better than during World War II. Air Quality — lead content down 95 percent and sulfur dioxide down 30 to 60 percent; Water Quality - some improvements depending on area. Philadelphia, New York, Detroit, Chicago improved. Chesapeake Bay in trouble; Hazardous waste and solid waste disposal better than in

***Sustainability is the the key issue. Golf courses are challenged to preserve wetlands, water quality, habitat and green space. We must learn to do more with less pesticides, fertilizer and water. We are subjected to needless studies, unrealistic buffer zones and unrealistic management practices.***

**Mike Hurdzan  
Golf Design Group**

the 1970s; Less progress in wetlands management. 25 percent loss in last 200 years. Florida, Georgia and Minnesota greatest losses. Warnings: Water availability will be a critical problem. Population shifts like those to the Southwest. Water quality concerns from runoff of non-point sources.

Bart Blackwelder, Friends of the Earth: "Two issues. Urban Sprawl and Food Safety. Sprawl drains energy and resources. Food affects global economy. May depend on foreign food sources. What are their safety measures?"

Climate change, global warming: Weather events costing \$1 billion a week in damages. Energy sources — The Federal budget is skewed. Fossil fuels are subsidized to the tune of 65 percent. Renewable source development only gets 14 percent of funding."

#### **State of Golf**

Bob Maxon, *Golf Digest*: "There are 16,010 golf courses in the U.S. 11,000 or 70 percent are public, not private elitist courses. Many super ranges/practice facilities are being built. More and more management companies are taking over operations. Lots of mergers, diversification and reorganizations. We need something beside 7,200-yard designs. Golf needs to be accessible and time effective to prosper and grow."

Mike Hurdzan, Hurdzan Golf Design Group: "Golf needs to be affordable, accessible and sustainable. Sustainability is

the the key issue. Golf courses are challenged to preserve wetlands, water quality, habitat and green space. We must learn to do more with less pesticides, fertilizer and water. We are subjected to needless studies, unrealistic buffer zones and unrealistic management practices."

There were many more presentations that detailed specific projects and accomplishments that showed what can be done when both sides make a commitment to work together for the betterment of the environment.

There were two realities that I took away from the conference. One, it is possible for both sides to agree to disagree and still work together to make progress and reduce the bitterness. Two, the environmental issue is here to stay.

You and your club can chose to be proactive and find ways to participate in the process or you can be dragged kicking and screaming to the table by rules and regulations that you didn't help to write. Educate yourself, your staff, your golfers and your community about what you can and are doing for the environment.

### ***Water Reclamation Project Offers Valuable Lessons***

BY PAUL MOSES

*Water Specialties, Inc.*

*Editor's Note: Water resources will be*

*the number one issue facing golf courses as growth and development continues in Florida. This information is presented for those who may be involved in discussions with state and local water authorities as one example of what can be done. During the drought of 1998, Jacksonville had water pressure problems because development and demand have outraced the system's capacity to deliver the water. Now Jacksonville officials are looking to cut turf and horticulture uses. Even reclaimed water is fast becoming finite resource. You need to talk about this issue with your club officials.*

**C**ommercial and agricultural uses for reclaimed water are gaining popularity in municipalities across the country. Formerly forced to pay top dollar for fully treated water, governments and businesses are realizing major benefits from reclaimed water usage.

Additionally, when the indirect benefits to the environment are considered, it's apparent that water reuse is no longer merely an attractive theory, but an environmental and economic necessity.

Many commercial and agricultural water users in West Orange and Southeast Lake counties are seeing dramatic benefits since the inception of their water reclamation project 13 years ago. The project, Water Conserv II, is a cooperative venture among the City of Orlando, Orange County, and the agricultural community.

At 4,000 citrus acres, it is the largest water reuse project of its kind in the world a combination of agricultural irrigation and Rapid Infiltration Basins (RIBs) that divert water into the ground. Water Conserv II was the first water-reuse project in Florida allowed to irrigate crops produced for human consumption with reclaimed water.

The Water Conserv II project is connected to the city's McLeod Road Water Reclamation Facility and the county's South Regional Water Reclamation Facility by a 21-mile transmission pipeline that also runs to the main distribution center in West Orange County. The center distributes reclaimed water to 47 RIB sites on 1,700



acres, and to 76 agricultural and commercial customers on a 43-mile distribution network.

The average daily reclaimed water volume to the distribution center is 30 million gallons per day (mgd). Sixty percent of the volume is sent to agricultural and commercial customers, and the remaining 40 percent goes into the water table via the RIBs. Storage capacity peaks at 20 million gallons, and pump stations are capable of producing a peak flow rate of 76,000 gallons per minute (gpm). The entire distribution system is monitored and controlled by a central computerized system, whereby flow rates, line problems and pressures can be controlled automatically.

Woodard & Curran, Inc. of Winter Garden is the contract operator of Water Conserv II. This environmental and water treatment engineering firm has been in business since 1975, managing environmental fieldwork, wastewater and cleanwater treatment, and hazardous waste remediation all over the country.

The operating personnel realized early on that the massive flow of water was only as reliable as the infrastructure that delivered it. Nowhere was this more evident than in their flow-monitoring system. With 145 flow meters spread throughout the project, any failures here would jeopardize the credibility of the data collected by the agency to determine user allotments and distribution measurements.

"We actually have flow meters from two different companies in operation," said Phil Cross, the project manager at Water Conserv II, "but some of them would not hold up under the high flow conditions for very long. Over time, the readings from these meters would start to drift because their internal circuit boards would malfunction. We'd have to shut down that transmission line to repair the meters whenever these accuracy problems arose.

"We finally decided to quit throwing good money after bad and just replace the defective meters," Cross continued.

Once the operators of Water Conserv II installed the new meters into the transmission flowlines, an immediate change

***We've already started to suffer from the consequences of overdrafting the aquifers in the central areas of the state, and in the coastal areas we're seeing an intrusion of seawater into our freshwater aquifers. Reclaimed water presents a very viable alternative to reduce dependence on water from those sources.***

in the reliability of their measurements was noted. Given the new stability of their monitoring system, the operators of Water Conserv II were allowed to concentrate on what they do best: providing a valuable resource to their many customers. The results have been noteworthy.

For example, the Mid-Florida Citrus Foundation has worked in conjunction with the cooperative reuse project for many years to research the effects of reclaimed water on citrus fruit and other crops. "Research results to date from the Citrus Foundation conclude that citrus trees grow faster, gain more canopy volume, yield, and pounds of juice per acre, as more reclaimed water is applied," Cross maintained.

"So as highly-treated potable water continues to face tougher and tighter restrictions by water management districts, reclaimed water becomes a very attractive alternative for irrigation."

"Additionally, our agricultural customers have benefited greatly from enhanced freeze and drought protection due to the high availability of water in the system," continued Cross.

"Since the water is free and plentiful, growers are maintaining higher soil moisture levels, which protects their entire crop area, not just a portion of it. We've seen citrus growers realize increased crop yields of 10 to 30 percent and tree growth of up to 400 percent. For citrus growers this means a saving of about \$128 per acre per year."

While the economic benefits of using

reclaimed water are more immediate, the environmental pluses are significant and many. Because "used" water has traditionally been considered a liability instead of an asset, the success of this project counters many myths about reclaimed water

For example, reuse eliminates the discharge of minimally-treated water in surface waters such as lakes, streams, and rivers; it reduces a dependence on underground aquifers by reducing well water usage; and it actually replenishes the aquifer through the discharge of surplus water into rapid infiltration basins. As an added benefit, the excess water helps establish preserves for endangered and threatened plants and animals.

"There is a large influx of people moving to Florida, so we're beginning to face a water shortage here," Cross stated.

"We've already started to suffer from the consequences of overdrafting the aquifers in the central areas of the state, and in the coastal areas we're seeing an intrusion of seawater into our freshwater aquifers. Reclaimed water presents a very viable alternative to reduce dependence on water from those sources."

