

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."

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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 Mash 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.

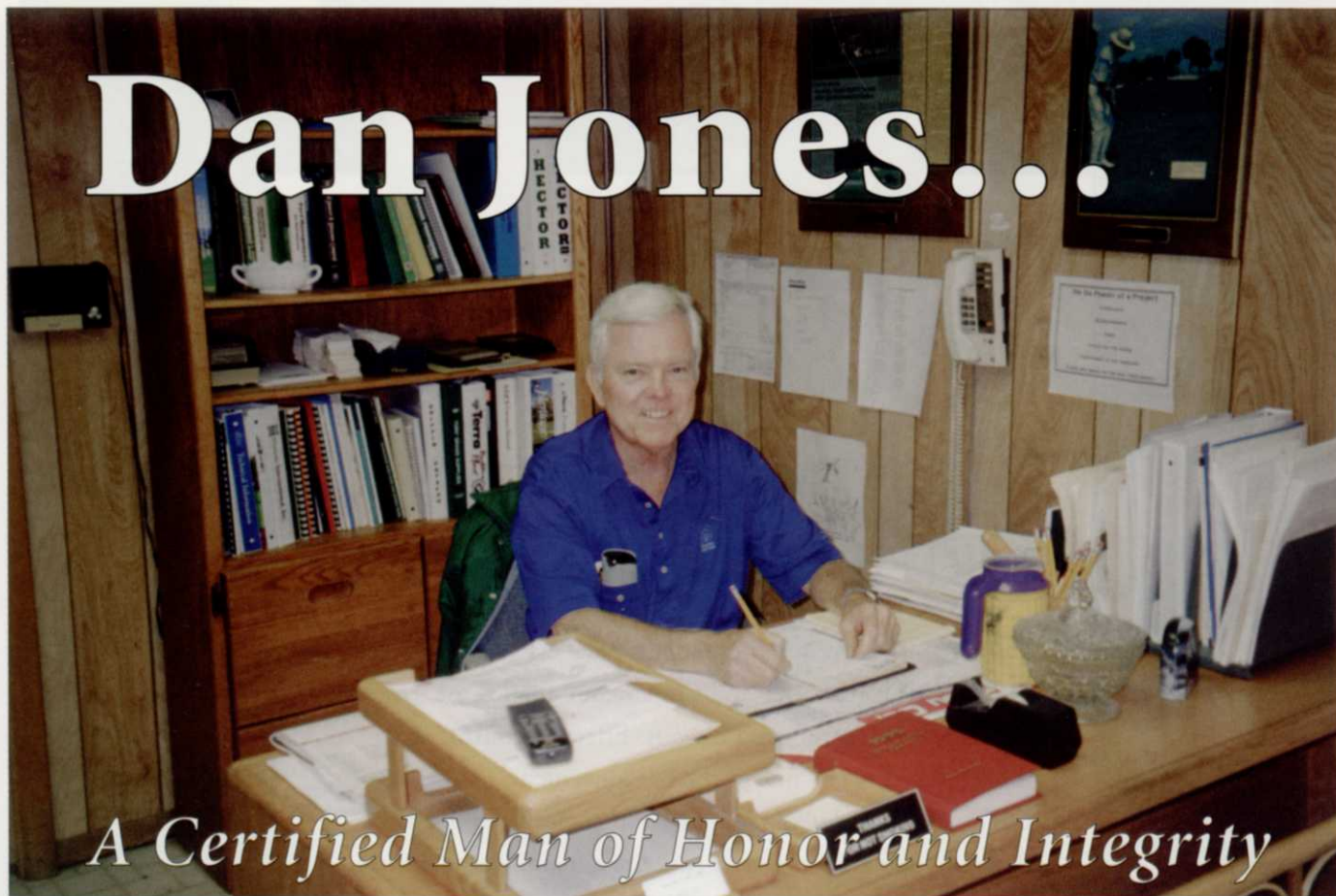
One final word. Whenever a club contemplates making a change in grass varieties, used anywhere on the golf course, the best course of action is to plant several different kinds and grow them for a minimum of one year to get the change of seasons and to see how it reacts to traffic and mowing and the 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.

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

In 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".

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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

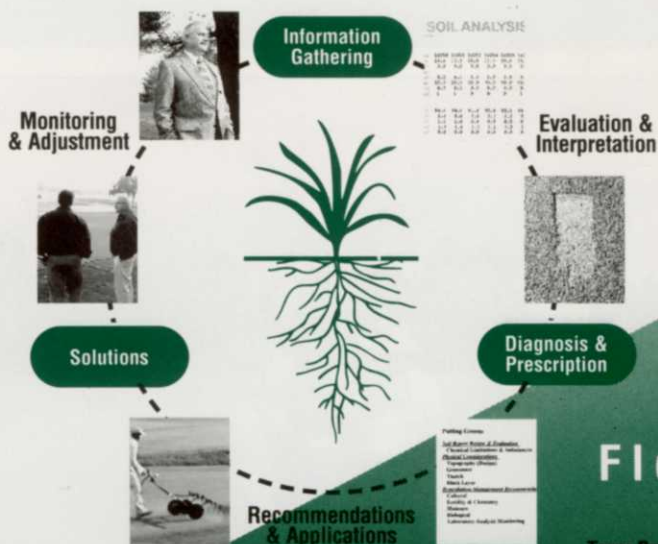
today. Dan has given me valuable counsel at difficult periods in my life. I've always wanted to be like Dan — his ambition, integrity, and skill are without peer in our profession."

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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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.

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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.



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. 

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.

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- **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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The 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