



# The Florida Green

Summer 2000

GCSA  
ARCHIVE



Number 5  
Interlachen Country Club  
Winter Park  
Photo by Daniel Zelazek

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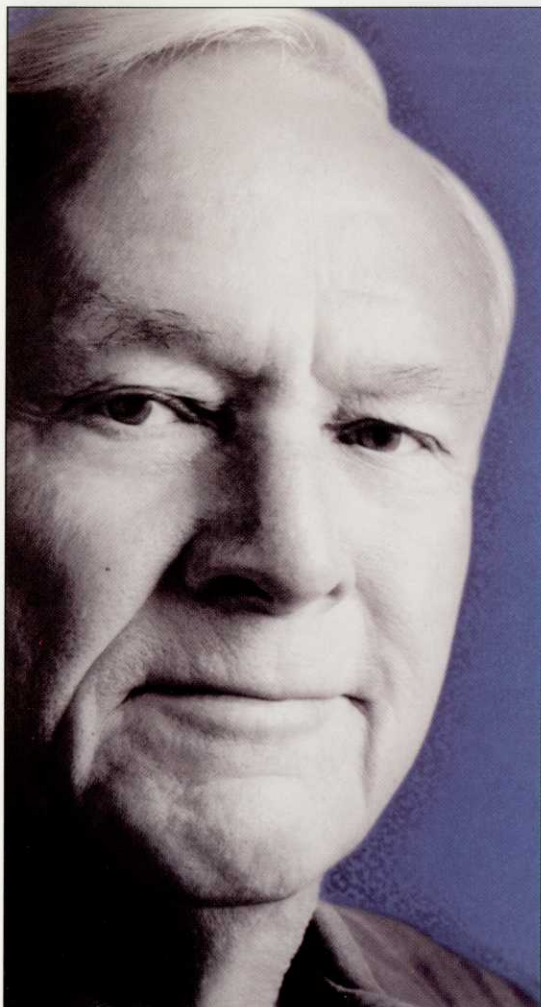
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Sunrise at Interlachen  
Photo by Stuart Leventhal, CGCS

## SUMMER 2000

**FOREWORDS THE YEAR IN REVIEW** ..... 6  
President Darren Davis hails the FGCSA's solid achievements during the past year and urges all to pay close attention to the GCSAA's Professional Development Initiative.

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Fred Klauk named GOLFWEEK's Father of the Year, two Florida students win GCSAA Legacy awards, and research fund-raisers set records.

**COVER STORY SANCTUARY IN THE CITY** ..... 20  
Interlachen Country Club in Winter Park, once a 300-acre spawning ground of annual muck fires, is now a certified wildlife sanctuary.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPETENCY-BASED EDUCATION** ..... 36  
The goal is not to make life more difficult for members, but to create meaningful learning experiences that will enhance a superintendent's ability to be successful.

**HANDS ON DON'T BUG ME** ..... 44  
Just when we get the turfgrass lush and healthy, the bugs move in for a feast. They can turn a velvety-smooth putting green into a ragged, pock-marked embarrassment.

**INDUSTRY NEWS PASSING THE BATON** ..... 56  
Dr. John Cisar, coordinator of the UF/IFAS turfgrass program for the past two years, has passed the baton to a new Turfgrass Working Group chaired by Dr. Bryan Unruh.

**OFFICIAL BUSINESS LICENSE TO DRIVE** ..... 64  
Superintendents should make sure they have the correct license to drive that pickup truck that they also use on the job. They may be in for a surprise.

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Legacy Club at Alaqua Lakes in Longwood has adopted the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Schools at Heathrow Elementary School.

**TURF RESEARCH FTGA ANNOUNCES \$97,000 FOR TURF RESEARCH** ..... 68  
The FTGA has funded nine projects, some of them multi-year projects, in addition to funds raised to support the Envirotron and a project funded by Florida sod growers.

**SUPERINTENDENTS JOURNAL HOW! YMCA PROGRAM FOR FATHERS** ..... 70  
The YMCA Indian Guides/Princess program is designed to help fathers spend quality bonding time with their children.

**AFTERWORDS PETER HUBER, MARK JARRELL, JOEL JACKSON** ..... 74

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**H**ey, why not? *Sports Illustrated* and *People Magazine* do it, so why not the *Florida Green*? This past year has been a very productive one for the FGCSA and I thought for my last Presidents Message I would highlight some of our accomplishments.

Foremost, I would like to thank the FGCSA board of directors, committee chairs, and our staff for all of the hard work this past year. Marie Roberts, who has been with our association for 15 years, continues to provide the FGCSA leadership

with operational guidance and continuity. She is definitely responsible for keeping things running smoothly. Also on staff for his second year, is Joel Jackson, CGCS. Joel has served on the *Florida Green* since 1990 and was hired by your FGCSA Board last year to serve as the FGCSA director of communications in addition to continuing to serve as the editor of our award-winning magazine. Joel has provided the FGCSA with representation

and communications in government relations, media relations and allied association affairs. Thank you Joel and Marie.

The Florida Green: Once again, for the ninth year our magazine, *The Florida Green* was awarded the Best Overall in Category by the Golf Course Superintendents Association at the Conference in Show in New Orleans.

The 1999 FTGA Conference and Show: The Florida Turfgrass Association, in an attempt to involve the University that is supported by the FTGA fund-raising efforts, moved the annual conference and show to Gainesville. The show was a success in many ways with the only negative being the poor attendance by golf course superintendents and others in the turfgrass industry. The 2000 FTGA Conference and Show will once again be held in Gainesville Aug. 14-16 and I am SURE that I will see each an every on of you there. Right?