Water Conserv II has proven that the application of reclaimed water for commercial and agricultural uses is a win-win situation for all concerned, and their use of reliable infrastructure is an important element to their success.

For more information, contact Water Specialties at (800) 800-3544, or [info@waterspecialties.com](mailto:info@waterspecialties.com).

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TEAM <sup>c</sup>	■	●	●	●	●	●	NR	NR
RONSTAR <sup>d</sup>	●	■	NR	●	●	NR	NR	NR
SURFLAN <sup>c</sup>	■	■	■	●	▲	●	■	■

Level of control ■ High ▲ Medium-High ● Medium NR Not registered

<sup>a</sup>Novartis <sup>b</sup>Rohm & Haas Co. <sup>c</sup>Dow AgroSciences LLC <sup>d</sup>Rhône-Poulenc



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Putting Ultradwarfs to the Test

# Appearances Don't Equal Performance

## What's New with the NTEP 'Ultra' Trial at Jupiter Island Club

BY JOHN CISAR, PH.D.

*UF/IFAS Turf Program Coordinator*

There is a great deal of interest in the new ultradwarf bermudagrasses that are now becoming available for golf courses in the United States.

To develop an independent comparative database on the performance of these new bermudagrasses under a variety of climatic and geographical regions and different management, the United States Department of Agriculture's National Turfgrass Evaluation Program in cooperation with the United States Golf Association and Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America have set up an NTEP ultradwarf bermudagrass variety trial in the South at several locations.

Besides the far-reaching cooperation of the trial, a second unique aspect of this test is that all trials are being conducted on golf courses under routine management with play rather than on research farms.

I am the University cooperator in South Florida, while Dr. J. Bryan Unruh, UF, is leading the effort in the panhandle in Mobile, AL, and Dr. Richard White, Texas A & M, is leading a



Left to right. Ike Thomas, Marcus Prevatte, unidentified, Troy Koonsman, John Cisar, George Snyder and Herminia Vivas check out visual quality and ball roll on the test plots at the Jupiter Island Club during a recent visit.

comparative test in Texas.

Every so often, I thought I'd provide updates on the South Florida trial to Florida Superintendents through the *Florida Turf Digest* or *Florida Green*. This is the second article on the test and the first published in the *Florida Green*.

The South Florida test is being conducted on a USGA-specification practice green at the Jupiter Island Club in Jupiter Island with the great support of the club and Rob Kloska, golf course superintendent, and Rob's staff. The

trial was initiated in early June and early grow-in data was published in the Nov.-Dec. 1998 issue of the *Florida Turf Digest*.

The varieties in the test are listed in *Table 1*.

Although the test is being conducted to evaluate ultradwarfs, two standards, Tifdwarf and Tifgreen, have been incorporated into the test to act as benchmarks of performance for the new varieties.

The grasses are receiving routine greens maintenance and the grasses

### NTEP Bermudagrass Entries and Sponsors.

Turfgrasses	Sponsor
MS-Supreme	Mississippi State University
TifEagle	Dr. Wayne Hanna, USDA
Mini-Verde	Thomas Bros. Grass Co.
Champion	Coastal Turf, Inc.
FloraDwarf	Florida Turfgrass Foundation
Tifdwarf	Standard Entry
Tifgreen	Standard Entry

Table 1.

*One of the purposes of this article is to inform you of what's going on with ultradwarf research in the South. Both Rob Kloska (561-546-1184) and I (954-475-8990) encourage you to visit the Jupiter Island Club and take a look at the new grasses under comparative conditions.*

are exposed to play as one might expect during the busy winter season in South Florida.

At the present time, Kloska is mowing daily at 0.120 inch. The green is lightly topdressed with sand two to four times per month. Irrigation during the first week of February was very lean — once every four to six days. Prior to that, irrigation had been applied somewhat more frequently. Fertility (especially N) has also been very lean since grow-in.

**Turf Quality and Ball Roll**

The experiment was initiated in June 1998 and grown in by early September. Dr. Kevin Morris, NTEP National Program Coordinator, Beltsville, Maryland provided the grasses. Tifgreen does not stand up to low mowing heights very well while some of the ultradwarfs are performing quite well even when irrigation was lean during early February (Table 2).

Our preliminary ball roll measurements indicate differences between the grasses as well (Table 2). FloraDwarf had the longest ball roll distance (Table 2). It should be noted that there are slope effects on the practice green and we are attempting to correct for slope differences within plots.

Once we correct for slope the results provided herein may require adjustment as well.

Interestingly, based on these initial observations, there doesn't appear to be a strong relationship between aesthetic quality and greens performance.

**NTEP plots at Jupiter Island Club.**

SOURCE	Quality 9/26	Quality 11/10	Quality 2/11	Ball Roll(ft) 2/11
FloraDwarf	8.5ab	7.2b	6.3bc	11.1a
MiniVerde	8.8a	8.8a	7.8a	9.4c
TifEagle	7.7bc	7.2b	7.3ab	10.4b
Tifdwarf	8.0abc	7.0bc	6.0c	10.3b
Champion	7.2cd	6.8bc	7.8a	10.4b
MSSupreme	6.3d	6.0c	7.2ab	10.0bc
Tifgreen	3.8e	4.2d	4.3d	9.6c
SIGNIF.	**	**	**	**

Table 2. Observations made from NTEP plots at Jupiter Island Club.

Means with the same letter within a column are not significantly different according to Duncan's Multiple Range Test.

Turf quality based on a 1-10 scale with 10=dense turf, 1=dead turf and 6=minimally acceptable.

\*\* = P<0.01

Consider FloraDwarf. FloraDwarf's turf quality scores on Feb. 11 are not among the best, yet ball roll distance on that date (a key factor for play performance) on FloraDwarf was significantly longer than other turfgrasses in the trial.

As the saying goes, "time will tell," and the race really is just beginning. This trial will be conducted over the next five years with ball roll, color, texture and other performance characteristics quantified.

One of the purposes of this article is to inform you of what's going on with ultradwarf research in the South. Both Rob Kloska (561-546-1184) and I (954-475-8990) encourage you to visit the Jupiter Island Club and take a look at the new grasses under comparative conditions.

Contact Kevin Morris (301-504-5125) for further information about other NTEP sites, tests, etc. Many visitors have already stopped by including representatives of the USGA Green Section Research Committee members, NTEP Director Kevin Morris, Dr. Dave Chalmers, Virginia Polytechnical Institute, and representatives from Thomas Bros. Turf.

Other non-NTEP sites in South Florida with some or all the ultradwarf varieties side-by-side include the Olde Florida Golf Club (Darren Davis, 941-353-4441) in Naples, and the University of Florida's Ft. Lauderdale REC. If you have the time make your own observations, seeing is believing.

The data in Table 2 reflects some visual turf quality scores since grow-in and a winter ball roll score.

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# FQPA: EPA's Rush To Judgment

BY JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

**O**n March 3, I attended an FQPA Workshop sponsored by the Florida FQPA Working Group of which I have been a member for the past year.

While I wish I could report an easy solution to the implementation puzzle, when the EPA and politics is involved, nothing is easy! What attendees did learn was:

The politics that went into the passage of FQPA was presented by Dan Barolo, former director of EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs. Barolo is now a consultant with Jellinek, Schwartz and Connolly, Inc and the international working group's main advocate and watchdog on FQPA in Washington, D.C.

Barolo went on to say that Congress literally voted on the Food Quality Protection Act without having even read or debated it. It was last-minute legislation agreeable to all parties (if implemented as originally discussed) that was designed to replace the old cumbersome Delaney Act.

It turns out that the FQPA is turning out to be the most significant and far-reaching environmental legislation passed in decades.

For that reason the politicians in EPA are taking a hard line and narrow approach to implementing the law.

