

profits –Companies can earn more by investing in inventory or other gainful opportunities, rather than tying up hard-earned profits in long-term equipment purchases which will depreciate in value.

**Affordability** – Golf courses can acquire new equipment conveniently and affordably, when budget restrictions might not allow for purchasing the equipment

“We can finance almost any course’s equipment needs with flexible lease packages that run anywhere from 24 to 60 months,” Slingerland says. “And a simple credit application is all that is required to set up an Express Lease for systems costing up to \$100,000. We can finance systems up to \$1 million with a more extensive financial report. Approval usually takes only a day or two.”

Flowtronex PSI can structure the lease/finance plan to fit any course’s need, such as providing for deferred payments for courses under construction and not yet earning income, and skip payments for courses closed during winter months.

With more than 8,000 golf course installations worldwide, Flowtronex PSI is the world’s largest manufacturer of water pumping systems for the turfgrass industry.

WILLIE SLINGERLAND

Flowtronex PSI Communications

(214) 357-1320

**Editor’s note:** As a rule, we do not run news releases on new products, companies or personnel. Exceptions are made from time to time solely at the editor’s discretion when new technology or services are announced that offer new turf management options to our readers.

FLORIDA AUTOMATED WEATHER NETWORK

### Current Weather Data

### Available From IFAS

The Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) is composed of 16 automated weather stations located at UF/IFAS Research and Education Cen-

ters and Extension Service Sites in Central and South Florida.

Its mission is “to provide accurate and timely weather data to a wide variety of users.” Because of the importance of weather in agriculture, every effort is made to have data collected and reported every 15 minutes.

Each site collects the temperature at 2, 6, and 30 feet, a soil temperature at 4 inches, wind speed and direction at 30 feet, relative humidity, rainfall, barometric pressure and radiation. Leaf wetness will be added soon. The information is transmitted to Gainesville where it is then distributed through the Internet (web site <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu>—There is no “www” in the address) and by way of a voice data system (see below).

Weather information is essential for agriculture and natural resource management. Although the initial motivation for the development of FAWN was a real-time data collection and delivery system for agriculture, interest and re-



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quests of the data have come from a wide variety of users. Water management districts, emergency service agencies, National Weather Service, private forecasters and private industry such as construction, service, manufacturing, etc. are interested in the data.

Growers are encouraged to use FAWN and provide comments so the system can be improved. Plans call for expansion to North Florida, improving the database, linking models such as chemical movements in soils, minimum temperature predictions, DISC (decision information system for citrus), and others.

| FAWN INTERACTIVE VOICE SYSTEM |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| LOCATION, COUNTY              | STATION NUMBER |
| Gainesville, Alachua          | 10             |
| Pierson, Volusia              | 11             |
| Oklawaha, Marion              | 12             |
| Umatilla, Lake                | 13             |
| Tavares, Lake                 | 14             |
| Okahumpka, Lake               | 15             |
| Apopka, Orange                | 16             |
| Avalon, Orange                | 17             |
| Lake Alfred, Polk             | 18             |
| Dover, Hillsborough           | 19             |
| Ft. Pierce, St. Lucie         | 20             |
| Ona, Hardee                   | 21             |
| Bradenton, Manatee            | 22             |
| Belle Glade, Palm Beach       | 23             |
| Immokalee, Collier            | 24             |
| Homestead, Dade               | 25             |

*Editor's note: I thought this UF/IFAS based weather network may be of interest as golf courses and urban areas*

*spread. You can cross check the data with what you are getting on DTN or the weather.com sites. Of course for those not yet online, the voice response system might be useful as you flirt with Mother Nature!*

### Interactive Voice Response System

When you travel or you are away from your computer, you can access the FAWN network data through a conventional telephone. To use the FAWN Dial-up system:

- (1) Dial (352) 846-3100
- (2) Enter a two digit weather station number shown in the table below, or a selected location.
- (3) Listen to the latest weather from FAWN.

### NECROLOGY

## Everglades Pioneer Paul Frank Dies

**P**aul Frank, a pioneer golf course developer, manager, superintendent and turfgrass researcher, died March 5 after a long bout with cancer. He was 66.

Except for three years in college (Florida Southern and UF) and two years in Germany with the U.S. Army, Frank spent his entire life in Collier County, where he and his father built the county's second golf course — Hole-in-the-Wall — on their 420-acre ranch in 1958. Fifteen years later, they built Wilderness Country Club where Frank served as superintendent and general manager.

One of the founders of the Everglades GCSA, Frank was a 40-year member of



Janlark 1992 File Photo

the GCSAA and a former director of the FTGA. He also served on the Collier County Planning Board for more than a decade and as a director of Barnett Bank for nearly two.

Frank is credited by many to have "discovered" ultradwarf bermudagrasses in the early 1980s when he propagated a single stolon of a dark, dense mutant of Tifton 328 bermudagrass from his 11th green into a 300-square-foot plot. In 1984, he planted the 11th green with his new grass, dubbed PF-11 in honor of its birthplace.

"Paul's greens were frequently used by scientists at the University of Florida for nematode research and other projects," noted Dr. Phil Busey, UF turfgrass breeder at the Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center.

"He was a pioneer in new grasses and other technology. One of Paul's grasses, PF-11 ultradwarf bermudagrass, has performed the best in several tests... he appears to have been the first to discover and first to adopt such cultivars."

"The golf turf industry will miss the vision and wisdom of this man of old Florida pioneer stock who asked little and gave much to his profession," said Joel Jackson, FGCSA communications director.

Frank is survived by a son, Paul M. Frank, and two daughters, Tamara Frank and Daria Webber.

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