University of Florida/IFAS: This past year we have seen a strong effort by the University of Florida, under the leadership of Dr. Mike Martin,

VP of IFAS, to strengthen its bonds with the industry and provide more necessary research, better organization and communications.

Research: At the 1999 FTGA Conference and Show in Gainesville, the FGCSA presented a check to the FTGA for the Research Fund for \$25,000 to help support research at the University of Florida. The funds were a combined effort among the local FGCSA affiliated chapters.

In addition to the \$25,000 donation to the FTGA, the GCSAA was presented with the third of five annual \$5,000 donations (\$25,000 pledge) to support the GCSAA "Investing in the Beauty of Golf" campaign. The campaign is raising funds that will support applied research on golf courses. The FGCSA also continued its charter membership in GCSAA Foundation's Platinum Tee Club (\$5,000) which also goes for scholarships and research.

These donations were above and beyond the funds generated to support the FGCSA's Otto Schmeisser Research Green in Ft. Lauderdale where the FGCSA has a paid employee who assists the UF faculty in maintaining real world conditions on the green. The South Florida GCSA lead this effort with its annual Turf Expo, raising \$26,000 to help pay for the on-site technician.

Meanwhile, the Seven Rivers Envirotron Classic raised \$50,000 which went into a FTRF restricted account which supports equipment and research at the University of Florida's Envirotron Research Laboratory.

Awards: The winner of the 1999 FGCSA Distinguished Service award were Dale Kuehner, CGCS at Colony West Country Club. This yearly award was established in 1985 and is presented to a golf course superintendent who has given his time unselfishly in promoting golf course management and unification of the FGCSA. Dale is most definitely a very deserving recipient! The 1999 recipients of the FGCSA Presidents Award for Lifetime Service were Paul Hickman, David Holler, Steve Pearson, Al Ross and Dale Walters. Congratulations guys!

1999 was also a great year for Florida golf course superintendents to receive national recognition. Gary Grigg, MG, CGCS was awarded the 2000 GCSAA Distinguished Service Award

## The Year in Review



Darren Davis  
President  
FGCSA

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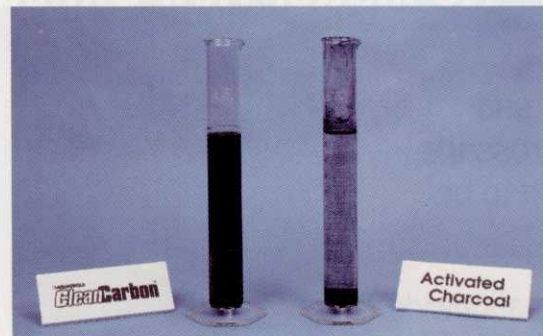
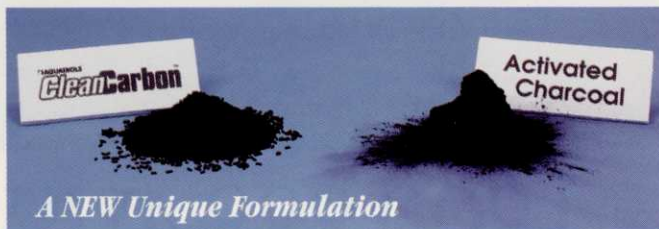
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during the Opening Session of the GCSAA Conference and Show in New Orleans. Also at the GCSAA show, Mike Blanchard, CGCS at Tampa Palms Golf and Country Club was presented with the GCSAA Leo Feser Award for the best article by a superintendent in *Golf Course Management* magazine.

Allied Associations: Mark Jarrell, CGCS at Palm Beach National GC, past president of the FGCSA, has served as president this year for the FTGA. Through Mark's efforts, and the whole FTGA board the relationship between the FGCSA and FTGA is at an

all-time high. Mark has done a tremendous job of keeping the communication channels open with the FGCSA and at the same time enhancing the FTGA's role as an all-encompassing turfgrass association. I hope that each of you has read his editorials in the *Florida Green* and the FTGA's *Florida Turf Digest* and will help us to unite as one strong organization of turfgrass professionals.

The biggest topic of discussion involving GCSAA this year has been the Professional Development Initiative (PDI). FGCSA's Dale Kuehner and Bob

Randquist have served on the Membership Standards Resource Group that has helped develop the program. If you are not aware of the PDI, you should be! No ifs ands or buts, this initiative has the potential to reshape how we are perceived in the industry and you need not only to be aware of the details but to provide input.

Government Relations: It has been a very busy year with regulatory issues. Chemicals such as Dursban, Orthene and Namacur have come under attack due to the Food Quality Protect Act. Unless you have been hiding under a rock you

should be aware of this issue and I hope that you have taken notice and acted when requested to do so. This issue and others threaten our ability to perform our job and it is up to every golf course superintendent to get involved. Please do not rely on others to always carry the load. Thank you for those who have taken the initiative and gotten involved in letter writing campaigns or making phone calls.

Thank you to each and every one of you who have helped make 1999 a banner year for the FGCSA. See you soon.

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HERBICIDE



Fred Klauk

GOLFWEK FATHER OF THE YEAR

## TPC Super is Golfweek's 'Super' Dad

**F**red Klauk, veteran superintendent of the Tournament Players Club in Ponte Vedra Beach has been named "Father of the Year" by *Golfweek* magazine. Klauk will be honored during Golfweek's 18th Annual Father & Son Open at the Grand Cypress Resort, June 16-18 in Orlando.