In reality, no one — including EPA — was aware of the enormity of the undertaking required by the new law. EPA was not staffed adequately to do all the tolerance reassessments in the time allotted. That is one reason EPA is using quick and easy default assumptions which grossly exaggerate pesticide use and exposure.

The biggest disappointment in the process so far is the Department of Agriculture's slow, almost non-existent response to the FQPA implications. The USDA has information which could help with some of the conservative assumptions EPA is mak-

ing. Pressure is being brought to bear on them, but they have not been doing their job for agriculture.

There was a case study presentation by representatives from DuPont and Rohm & Haas. The difficulty in registering new products was highlighted including the time line and costs.

The bottom line is that with current trends from EPA, manufacturers are making business decisions today that will affect the ag industry 15 years from now.

They called it a "death by 1,000 tiny cuts."

There won't be any headline-grabbing product bans. But over time, with a series of label and use changes and costly tolerance reassessments, manufacturers will abandon niche products which become unprofitable and refocus on international markets where resistance and regulations are not so odious to deal with.

Our arsenal of tools will shrink by attrition, and new research will not be very vigorous.

Business is business.

A wrap-up panel discussion produced these take-home messages:

1. Encourage state and local regulators to take "real world" use and exposure data to EPA to provide better insight into the process.

2. USDA is key. They have US ag statistics that could help EPA. The ball

is in their court. It's not a money issue, rather one of priorities.

3. List/prioritize products that are important to our industry. Describe critical needs. Provide actual USE data and any mitigation data.

4. Tell registrants/manufacturers about your product concerns and that you expect their support through the reassessment process. ID those pesticide you need!

5. It's a legislative issue. Ask why EPA is ignoring current law provisions, and taking hard line and narrow interpretations. (Barolo: "The professionals/scientists in EPA want to do a good job. They don't want their name on bad rules. The politicians in EPA are what cause the problem.")

6. FQPA requirements keep shifting and it's hard to pin EPA down to address/discuss actions. Final decision will be made this summer which will then focus issues that can be addressed by working groups for sanity and fair play.

7. The international working group has a "road map" plan for EPA to guarantee a logical, systematic, scientifically-based way to implement the law. EPA so far has not been inclined to use that plan.

Keep writing your representatives and keep asking for good science and real world data in implementing the FQPA.

## FQPA-Participation Critical

Allen James, executive director of Responsible Industry for a Safe Environment (RISE) says now is the time to keep up the pressure on Congress. Grassroots response has slowed down the process, but EPA has not been swayed from their course of faulty risk assessment. Joel Jackson, FGCSA director of communications will prepare a letter to your representative and senators for your signature on your club's letterhead stationery. Just send three sheets of your club's letterhead stationery and a self addressed stamped envelope to: Mr. Joel Jackson, FQPA, 6780 Tamarind Circle, Orlando FL, 32819. The letters will be returned to you for your signature and mailing to your legislators to keep the pressure on EPA to use good science and common sense in enacting the law.

## Ban On Methyl Bromide Delayed

Recently Congress and the Clinton administration changed the U. S. Clean Air Act to allow continued use of methyl bromide until the year 2005.

This extension is quite a rare accomplishment, but due to the communication efforts of many turf and agriculture professionals, industry, and numerous trade organizations, Congress understood the importance of methyl bromide as a soil fumigant to all of American agriculture.

The 2005 date was set by a treaty known as the Montreal Protocol for all developed nations. The United States law had previously required a phase-out by the year 2001.

The extension however is accompanied by a 25 percent reduction in methyl bromide production beginning in Jan. 1 and followed by an additional 25 percent cut Jan. 1, 2001 and another 20 percent

*The extension however is accompanied by a 25 percent reduction in methyl bromide production beginning in Jan. 1.*

decrease Jan. 1, 2003.

What this means is that the supply of methyl bromide is and will become increasingly tight as the next reduction phase kicks in. Prices will continue to rise, particularly in the lower-volume uses, such as quarantine, commodity and structural fumigation.

Ironically, the continuing development of improved turfgrass varieties is making the concept of "strip, till, fumi-

gate and grass" more feasible than ever. This concept, however, will not last much beyond 2005 without complications unless comparable alternatives are found.

The United States Department of Agriculture has the responsibility of trying to develop alternatives to methyl bromide fumigation for agricultural use and has spent millions of dollars in the effort. The only current study under way is being funded in part by the GCSAA with research being conducted jointly by the University of Florida at the Milton IFAS station, Georgia Foundation Seed and Hendrix and Dail, Inc.

The United States EPA is currently in the process of determining critical uses of methyl bromide and will seek input from various user groups. We will need your help again, as it will be very important that the EPA hear from you. The Methyl Bromide Working Group will let you know how and when you can help.

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# Bentgrass in Florida: Rolling the Dice Again!

## Old Marsh Knowingly Decides To Gamble and Try Bentgrass

BY JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

**I** know. I know. You're saying, "Why in the world would anyone plant straight bentgrass greens in Florida? Didn't we already try that in the mid 1980s?"

The answer to the second question is, "Yes, and only one of them still has their bentgrass greens."

The answer to the first question is a little more complicated and is the reason for this article.

Before the word gets out that the Old Marsh Country Club in Palm Beach Gardens has planted bentgrass greens and the members just love it, I wanted to do an article about what went into the decision and the factors involved at Old Marsh that made it feasible at least to make the attempt.

Back up to 1996. The greens at Old Marsh were 13 years old and the original Tifdwarf was not performing well, especially during overseeding and transition. The owner, Larry Delpig, Sr. and the members were of a mind to replant the greens to improve the playing conditions year round. Superintendent Steve Ehrbar, CGCS began looking at the new ultradwarf grasses down in Fort Lauderdale at the FGCSA Research Green. While these had definite possibilities, they do not overseed easily and the members were not keen on some of the area courses they played that were not overseeded. So Ehrbar began looking at the new bentgrass varieties.

Dr. Milt Engelke of Texas A&M, developer of the new Crenshaw bentgrass, was brought on board as a consultant. Engelke had also been involved with the bentgrass greens at the nearby Loxahatchee Golf Club, which recently decided to replant with bermuda. Steve and Dr. Engelke rode and graded the entire golf course, rating each green for



After a year of testing several bentgrass varieties on the site, Superintendent Steve Ehrbar, CGCS, left, and his assistant Jim Colo are optimistic about their chances of managing all of the newly replanted G-2 greens at the Old Marsh Golf Club in Palm Beach Gardens. Photo by Joel Jackson.

soil profile, drainage, air movement, sunlight, traffic patterns and contours. The course graded out to a B - B+ rating and Dr. Engelke ventured that it might be possible to try some of the new bentgrasses.

The owner asked Ehrbar to come up with a proposal of what tools it might take to grow bentgrass and he looked at aerifiers, fans, and irrigation modifications. Ehrbar visited with Scott Bell at Bent Pine in Vero Beach with his bentgrass-over-bermuda base greens and with David Lowe at the Plantation at Ponte Vedra, who still had 15-year-old Penncross greens from the mid 1980s. Lowe has had to resort to installing several fans on each green for his location, and this was not acceptable for Old Marsh. Ehrbar also visited a course in

South Carolina with Crenshaw greens.

At the GCSAA conference in Anaheim, Ehrbar attended a presentation by the superintendent of Pinehurst #2 that had new G-2 bentgrass greens and heard what an aggressive Mat-A-Way and top-dressing program it required. He also talked to superintendents from the Atlanta area to pick up any information he could about bentgrass management in the south. But each location and course is different and the only place to really tell is on your own course. So, that's what Old Marsh did.

In 1997 Ehrbar planted the practice green in G-2 bentgrass and planted a chipping green with 1/3 Crenshaw, 1/3 L-93 and 1/3 with a blend of those two varieties. He managed those greens for a whole year putting them through height

of cut changes and different watering and fertility schedules. He sprayed fungicides only once and saw only limited fungus activity on all three surfaces.