The June 3 issue of *Golfweek* said Klauk's selection was based in part on his prominence and leadership in a profession that manages golf's most valuable asset, its golf courses. The rest of his qualifications for the honor rests on the fact that he has passed his love for the game on to his sons, Jeff, John, and Jason.

Jeff and John are both successful collegiate golfers with Jeff helping Florida Southern College win this year's NCAA Division II title and John a member of the University of Texas team. Jason, reportedly the best all-

around athlete, is 15 and just beginning to pursue competitive golf.

This isn't Klauk's first national exposure. In an NBC interview a few years ago, he struck a blow for all superintendents when he calmly countered the criticisms of the course conditions of a few disgruntled pros who had no idea or appreciation of the horrible weather conditions that challenged Klauk and his crew just prior to the event.

Congratulations, Fred, for bringing honor and recognition to the superintendents' profession and showing the world we are fathers and family men with hopes, dreams and lives just like the superstars of the game.

### LEGACY AWARDS

## GCSAA Honors 2 Fla. Students

**T**wo Florida students are among 10 children or grandchildren of GCSAA members to win 2000 Legacy



Caillavet



Suncoast President Tom Hilferty, center, presents research donation checks of \$2,500 each to FTGA's Don Benham, left, and FGCSA's Joel Jackson at the 18th Annual Suncoast Scramble. Photo by Joe Sittinger.

awards from GCSAA

• Courtney Sue Caillavet will be attending the University of South Florida majoring in microbiology. Her father, Bayne Caillavet, golf course superintendent at Southern Dunes Golf & Country Club, Winter Haven, is a 10-year GCSAA member.

• Lisa Klauk will be attending the University of Florida majoring in engineering. Her father, Glen F. Klauk, golf course

superintendent at Pablo Creek Golf Club, Ponte Vedra Beach, is a 20-year GCSAA member.

The competition offers educational assistance to the children and grandchildren of GCSAA members, which attracted 80 applications for the awards. The program, created in 1990, awards a \$1,500 scholarship to each student recipient. The awards are funded by Novartis Corp. and administered by The GCSAA Foundation.

Winners were selected by an independent committee that consisted of two educators and one college administrator. Applications were judged on the basis of academic excellence, extracurricular activities and an assigned essay describing their parents' or grandparents' involvement in the golf course management profession.

The GCSAA Foundation enhances the game of golf through funding applied research and advanced education in golf course management. Since its



Klauk



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inception in 1955, The GCSAA Foundation has provided more than \$1 million in support of numerous research studies and more than 1,000 student scholarships.

RIDGE INVITATIONAL

## Record Set at Grasslands

With the March winds coming in like a lamb instead of a lion, the Grasslands CC in Lakeland was less intimidating than in previous years. Proof is in the pudding they say, and Steve Bernard, superintendent at the Adios GC in Coconut Creek, stuck in his thumb and pulled out a plum in the shape of a course-record 66 during the Ninth Annual Ridge Invitational tournament March 13.

Perennial low grossers Mark Hopkins, Bartow GC and Jim Torba, USF GC had to settle for a tie 10 shots back at 76. In the sandbaggers' division, Bob Hall, Ray Cuzzone and Bob Drake tied for first low net. In the suppliers' group, Mark Wheaton repeated as winner of the low gross division and Tom Wells took low net honors with a 64. The chapter team winners used home venue advantage as the Ridge Runner team of Cuzzone, Drake, Dan Smokstad and Hall brought home the trophy.

Most important of all, the full field event, with the help of the sponsors, raised over \$11,000 which will be distributed to turf research projects and local charities.

SOUTH FLORIDA TURF EXPO

## Record 392 Attend Expo

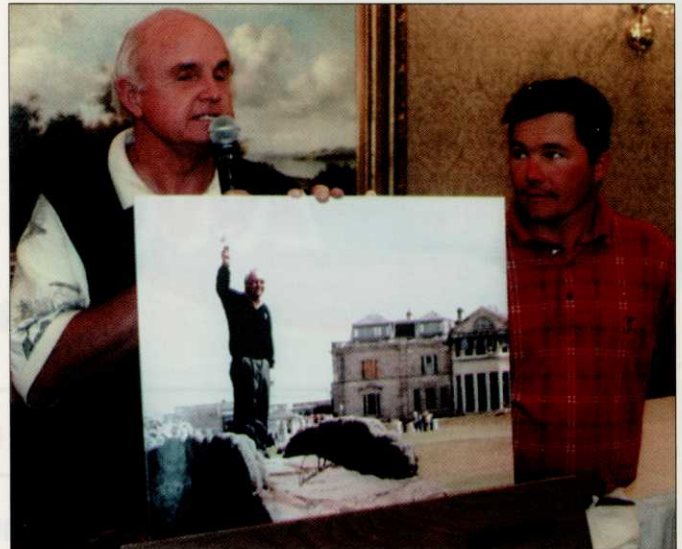
On March 16, the South Florida GCSA Turf Expo set an attendance record with 392 people at the 14th annual event at the UF/IFAS Research and Education Center in Ft. Lauderdale. It was a full day of equipment trials, turf plot tours, mini-trade show, and classroom presentations.

This event draws not only golf course superintendents from southeast Florida, but also large numbers of mechanics, spray techs, irrigation techs and commercial/municipal turf care personnel. There were separate training sessions for all these folks conducted by the equipment companies.

Diamond Turf, Hector Turf, Kilpatrick Turf, Florida Coast Equipment and NuCrane Machinery demonstrated their equipment and 30 vendors also manned the product booths for the mini-trade show, which took place between the morning and afternoon research presentations by IFAS faculty thanks to the organization of Dr. John Cisar.