After all this research and testing, the owner and the board decided to give G-2 bentgrass a chance.

"The board reasoned that we are going to re-grass anyhow," Ehrbar said. "What if we give G-2 a try? Old Marsh does approximately 18,000 rounds per year and 16,000 of those rounds are between Nov. 1 and May 1 when conditions would be most favorable to bentgrass.

"The most likely time for problems will be July, August and September when the club is the slowest anyhow. Last year revealed that G-2 responded the quickest of the three to injury when it was being put through different management worst-case scenarios."

The greens were originally built to modified USGA specifications. They were straight DOT sand with no choker

layer. Percolation rates range from 17 inches per hour to the mid-20s.

The re-grassing plan was to not disturb the surface contours. Two applications of Round Up were applied and then they were "hot gassed" with Methyl Bromide. The seed was applied on Aug. 31 over the top of the old bermuda organic layer.

The cost for the conversion was estimated at \$35,000 in lost revenue, \$25,000 in extra maintenance and seed costs for a total investment of \$60,000 to \$70,000. It was an investment the owner and members were willing to make to try to have bentgrass greens year round.

"I strongly feel it can be done in the right situation," Ehrbar said, having studied all the factors and getting owner and member support. "You have to keep a lot of things in mind and certainly summer conditions is one of them. Our experiences with G-2 during 1997 made us feel like it was a reasonable risk for our club and our situation. It isn't for everybody."

*The board reasoned that we are going to re-grass anyhow. What if we give G-2 a try? Old Marsh does approximately 18,000 rounds per year and 16,000 of those rounds are between Nov. 1 and May 1 when conditions would be most favorable to bentgrass.*

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Ehrbar continued, "Water is the key issue. Dr. Engelke is against syringing as a standard, automatic practice. We did not want to have annoying fans and frequent syringing. It was a consideration to having the bentgrass at all. We are very cautious on our watering and border on the dry side."

When asked if he then tended toward the holistic watering practice of watering deeply and infrequently, Ehrbar responded, "Definitely!"

"We have gone as much as 21-25 days between waterings this winter. During the summer we could only go about four days between waterings. We do some hand-watering on areas that may have irregular soil-mix depths and we check dew patterns for potential dry spots. It does require a good eye and you have to stay on your toes seven days a week."

Ehrbar is acutely aware he has put himself on the hot seat by re-introducing bentgrass in South Florida, but it should be known that Old Marsh did not

*Each year will bring different conditions and the grass will react differently to those conditions.*

do this on a whim or for bragging rights. It was a long and thoughtful process of finding a grass variety that seemed to fit their membership needs and desires. Bentgrass is definitely not for everyone.

Ehrbar and his staff are still learning every day what it takes to manage this new bentgrass. Each year will bring different conditions and the grass will react differently to those conditions.

"It may look good now, but wait until the third year," some people say. Three years from now Ehrbar may be planting

a new ultradwarf, but for now he has bentgrass greens to manage. The members at Old Marsh understand that this is a calculated gamble, but one they were willing to take, based on their specific situation, and willingness to gamble is a key ingredient every club needs to take into account.

One final word. Whenever a club contemplates making a change in grass varieties, used anywhere on the golf course, the best course of action is to plant several different kinds and grow them for a minimum of one year to get the change of seasons and to see how it reacts to traffic and mowing and the general performance expectations of your particular club. This goes for bermudagrasses as well as any other kind of turf.

If your greens do not have excellent drainage, good sunlight and air circulation, a modern reliable irrigation system, and is not fully staffed, I can guarantee you failure if you try to grow bentgrass in Florida.



Old Marsh 9th hole and clubhouse. Photo by Joel Jackson.



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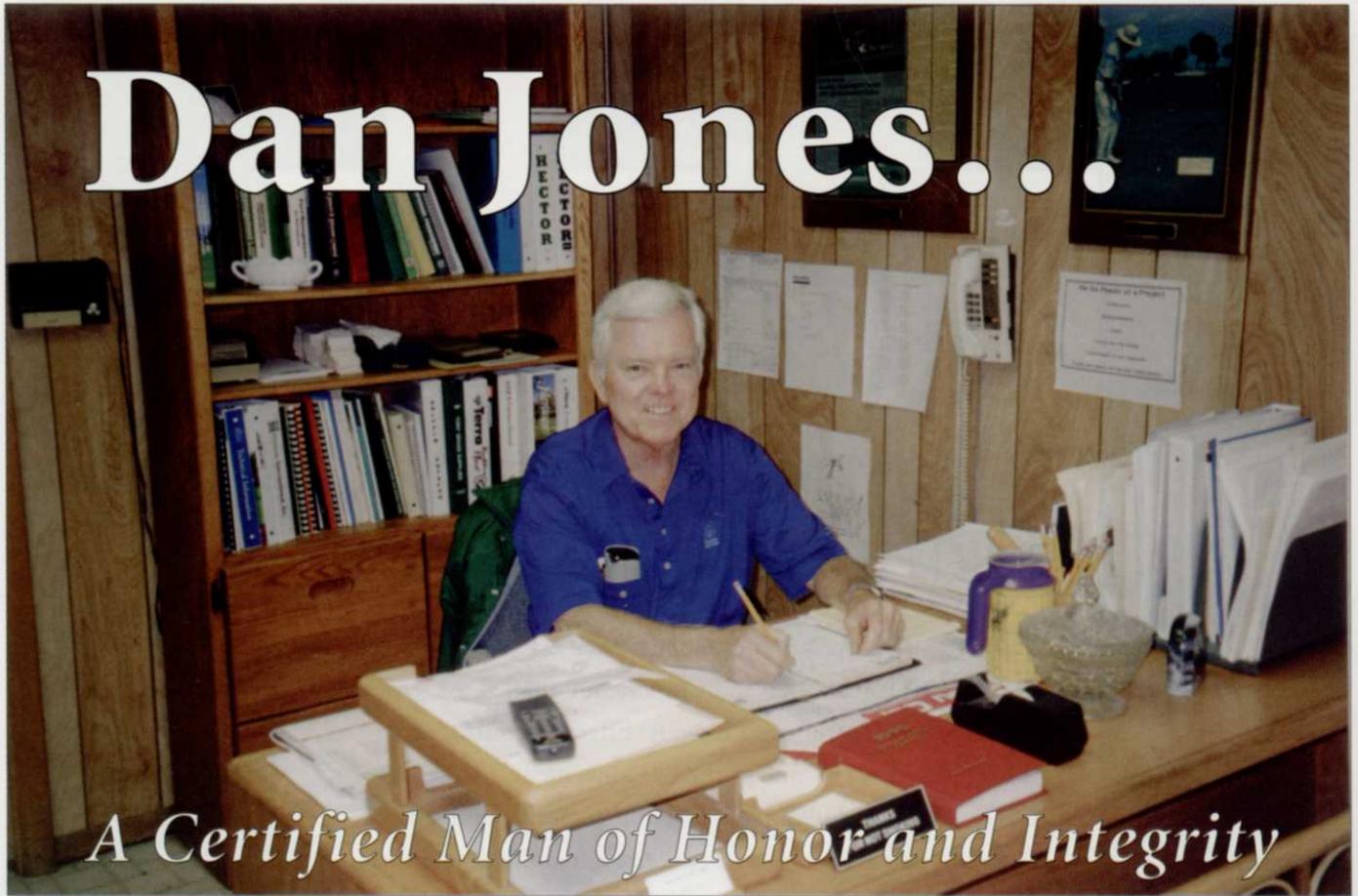
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# Dan Jones...



## *A Certified Man of Honor and Integrity*

*Dan Jones, CGCS, winner of the 1999 GCSAA Distinguished Service Award shown here at his desk at the Banyan Golf Club just before his retirement in April, 1998. Photo by Mark Jarrell.*

BY MARK JARRELL, CGCS

**I**n April of 1998, when Dan Jones announced his resignation from The Banyan Golf Club in West Palm Beach after 18 years of service there and a total of 33 years as a golf course superintendent, his intentions were to work a while on the commercial side and quietly fade into retirement. His many friends and peers in Florida wouldn't hear of it.

Though Dan had garnered many awards during his distinguished career - including the Leo Feser Award in 1978, the FGCSA's Distinguished Service Award in 1987; the FTGA's "Wreath of Grass" Award also in 1987, and numerous awards as editor/publisher of *The Florida Green* — his colleagues had one more in mind!

Nominated and strongly endorsed by

the Florida GCSA, Morris Daniel Jones was awarded the GCSAA's Distinguished Service Award on his first nomination during ceremonies at the GCSAA's 70th International Golf Course Conference and Show in Orlando, affirming the national significance of his contributions to the golf and turf industry.

Some of these contributions include participating in trials of both warm- and cool-season grasses; cooperating on field trials of many new pesticides and biological control agents; authoring articles and speaking at numerous functions; serving on the Lake City School of Golf Course Operations' Advisory Board; testing and advocating the use of the white amur for aquatic weed control; serving his state as the president of the Florida Turfgrass Association; and acting as a teacher, role model, counselor, and friend to a countless number of turfgrass professionals.

For his crowning achievement, one need look no further than the masthead of this magazine to find the name Dan Jones as Editor Emeritus. His name will forever be synonymous with *The Florida Green*. For 14 years beginning in 1976, Dan and his wife Irene published the magazine, taking it from a small South Florida Chapter newsletter, to the award-winning official magazine of the Florida GCSA. This was in the days before the computer made desktop publishing possible, and everything was cut and pasted to fit its given space. As David Bailey, CGCS of Turnberry Isles and Dan's right hand on the magazine in those early years, recalls, "Dan and Irene put in an unbelievable amount of time on the magazine. At times it seemed that half their house was filled with magazines and publishing paraphernalia."

Dan's professional accomplishments,

emblazoned by the awards he has received in recognition of his service and sacrifice, will remain as his official legacy. I will leave further documentation and embellishment of his official contributions to writers more talented. Dan's more endearing, and enduring, legacy, in the humble opinion of one who has known him and called him friend for 18 years, can be summarized by the simple word, "character."

Many people have done great deeds at the expense of their humanity — hard work and sacrifice often require that compromise to reach the mountaintop. More than the consummate professional, Dan Jones is a man of virtue, honor, compassion, generosity, and integrity, tempered by humility and a fun-loving sense of humor. He walks the mountain on the shoulders of all those to whom he has extended his friendship, support, and counsel.

The proof is in the testimony of those who have known and worked with Dan

throughout his long and distinguished career. World class golf course designer Joe Lee says, "I have never met a finer gentleman than Dan Jones. He is extremely skilled in his craft, and no superintendent has tried harder to maintain the integrity of the golf course design."

Bob Jacobson, Dan's Green Committee Chairman at Banyan for nine years, calls Dan "a fine human being. We became very close friends and I miss him. He loved his work and took a great interest in the well being of his crew."

In the golf business, it is often typical, at least privately, for the succeeding superintendent to criticize perceived failings of his predecessor. Not so in Dan's case. Clint Smallridge, CGCS, who followed Dan at the Banyan, had nothing but praise for the man he describes as "a giant in the industry. In Clint's inimitable words, "I've been smelling Dan's trail for many years. It is an honor beyond measure to follow him at Banyan. I hope I can live up to his legacy".

*I've been smelling Dan's trail for many years. It is an honor beyond measure to follow him at Banyan.*

Clint Smallridge, CGCS

It is interesting and revealing to note that the current presidents of both the Florida GCSA and the Florida Turfgrass Association are former Dan Jones' assistants.

Mike Perham, CGCS, president of the Florida GCSA and superintendent at The Fountains Golf Club, had this to say about Dan: "During the nearly two years that I worked for Dan, and the subse-

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*The manner in which Dan was able to allocate his time to assure all responsibilities were taken care of greatly impressed me.*

Mike Perham, CGCS

quent 19 years that I have remained in contact with him, the most striking quality that continues to impress me is that of professionalism.

"During our tenure together at Aventura/Turnberry, Dan was editor of *The Florida Green* and heavily involved with the South Florida GCSA and the FTGA, all the while managing a 36-hole complex that hosted LPGA and PGA Senior events. The manner in which Dan was able to allocate his time to assure all responsibilities were taken care of greatly impressed me.

"Since leaving Dan's employment, I have utilized his advice when contemplating an employment change, or with problems on the golf course. As recently as 1997 he took time out of his busy schedule to visit me at The Fountains and consult with my manager regarding a serious agronomic issue at the club.

"With Dan, family always came first. He was like a second father to me. Marcy and I got engaged to be married shortly after I began working for Dan. On several occasions, Dan and Irene took Marcy and me out to lunch to become better acquainted. These sessions enabled the four of us to become steadfast friends, kindling a relationship that has lasted over 20 years."

Scott Wahlin, CGCS, president of the Florida Turfgrass Association and superintendent at Longboat Key Golf Club, was similarly effusive in his praise: "I worked for Dan from May '83 until Janu-

ary '85. Everyone who worked for Dan gave the utmost willingly and generously. His presence alone generated excitement and esprit de corps.

"I attribute this to the tremendous level of personal leadership Dan exercised over himself. He did wonderful things for his crew that could only be attributed to compassion, empathy, and kindness. He took personal responsibility to assure the rewards of those who followed his leadership.

"Dan could see the whole picture of the golf course in one tour. He saw everything there was to see today, but also the potential. How he was able to take everything in all at once still eludes me. I think you have to be a superintendent to truly appreciate this. It still takes me many trips around the golf course to approach this and still I am sure I fall short.

"Looking at Dan's life and career you

have to conclude there were many times he kept focused and pushing when there was just nothing left. Well, in his case, maybe not.

"Family tragedies and difficulties had to have taken their toll through stress and distraction, but he addressed his personal challenges the way he addressed all challenges.

"He was always able to focus his thoughts and energy on the big picture. I thank God for the privilege of knowing a man with the greatness of Dan Jones. Knowing Dan has provided me with the courage and stamina to deal with the traumatic experiences of my life. There have been many times when things were very dark in my life when I have relied upon the wisdom and role model provided by Dan.

"Dan unselfishly provided me with the tools I needed to succeed in this honorable profession. He said things like,

## Dan Jones

**Born Morris Daniel Jones** in 1936 in Moultrie, Georgia. Dan has been married to Irene for 42 years. He has two daughters - Denise and Cheryl - and 4 granddaughters - Jamie, Shayna, Raven, and Reagan. Dan has 6 brothers and 3 sisters, all living, and his 94-year-old mother lives in St. Petersburg.

**Dan's career:** 1965 - Fountain Valley Golf Course in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands; 1970 - Cerromar Beach Hotel in Puerto Rico; 1975 - Turnberry Isles; 1980 - The Banyan Club; 1998 - East Coast Sales Manager for Toro Liquid Ag, Inc.

**Editor Emeritus:** Dan began as editor and publisher of the *South Florida Green* magazine in July, 1976; The magazine became *The Florida Green* in 1980. Dan stepped down in 1989 after 14 years of award-winning publication service.

**Awards:** 1978 - Certified golf course superintendent; 1978 - GCSAA Leo Feser Award; 1987 - FTGA's "Wreath of Grass" Award; 1987 - FGCSA's "Distinguished Service Award; 1998 - GCSAA Distinguished Service Award.

**The Best and Worst:** Sunrises, sunsets, making a golf course shine, and his peers, is what Dan likes best about being a superintendent. Being on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and irrigation breaks at 3 p.m. on Fridays is what he likes least about being a superintendent.