Special thanks to Wiley McCall and Ray Carruthers of the Emerald Island Turf Company for donating and cooking the barbecue lunch for this record crowd. Their generous participation allows more of the registration dollars to go to research.

This event, which has been held since 1988,



ABC Sports golf commentator and former Gator touring pro Steve Melnyk was the master of ceremonies at the North Florida Mike Richards Memorial Scholarship Tournament awards banquet. NFGCSA Secretary/Treasurer Andy Maguire in the background assisted Melnyk with the presentations. Photo by Joel Jackson.

generated a check for \$26,000 which was presented by SFGCSA President Jim Walker to FGCSA President Darren Davis at the FGCSA board meeting in Naples May 18. These funds, along with local chapter contributions, pay for the FGCSA turf technician who works with IFAS faculty and maintains the Otto Schmeisser Research Green at the Research Center.

MIKE RICHARDS MEMORIAL

## Dollars for Scholars

On April 10, superintendent Greg Tharp and the Jacksonville G&CC hosted the Mike Richards Memorial Scholarship Tournament. This annual event is held in honor of the late Mike Richards who was a sales manager for Tresca Industries. In recent years, the North Florida



Bruce Hays Tom Smillie



Mary Ann Richards, widow of Mike Richards

GCSA also added scholarships in memory of PGA Tour agronomist Alan MacCurrach to the event. ABC TV golf announcer



Seven Rivers President Paul Illgen (left) accepts the presenting sponsor check of \$12,500 from Barbaron's Mike Kitchen, Jr. and Terry Lagree. Barbaron's generous sponsorship helped the SRGCSA raise \$50,000 for equipment and research at the Envirotron Research Lab in Gainesville.

and former Gator golfer and TV announcer Steve Melnyk was once again on hand to show his support for the North Florida chapter by acting as master of ceremonies. North Florida Secretary/Treasurer Andy Maguire presented Melnyk with a plaque thanking him for his participation and support.

This year the \$3,000 Mike Richards Scholarship went to Christopher Gonnella, who was unable to attend the event. However, Bruce Hays and Tom Smillie were on hand to accept Alan MacCurrach Scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 each. Hays and Smillie are in the Turf Equipment Managers program at Lake City Community College.

#### ENVIROTRON CLASSIC

### Classic Nets

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Perhaps it was fitting that the team from Barbaron, Inc should win this year's event on the Rolling Oaks and Pine



Superintendents Mike Swinson of the Pine Barrens course (left) and Paul Illgen of the Rolling Oaks course, had their courses in magnificent condition for the event. World Woods donated use of the courses for the event. Photos by Joel Jackson

Barrens courses at World Woods in Brooksville. Barbaron has been the Major Champion Sponsor, donating \$12,500 to lead the support for this popular and productive fund raiser.

Seven Rivers Treasurer Stuart Bozeman reported that this year's Classic earned \$50,000 for the second year in a row. This event, begun in 1993, has now raised over \$300,000 to help fund equipment purchases and special

research projects at the Envirotron Research Laboratory on the University of Florida campus in Gainesville.

A record 312 golfers gathered for this year's April 17 tournament. On hand to meet and greet the many contestants and to whack the ball around themselves were several UF/IFAS faculty including IFAS Vice President Dr. Mike Martin. Following golf the contestants enjoyed a steak-and-shrimp dinner while the prizes were being awarded.

Congratulations to Tournament Chairman Glen Oberlander, the Seven Rivers Chapter, and host superintendents Paul Illgen and Mike Swinson for putting on another premiere event.

#### SUNCOAST SCRAMBLE

### Putting The Fun in Funding

Sporting one of the most unusual and appealing chapter events in the state, the Suncoast Chapter hosted its 18th Suncoast Scramble. The industry-networking format calls for a supplier to join a threesome from each area club made up of the superintendent, golf pro and club manager or green chairman. The Misty Creek Country Club in Sarasota was the site of this year's event March 23. Tom Crawford was the host superintendent.

But before these groups tee it up, they are exposed to a brief business meeting so everyone gets caught up

on serious and official business. Over the past two years, the Suncoast Chapter has taken advantage of the new FTGA director of public relations and FGCSA director of communications positions to make brief presentations on current issues. Once business is done, the fun begins.

For the past several years the Suncoast Chapter has booked the Les McCurdy Comedy Club to entertain the crowd with monologues and improvisations. McCurdy, himself an avid golfer, pokes fun at the game and business much to the delight of the audience. After a barbecue lunch the contestants play a four-man scramble event and later gather back at the clubhouse for snacks and libations as the scores are totaled.

Continuing another tradition at this event, Suncoast GCSA President Tom Hilferty presented checks for \$2,500 each to the FTGA and the FGCSA for turf research. The Suncoast Chapter has us laughing all the way to the bank. Thanks to the sponsors and participants for making it a truly enjoyable way to help the industry.