**Personal Comment:** "I believe golf course superintendents are the finest group of people you can be associated with. People like Bill Wagner, Hans Schmeisser, Jimmy Blackledge, Joe Konwinski and Tom Mascaro I could go on and on for pages. I had a very personal satisfaction being the editor of *The Florida Green* for 14 years, being able to write articles, editorials, and encourage other superintendents to contribute. The many awards the magazine won are to be shared by all. I feel blessed by God to have had the career I've had for the past 33 years. I am looking forward to the challenge of the next 33."

*He did wonderful things for his crew that could only be attributed to compassion, empathy, and kindness. He took personal responsibility to assure the rewards of those who followed his leadership.*

Scott Wahlin, CGCS

'It is okay to let them see you defend yourself in the face of criticism. It lets them know you are serious.' ... 'If you get fired, make sure you pass a beautiful golf course on your way out. With integrity and ability, you have a career. With a particular golf course, you have a job.' ... 'It is better to be a hero on the golf course 365 days of the year than a hero in the boardroom for budget negotiations one day a year.' ... 'There is a lot of room at the top.' ... 'Listen to what your members have to say, but don't always do it. Sometimes they do not know what they want, but you still have to give it to them.'"

Tim Hiers, CGCS, Colliers Reserve, past president of the FGCSA, recipient of the FGCSA Distinguished Service Award, the FTGA Wreath of Grass Award, the GCSAA Environmental Steward Award, among others, also has strong feelings about Dan Jones.

"Next to God, if it wasn't for Dan Jones, I wouldn't be in the position I am

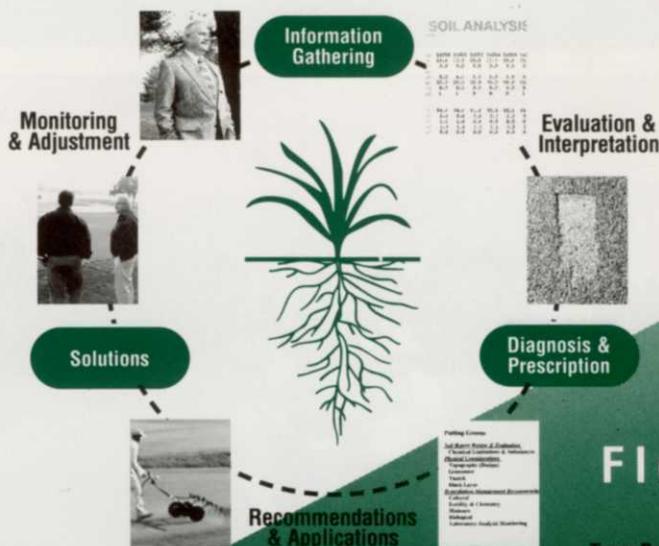
today. Dan has given me valuable counsel at difficult periods in my life. I've always wanted to be like Dan — his ambition, integrity, and skill are without peer in our profession."

Tim also gives insight into Dan's keen sense of humor. For many years, Tim, Dan, and Mike Bailey traded practical jokes, each trying to outdo the other. One time Dan was scheduled to visit Tim when Tim was at Quail Ridge C.C. Tim instructed the gatehouse guard to give Dan the third degree, asking his height, age, and weight, how many kids he had, where he was born, checked his driver's license, etc., topping it off by asking to inspect the trunk of his car — everything but a cavity search. Dan nearly drove away, but endured it all and then refused to say anything to Tim, not wanting to give him the satisfaction of knowing Tim had gotten him.

Another time Dan was sure another attempt to get him had occurred when he attended a meeting at John's Island,

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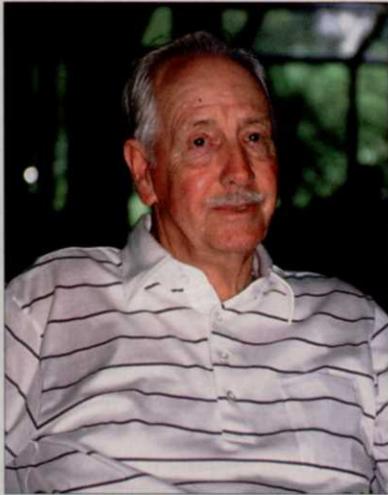


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*I have never met a finer gentleman than Dan Jones. He is extremely skilled in his craft, and no superintendent has tried harder to maintain the integrity of the golf course design.*

Joe Lee

Golf Ventures, credits Dan with helping him to secure his first superintendent's job. Walt worked for Dan in the summer of 1978 at Turnberry doing his OJT with Lake City Community College. Dan prompted Walt to write an article for *The South Florida Green* about the herbicide trials they were conducting and took him to his first superintendent's meeting, introducing him to as many people as possible.

Dan then recommended Walt for an FTGA scholarship, which he received the following October. Dan worked it out with Lake City for Walt to come down in February to work for one week during the LPGA's Elizabeth Arden Clas-

where Tim had relocated after Quail Ridge. Shortly after Dan's arrival, the late Whit Collins, who was the featured speaker, approached him and informed him that his tire was flat. Dan smelled a rat and refused to believe it, figuring Tim had put Whit up to it.

The truth is, Whit witnessed Dan getting out of his vehicle, and following him up to the clubhouse, noticed the tire was flat as he passed by. After telling Dan, he told Tim, and Tim had his mechanic repair the tire while the meeting was in session. Dan came out to a perfectly good tire and did not believe that it had ever been flat, that Tim's practical joke had failed. To this day he still believes the tire was never flat!

Tim says that Dan was just as good at dishing it out as receiving it, but wouldn't give him the satisfaction of acknowledging the remembrance of any of Dan's efforts. He concludes his comments by stating that "If gray hairs are any sign of intelligence, then Dan's the smartest person I've ever met", and "I look forward to the day I can be as old as Dan Jones."

Walt McMahon, CGCS, past president of the Palm Beach GCSA, now with

*(Dan is) a fine human being. We became very close friends and I miss him. He loved his work and took a great interest in the well being of his crew.*

Bob Jacobson  
Greens Chairman



Architect Joe Lee, Greens Chairman Bob Jacobson and Superintendent Dan Jones discuss a project at Banyan Golf Club in 1989.

sic, gaining invaluable experience with tournament operations.

Walt said, "In 1981, Dan's recommendation was the key to my getting my first superintendent job at Deer Creek at the ripe old age of 23. When I jumped ship to the supply side in 1993, Dan was very supportive and anxious for me to succeed. I sincerely thank Dan for all his help and friendship, and I congratulate him on winning the GCSAA's Distinguished Service Award".

Mike Bailey, CGCS, now with A & L Labs, became close with Dan 20 years ago when Mike was at Boca Greens. "Several people have had a major impact upon my life both professionally and personally, but Dan Jones stands head and shoulders above the rest.

"Dan urged me to write articles for *The Florida Green*, eventually instilling in me the confidence to begin my many years of association service, including the creation of the *Green Sheet*. Dan has that unique ability to make you feel com-

fortable and confident enough to take on new challenges. His help and influence persuaded me to leave the safe cocoon of Boca Greens and tackle the construction and maintenance of The Falls Country Club.

"I've always admired Dan's ability to be calm and in control, and be true to his friends and family. He has always had time for me and my family. He is a real superman in an era where heroes can't be trusted and many so-called friends aren't truly your friend. I feel very fortunate to know Dan and call him a true friend."

Joel Jackson, CGCS, current editor of *The Florida Green* had this to say about Dan:

"The thing I always admired about Dan was that he always "walked the talk." His infectious enthusiasm for the profession and *The Florida Green* was obviously contagious for me. I probably wouldn't be exploring this new role as director of communications for the as-

*I've always admired Dan's ability to be calm and in control, and be true to his friends and family. He has always had time for me and my family. He is a real superman in an era where heroes can't be trusted and many so-called friends aren't truly your friend.*

Mike Bailey



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***Dan gave me the motivation and direction I needed to become a golf course superintendent. He became a role model, and set standards and techniques that I follow to this day.***

David Demmery, CGCS

sociation if it hadn't been for Dan asking me 10 years ago if I was interested in taking over as editor of the magazine.