#### POA CLASSIC

### Hosts Win Own Tournament

The Everglades Chapter was a perfect host for the 2000 Poa Annuu Classic in every way except one — they won their own tournament, trouncing all



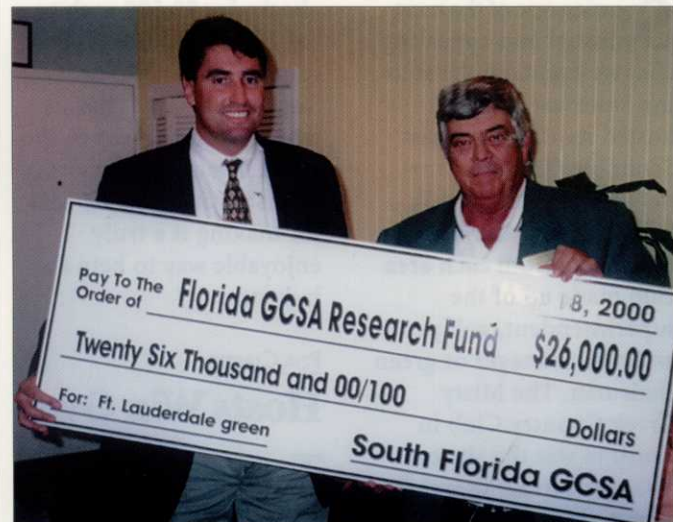


Dr. Fred Yelverton of NC State University presented a GCSAA Regional Seminar titled "Advanced Weed Control for Florida Grasses" to over 50 superintendents and technicians at the Naples Beach Club on May 19. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Along with the Poa sponsors, the dynamic duo of Steve Durand (left) and Mike Smith deserve the lion's share of credit for making the 30th Poa Annua Classic a huge success. Photo by Joel Jackson.

of the guest chapter teams. The team of David Fry, Greg Maze, Tim Larson and George Renault captured the title of the state's oldest superintendent golf rivalry. The Poa Annua Classic began 30 years ago with the newly formed Everglades Chapter inviting and challenging the venerable South Florida chapter to a friendly intrastate competition. With the addition of a barbecue dinner in



FGCSA President Darren Davis (left) accepts a research fund check for \$26,000 from South Florida GCSA President Jim Walker at the FGCSA summer board meeting during the Poa Annua Classic weekend in Naples. The money was raised at the South Florida Turf Expo in March. Photo by Joel Jackson



FGCSA President Darren Davis (left) accepts a check for \$1,000 from West Coast External Vice President Eric Joy at the spring FGCSA board meeting in Naples. The funds are to help pay for the services of Mike Goldie, the FGCSA/FTGA political consultant in Tallahassee. Photo by Joel Jackson.

1975, the Poa Annua Classic was officially born, and we've been going to Naples ever since.

Persistence paid off for River Wilderness superintendent John Van Vranken of the Suncoast Chapter. After teeing it up for 12 years at the



Van Vranken



Robinson

Poa, "Johnny V" took home the low gross title, which qualifies him for a paid entry on the FGCSA golf team competing at the GCSAA Golf Championship next

February in Dallas. Low net honors went to Treasure Coast's David Robinson of the Harbour Ridge Y&CC in Palm City.

Golf isn't the only thing going on at the Poa Classic every year. On May 18, the FGCSA board of directors held its spring board meeting at the Naples Beach Club. Minutes of the meeting will appear in the July/August *Green Sheet*.

Highlight of the meeting was the presentation of a check for \$26,000 to the FGCSA by South Florida GCSA President Jim Walker. The money was the proceeds from the South Florida Turf Expo in March and will be paired with donations from all chapters to help maintain the Otto Schmeisser Research

*The Florida Turfgrass Association and Seven Rivers Chapter of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association want to recognize the following sponsors*  
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On Friday, the FGCSA hosted a GCSAA Regional Seminar titled Advanced Weed Control for Florida Grasses presented by Dr. Fred Yelverton of North Carolina State University. Over 50 people attended the seminar and earned .55 CEU's toward GCSAA certification. Topics covered in the seminar:

- the biology, ecology and life cycles of major turfgrass weeds;
- maximizing control strategies while minimizing herbicidal inputs;
- how turfgrass management practices influence species presence, competition and population shifts;
- the development of herbicide resistance by weeds;
- the fate and behavior of herbicides and plant growth regulators;
- degradation, runoff, volatilization and adsorption by soil colloids;
- managing purple nutsedge, torpedograss, spurge, goosegrass,

seashore paspalum, crabgrass and poa annua.

Attendees cited information about the development of weed resistance to herbicides as being one of the most important take-home messages they got out of the widely acclaimed nuts-and-bolts presentation by Dr. Yelverton.

The Poa banquet on Friday night and the Jazz on the Green festival on Saturday rounded out the activities of this 30th Annual Poa Annuia Classic weekend.

The success of this year's event goes in large part to the hard work and long hours put in by Steve Durand and Mike Smith. These gentlemen did yeoman work in all phases of the event, and could be seen manning the registration tables in the lobby and at the golf events all weekend.

Congratulations to this dynamic duo and the Everglades chapter for another fantastic Poa event.

JOHN DEERE CLASSIC



David Court, CGCS



Bob Klitz, CGCS

## Deere Picks 2 for VIP Event

Two Florida superintendents and their employers have been selected to play in the John Deere Classic golf tournament July 23-2: David Court, CGCS, director of grounds and greens at the Boca Lago Country Club in Boca Raton, and his general manager, Gene Paul Stifter, CCM; and Bob Klitz, CGCS, general manager at Orangebrook Country Club for Golf Hollywood in Hollywood, and his president, Alan Weitzel.

The VIP program includes paid travel and expenses, receptions, meals, lodging and two rounds of golf during the John Deere Classic to be held at the TPC at Deere Run in Silvis, Ill.

To be eligible, certified superintendents had to document how their employers supported or recognized their efforts to increase business efficiencies, enhance agronomic improvements, develop professionally, support environmental stewardship, or enhance the image of a professional golf course superintendent.



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### Three Win GCSAA Essay Contest

Three undergraduate students have been selected as the 2000 Essay Contest winners by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

The contest, created in 1963, is open to GCSAA-member undergraduate and graduate students pursuing degrees in turfgrass science, agronomy or any field related to golf course management. The contest awards a \$1,000 scholarship to the first-place recipient, \$600 for second-place and \$400 for third-place. In addition to the scholarships, the winning essays may be published or excerpted in the GCSAA's publications -- Newsline or Golf Course Management magazine.

Winners were selected by an independent panel of judges on the basis of originality, organization, persuasion and creativity on topics within the golf course management area of research.

The 2000 Essay Contest winners:

- First Place: Aaron Patton, a senior at Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, studying turfgrass management, for his entry "Purifying Water with a Boilermaker: Utilizing Innovative and Practical Approaches to Water Purification." Aaron has won several scholarships from GCSAA. This is the third year in a row that he has won the Essay Contest.
- Second Place: Mark Spears, a senior at Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kan., studying golf course management, for his entry "Golf Course Operations -- Environmental Case Study."
- Third Place: Ella Harrod, a senior at Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, Miss., studying turfgrass management, for her entry "To Tree or Not to Tree." Ella also won a Scholars Award in 1999.

### GCSAA Staffers Win TOCA Awards

Several print and electronic publications of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) recently received 2000 Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association (TOCA) writing and design awards.

Golf Course Management (GCM) magazine, Newsline and NewsWeekly staff members received first-place awards that were presented April 29-May 1 at a banquet during TOCA's annual meeting in Boston, Mass.

An independent panel of judges reviewed the entries in 29 categories and TOCA awards were received for the following:

- Roger Billings, publications designer, won a first-place award in the Best Use of Photography category for his design of "Hidden Gems" in the October 1999 issue of GCM.
- Ken Moum, NewsWeekly editor, won first-place in the Writing for Commercial Publications Online category.
- Mike Perrault, former GCM staff writer, won a first-place award in the Writing for Commercial Publications category for his article "Rx for color" published in the November 1999 issue of GCM.
- GCSAA's member newsletter, Newsline, was judged best in the industry in the Overall Newsletter Design category. The issue cited was August 1999, which was designed by Lori Seaberg. Newsline is edited by Amy Bird.

"GCSAA is truly honored to receive such highly-regarded industry awards," said GCSAA CEO Steve Mona,

CAE. "This recognition shows the dedication and creativity of our staff, and the commitment and involvement of our membership to producing high-quality work."

TOCA is an association of editors, writers, public relations practitioners and others involved in green industry communications. It was formed in 1989 to foster better communications within the industry and provide for professional improvement for its members.

Golf Course Management magazine is the industry's leading professional journal, providing cutting-edge technical information every month from outstanding scientists, instructors and experts. The GCM magazine staff includes Ed Hiscock, editor-in-chief; Scott Hollister, managing editor; Angela Nitz, associate editor; Teresa Carson, assistant editor; Alicia Meyer, publications coordinator; and Seth Jones, publications intern.

NewsWeekly is an electronic newsletter delivering timely golf course industry news to GCSAA members and constituents. It was launched in November 1999.

### Additional Legacy Award Winners

In addition to the two students Florida noted on page 10, eight other high school or college students, all sons, daughters or grandchildren of GCSAA members, have been named 2000 Legacy Award winners.

- Ryan Best will be attending Texas A&M University majoring in biology. His father, Robert Best, CGCS at Tierra Verde Golf Club, Arlington, Texas, is a 17-year GCSAA member.
- Allison Emanuel attends the University of Kentucky majoring in music education. Her father, Joseph H. Emanuel Jr., CGCS at Hurstbourne Country Club, Louisville, Ky., is a 26-year GCSAA member.
- Sean A. Mogle attends the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana majoring in comparative literature and economics. His grandfather, John C. Ebel, has retired from the profession and is a 44-year GCSAA member.
- Benjamin Alan Nielsen will be attending California Polytechnic State University majoring in civil engineering. His father, Alan Lee Nielsen, CGCS at Royal Oaks Country Club, Vancouver, Wash., is a 22-year GCSAA member.
- Lindsey Rollin attends the University of Washington majoring in business with an accounting option. Her father, Vern G. Rollin, golf course superintendent at West Seattle Golf Course, Seattle, Wash., is a 14-year GCSAA member.
- James W. Rohret will be attending the University of Arizona majoring in business management. His father, William D. Rohret, CGCS at Angel Park Golf Course, Las Vegas, Nev., is a 25-year GCSAA member.
- Jennifer Russell attends Emory University majoring in political science and environmental studies. Her father, Randolph Russell, golf course superintendent for the City of Austin (Texas) Parks Department, is a 21-year GCSAA member.
- Jennen Diane Shrum will be attending Oklahoma State University and has not declared a major. Her father, William Dowl Shrum, CGCS at The Golf Club at Chaparral Pines & The Rim Golf Club, Payson, Ariz., is a 22-year GCSAA member.