"Like so many others, I owe Dan a large debt of gratitude for his devotion and leadership for our profession. Although I didn't get to work for or with Dan in turf management, I was always inspired by his passion and professionalism at seminar presentations or FGCSA board meetings. I suppose I could call him a role model for those of us who volunteer to serve our associations."

It took David Demmery, CGCS of the Polo Club of Boca Raton, one week working for Dan at Turnberry to change career direction.

David took a job at the IFAS research station in Ft. Lauderdale under Dr. Jim Reinhert after graduating from FSU with a teaching degree.

He developed an interest in golf course maintenance from his exposure to turf research projects, but became sold on a career after working just one week for Dan at Turnberry.

Demmery recalls, "Dan gave me the motivation and direction I needed to become a golf course superintendent. He became a role model, and set standards and techniques that I follow to this day."

Dan's own start in the business was just as unconventional. He was working

as a maintenance engineer at a Rock Resorts hotel in St. Croix of the U.S. Virgin Islands in 1966 when he was asked by consultant Dr. Max Brown to try the superintendent's position on their new Fountain Valley Golf Course.

As Max, founder of Liquid Ag and currently director of agronomic services for Toro, tells it, "The golf course was not being maintained very well and within a very few months the golf course superintendent left.

"Rather than import another young superintendent from the states, the general manager and I chose to gamble on teaching this young, energetic, hard-working hotel engineer to be a golf course superintendent.

"I began by touring the course and explaining, 'this is a tee, this is a green, this is a sand trap, etc.' I wrote out precise descriptions for mowing, watering, cup cutting and all other procedures for maintaining a golf course. He had excellent people-handling skills and liked working from detailed procedures.

After two days of training, I left. I came back in two weeks and found the conditions of the golf course to be dramatically improved.

"Dan never quit asking questions and was a virtual sponge for information. I sent him text books, technical reprints, and university bulletins of all kinds. Every month that I returned, the golf course had improved considerably until it was voted the best-maintained golf course in the Caribbean Islands within two years of his taking over."

Dan stayed at Fountain Valley until 1970, when political unrest made him so uneasy that he requested a transfer to the Rock Resorts' Cerromar Beach in Puerto Rico. It proved to be a most providential decision.

Within three weeks of Dan's departure, seven people, including the young superintendent who replaced him, were murdered on the terrace of the clubhouse by members of an independence movement called "The Youngbloods."

At the Cerromar Beach Hotel, Dan supervised the construction and growth of two golf courses. He was then offered his choice of two jobs — chief

maintenance engineer for the combined Dorado Beach and Cerromar Beach Hotels and facilities, or superintendent of grounds for the two facilities, which included 72 holes of golf, 100 acres of hotel landscape, and nearly 2,000 acres of other property.

To the golf course industry's benefit, he chose the golf course superintendent's profession. From there he moved on to the Turnberry Isles position in 1975 and The Banyan Club in 1980. He is currently the East Coast sales manager for Toro Liquid Ag.

Away from the world of golf greens and magazines, Dan's character blazes even brighter with acts and deeds of great service and sacrifice. Dan's wife Irene says that she "was first attracted to Dan because of the way he treated others with a real sense of fairness and respect. This fairness and respect has not diminished over the 42 years we have been married."

For example, Dan and Irene started a sharing group in their church 15 years ago for people who are afflicted by the disease of drug and alcohol abuse. The group is called Crossover, and it min-

***They have always been upbeat, optimistic, enthusiastic, energized, humble, thankful, and reverent, always focused on what they can do for the other person rather than their own needs. I have very few personal heroes in my life, but Dan Jones is certainly one of them.***

Max Brown, Ph.D.

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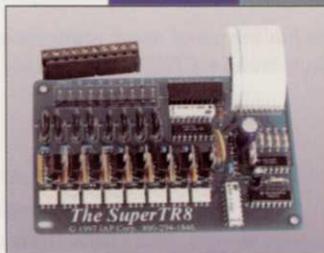
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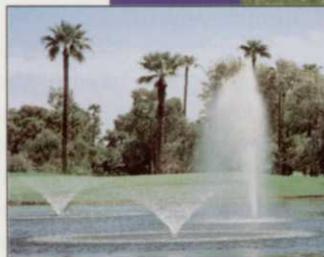
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*Dan Jones, CGCS (left) with his assistant superintendent Tim Enoch at the Banyan Golf Club. Dan has mentored many young assistants over his 33 year career. Coincidentally, current presidents Mike Perham, CGCS of the Florida GCSA and Scott Wahlin, CGCS of the Florida Turfgrass Association are both former Jones assistants. Photo by Mark Jarrell.*

isters to the whole family, because when one family member suffers, they all suffer. This sharing group is based on the Bible, which is where the 12 steps of AA originated. Responsibility, confidentiality, and prayer are stressed in the group.

Dan has also served for 12 years on the board of directors of Dunklin Memorial Camp, a Christian city of refuge for men with drug and alcohol problems. There are 75 men currently at the camp, and it is 75 percent self-sustaining. Dan is working on starting an aquaculture program to go along with Dunklin's cattle, citrus, lumber mill, bakery, vegetables, canning, and tree nursery industries.

Having known Dan for as long as anyone in the business, Max Brown has this to say about him: "I have

watched Dan and Irene deal with severe personal challenges over the 33 years I have known them, many of which would have brought most of us to our knees. I have also watched them excel with great success in most of their endeavors. They have always been upbeat, optimistic, enthusiastic, energized, humble, thankful, and reverent, always focused on what they can do for the other person rather than their own needs. I have very few personal heroes in my life, but Dan Jones is certainly one of them."

No greater example of Dan's selfless and giving nature can be demonstrated than his sacrifice and devotion to his granddaughters. Dan and Irene have been raising their daughter Denise's children, Jamie and Shayna, ages 9 and 7, for the past seven years due to

Denise's illness. I've seen Dan with those two beautiful little girls on a few occasions, and know their smiles mean more to him than any professional award he could ever receive, and my respect and admiration for him grows immeasurably.

If anyone's life could be described as "exemplary", it would be Dan Jones. If it was for sale, politicians would be lining up to buy it and tout as their own. As for those of us who have had the honor and the privilege of knowing Dan, he has set high standards of conduct for us to emulate. The challenge to us as individuals is to try our best to be like Dan personally and professionally. The challenge to the Florida GCSA is to create a special award in Dan's name that will reflect the values and legacy that he has left us. 

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## Call for Articles

This is a call for articles for the 1999 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 1999: Share your best practices and tips for these upcoming topics. Slides or photographs are encouraged.

- **Summer '99 Issue** - Soil Amendments: From Ceramics to Organics
- **Fall '99 Issue** - Superintendent Image and Visibility
- **Winter 2000 issue** - Microbes: The Millenium Bugs?

**SPOTLIGHT:** People and events

making news in Florida. From award winners to chapter tournaments and other accomplishments. Send in your story. Slides or photographs encouraged.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S JOURNAL:**

Personal observations or experiences related to any phase of the turf management profession. Slides or photographs encouraged.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

General management topics beyond turf. Examples: Education, facilities, personnel, computers, training, etc. Slides or photographs encouraged.

**INDUSTRY NEWS:** News items of interest to Florida superintendents from allied associations in the

turf/ horticulture industry. Slides or photographs encouraged.

**OPINION:** Exactly what it means!

Articles voicing a personal point of view on any topic concerning Florida superintendents. Slides or photographs encouraged.

**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. Slides or photographs encouraged.

**RUB OF THE GREEN:** Articles and anecdotes with a humorous twist. Slides or photographs encouraged.

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

## 1999 Florida Green Photo Contest

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

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

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

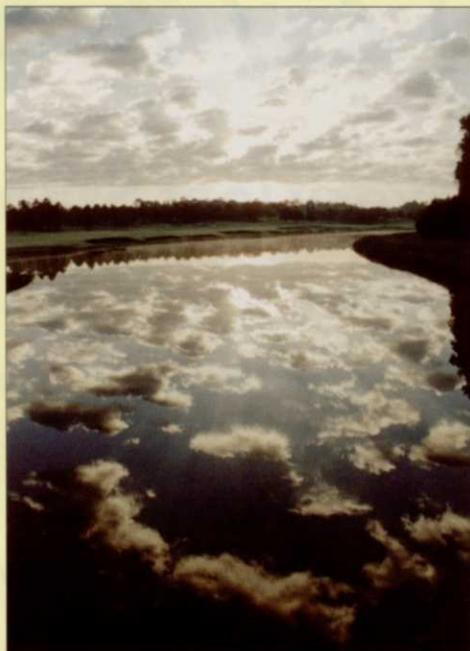
**Category 4** - Scenic Hole Layout Shots: sunrises, sunsets, frosts, storms and any other golf hole view.

### Prizes

- First Place (\$100) and Second Place (\$50) in each category.
- Editor's Choice - Best Overall Photo - \$100.
- All winning entries published in the Fall 1999 issue.

### Easy Rules

1. Color prints or slides. Only one entry per category.
2. Photo must be taken on an FGCSA member's course. Photo must be



1999 Photo Contest - Category 4 - Scenic Hole Layout. Disney's Osprey Ridge 18th hole. Photo by Joel Jackson

taken by an FGCSA member or a member of his staff.

3. Attach a label to the back of the print or slide which identifies the category, course and photographer. **DO NOT WRITE DIRECTLY ON THE BACK OF THE PRINT.** Each photo shall be attached to a sheet of 8.5 x 11 lined paper. Line up the photo with the vertical and horizontal lines to square the photo on the page. Attach the print to the paper using a loop of masking tape on the back of the photo. Slides must be easily removable for viewing.

4. A caption identifying the category, course and photographer should be typed or printed on the sheet of paper below the print or slide.

5. Judging will be done by a panel of FGCSA members not participating in the contest.

6. Mail entries in a bend-proof package to Joel D. Jackson, 6780 Tamarind Circle, Orlando 32819. No entries accepted postmarked after August 1, 1999.

## Down to Earth and Real

The golf course superintendents of Florida can really be proud of the articles and production of *The Florida Green*. This publication is first class in so many ways. Your photos are excellent. Your stories are down to earth and real and your ads are informative and not overwhelming.

Keep up the good work. We will feature your work from time to time on our show.

Ron Heller

Producer and host, *Golf Is Our Game*

Note: *Golf Is Our Game* is a sports venture by Ron Heller consisting of radio shows, television production and print publicity serving the golfing public from courses from Volusia to Hillsborough counties along the I-4 corridor.

**Thanks for the kind words Ron, and thanks to Janlark Communications our publisher, Daniel Zelazek our photographer and Marie Roberts our advertising manager for their hard work and talents that help make it all happen. We are also pleased that you recognize the important role of superintendents and feature them regularly in your shows to help educate golfers about the value of superintendents in the game of golf.**

Editor

## Thanks for Article

Just a note to thank you for your wonderful article on Pablo Creek in Winter issue of *The Florida Green*. Look forward to seeing you at the FGCSA reception at the GCSAA Conference in Orlando.

Glen Klauk, GCS  
The Pablo Creek Club

# Letters..

...to the Editor

**You're welcome Glen. Stories like Pablo Creek almost tell themselves because the attention to detail and the respect for the traditions of golf speak so loudly it is hard to miss the message of quality and sincerity of purpose. Congratulations to you and your staff on a marvelous golf course.**

## Integrity of the Profession

Reading the Winter 1999 issue of *The Florida Green* I was impressed as I have been with many recent issues. Format, quality and arrangement intrigue me but most of all your publication's dedication to the integrity of the profession that maintains the game that is playing so vital role in this era of social change.

Geoffrey S. Cornish  
Golf Course Architect

**Thank you Geoffrey for your comments and thank you and your teaching partner Robert Muir Graves for all the seminars at the GCSAA conferences where you shared your knowledge and expertise of course design with so many superintendents. Congratulations are also due to you and Robert on your new book, *Course Design*. It is an excellent reference on the history, art and science of your craft.**

## From North Carolina

I recently reviewed the Florida Green Fall 1998 issue from the Falls CC and wanted to express the enjoyment I had in reading your great publication. It has been six years since I left Florida. Time sure flies by!

Also, please express congratulations to Dan Jones, CGCS, for his years of dedication to the Florida Green and the turfgrass industry.

Again, thanks for your efforts and a great Afterwords/Green Side Up message.

Gary "Cutter" Smither  
Landfall Club  
800 Sunrunner Place  
Wilmington, NC 28405

**Thanks Gary. It was good to touch base in Orlando.**

## Thanks for Hospitality

Through the pages of your fine magazine we would like to thank our colleagues in Florida for the hospitality extended to us during the recent GCSAA conference. We played many outstanding courses and had numerous enlightening discussions with our fellow superintendents and their staffs.

In our opinion the level of greenskeeping on Florida courses is of the highest order that we have experienced anywhere in our travels around the world. We admire you all.

Gordon Witteveen, Toronto  
Michael Bavier, Chicago  
"The Magic of Greenskeeping"

**Gentlemen, on behalf of Florida superintendents everywhere, we appreciate your high recognition of our efforts in the brotherhood of greenskeeping.**

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**T**he word is out or at least it is finding ways of getting out. Superintendents are getting more and more media attention. We wanted respect for what we do. We wanted recognition for all the hard work and responsibility. Well, get ready and be prepared to handle what you asked for.

Two new national superintendent-oriented publications, *Golfdom* and *Golfweek's Superintendent News* premiered at the recent GCSAA Conference and Show. *Golf Course News*; GCSAA's *Golf Course*

*Management*; and USGA's *Green Section Record* continued to focus on our side of the business. There's no shortage of articles on who, what, why, when, where and how we do our jobs. They will be looking to superintendent to be interviewed or write these articles.

More and more regional and local golf newsletters and magazines are seeking superintendent-written articles on playing conditions and environmental stewardship. GCSAA's "Par For The Course" on the Golf Channel and even local cable TV shows are airing segments featuring superintendents and turf management. Yours truly is now sending regular news releases on superintendent meetings, events and

awards to sports editors and golf writers in all the major golf markets in Florida.

Jeff Bollig, GCSAA's director of media relations is working on media project that will have superintendents playing a round of golf with print and electronic golf media reps to explain those things we do on our courses. The concept is a spinoff of the Golf Decision Makers outing held at the GCSAA Conference each year. According to Bollig, The Golf Channel is interested in shooting footage of the outing and *Golfweek's* editorial staff seems willing to participate. All I have to do is help line up some superintendents to play and discuss turf management to their media playing partners.

This past December I attended the Golf and The Environment conference in Orlando, and the word is out to the environmental groups, too. While development and the siting of golf courses and the chemistry of ingredients in products is still a concern, these groups have acknowledged that professional superintendents and properly managed turf are not the threat to the environment they once thought.

With the growing media attention to superintendents and their role in the golf industry, it is becoming even more important than ever that we "walk the talk" to validate that respect and recognition we have claimed we deserve. The word is out. How will you respond?

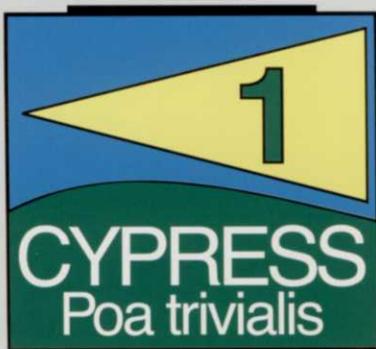
## The Word is Out

### Green Side Up



Joel Jackson, CGCS  
Editor

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**"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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