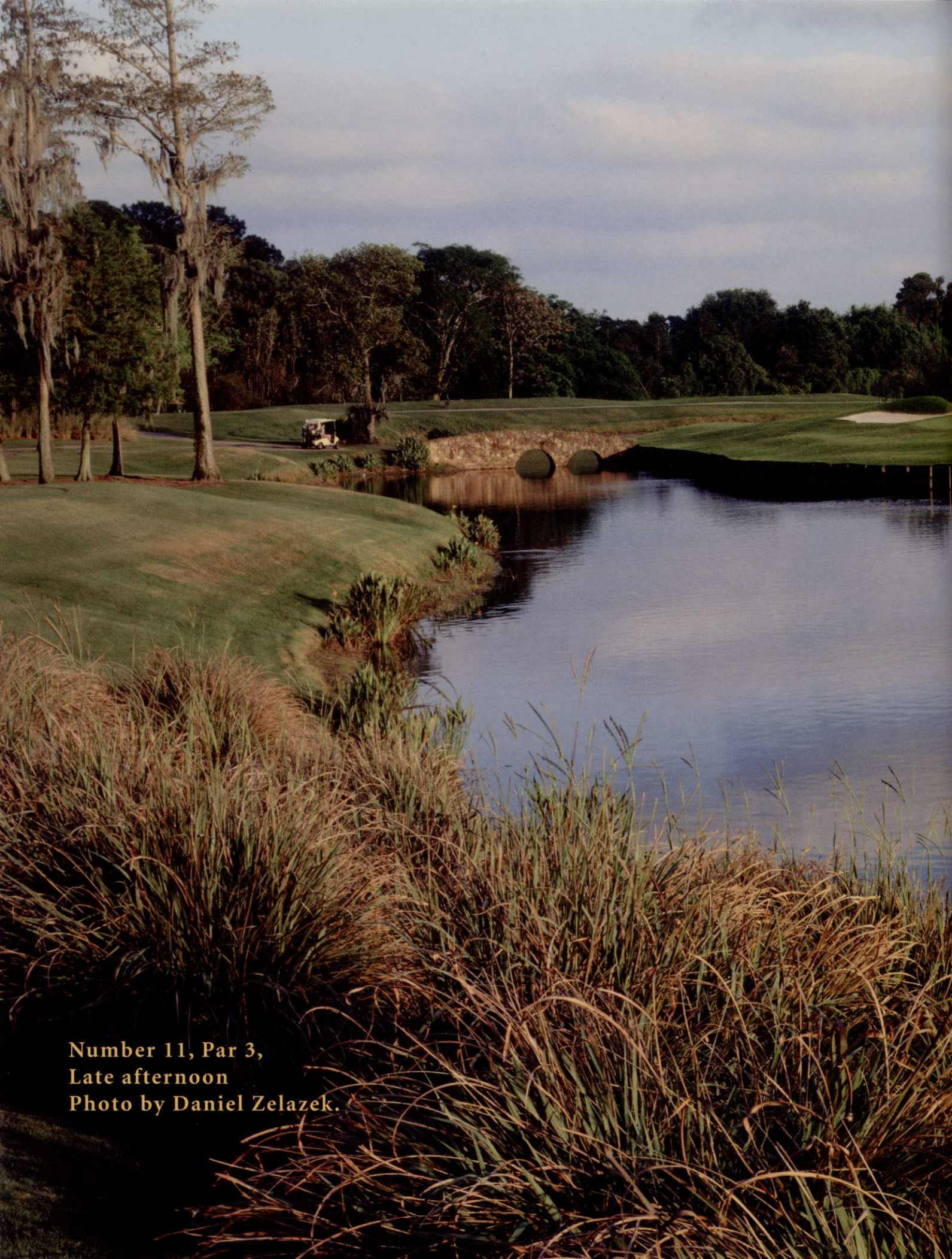
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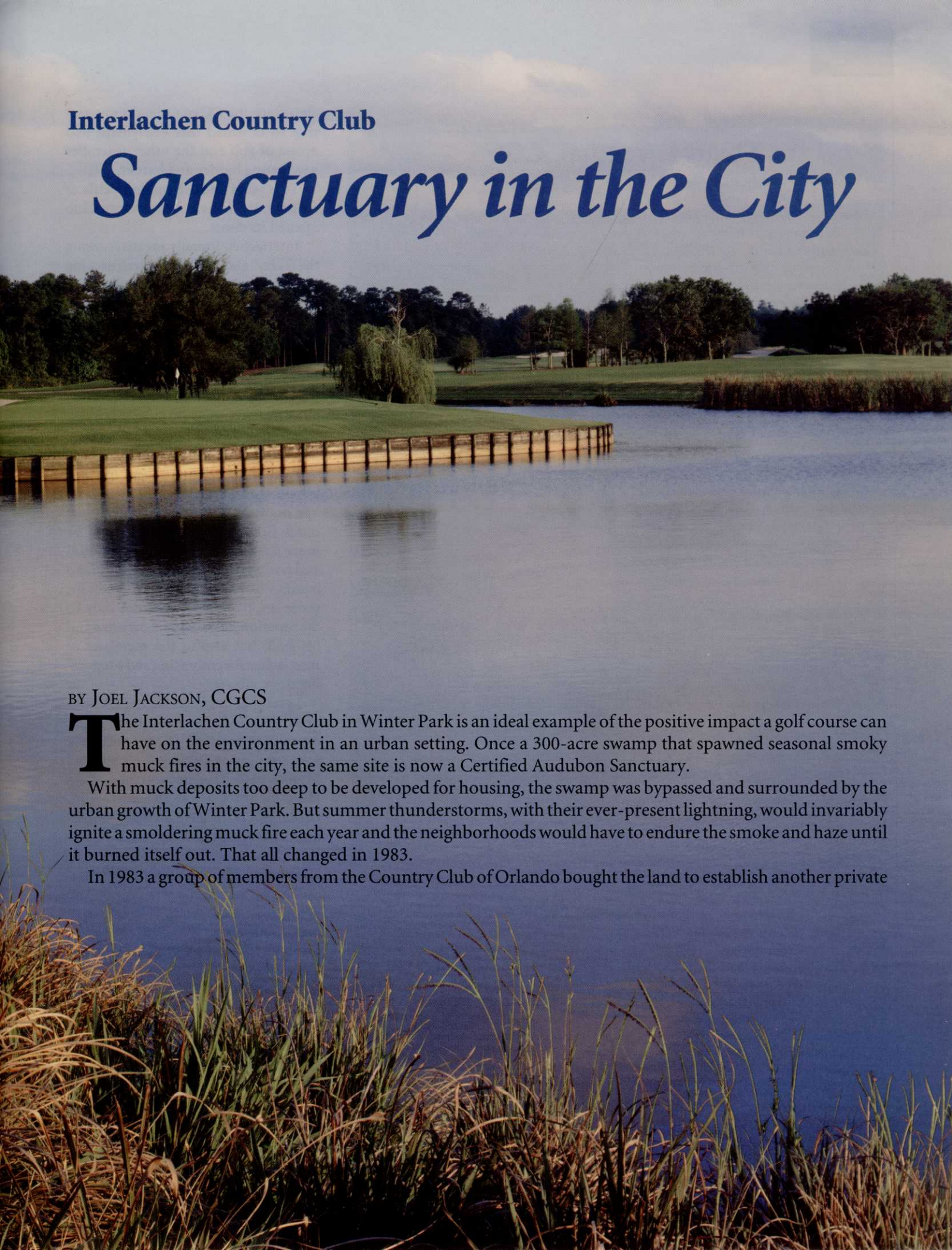


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**Number 11, Par 3,  
Late afternoon  
Photo by Daniel Zelazek.**



Interlachen Country Club

# *Sanctuary in the City*

BY JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

**T**he Interlachen Country Club in Winter Park is an ideal example of the positive impact a golf course can have on the environment in an urban setting. Once a 300-acre swamp that spawned seasonal smoky muck fires in the city, the same site is now a Certified Audubon Sanctuary.

With muck deposits too deep to be developed for housing, the swamp was bypassed and surrounded by the urban growth of Winter Park. But summer thunderstorms, with their ever-present lightning, would invariably ignite a smoldering muck fire each year and the neighborhoods would have to endure the smoke and haze until it burned itself out. That all changed in 1983.

In 1983 a group of members from the Country Club of Orlando bought the land to establish another private





## Stuart Leventhal, CGCS

**Originally from:** Natick, Mass. Moved to Florida at age 5. Family: wife, Roslyn; son, Harrison (11).

**Education:** B.A., criminal justice, University of Central Florida, 1979. courses in ornamental horticulture, Valencia Community College, 1985.

**Employment history:** 1972-79: Part-time and full-time crew member while in high school and college, Wedgefield GC, Orlando; 1980-82: superintendent, Dubsdread GC, City of Orlando; 1982-85: superintendent, Rolling Hills CC, Longwood; 1985-present: superintendent, Interlachen CC, Winter Park.

**Professional affiliations and awards:** FGCSA, GCSAA, FTGA. President of Central Florida Chapter 1991-93; Mid-Florida Turfgrass Conference Committee; Larry Kamphaus/Crowfoot Open Committee; Host of Annual Central Florida/FTGA Research Fund Raiser. "On my 15th anniversary at Interlachen, the club presented me with two framed pictures of the golf course, one signed by the members and the other signed by the staff. As the senior employee at the club, it was a very sincere and touching gesture, which I greatly appreciate."



**Mentors:** "Golf course architect **Lloyd Clifton** was a consultant for the city of Orlando when I was at Dubsdread. He connected all the dots for me and tied all my practical experiences in the field and all my theoretical education in the classroom together. **My dad** was the general manager at Wedgefield G.C. and let me work on the golf course which opened the way to a future career path. In my youth, it didn't register that being a golf course superintendent could be the rewarding career that it turned out to be. After graduation and the reality of a career in criminal justice and/or social work set in, I chose to capitalize on my experiences on the golf course. I'm sure glad I did."

**Goals:** "I have achieved two career goals so far. The first was to become a certified superintendent. The second was to make the Interlachen C.C. a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary, which was accomplished this year thanks to the hard work of Katie Cox, our environmental technician, and the support of our members."

**Advice and Philosophy:** "Always be progressing with course conditions and personal growth. Be involved with your members and the other department heads at your club. Communicate, communicate, communicate."

**Hobbies and interests:** Golf, tennis and sailing.

club since the CC of Orlando was getting so crowded that enjoyment and access of golf and the other amenities was getting harder and harder.

Two years and 1.5 million yards of fill later, the Interlachen County Club opened its doors.

Interlachen literally means "among the lakes," and golf course architect Joe Lee generated the fill by digging lakes and ponds on nearly every hole on the course. The fine, silty sand from under the muck layer was used to cap the muck deposits and form the mounding for the greens, tees and fairways. It was not the best soil for drainage, but it was all he had to work with. Even that negative feature would have a positive aspect for the environment later on.

So the most dramatic and obvious impact that Interlachen's development had on the area was to end the annual muck fires. Future impacts would be more subtle, but nonetheless practical and positive for wildlife and the human beings who enjoyed the club. Credit for those improvements goes not only to the superintendent Stuart Leventhal and his staff, but also to the members of Interlachen for embracing and supporting those efforts.

Leventhal has been the superintendent of Interlachen since its doors opened. He arrived at the club after tours of duty at Orlando's Dubsdread Municipal Golf Course and the Rolling Hills Country Club in Longwood. Leventhal cut his teeth on the golf business by working at the Cape Orlando Golf Club in east Orange County where his father was the general manager. Cape Orlando, which later became the Wedgefield Golf Club, was home to many NASA folks who lived in Orange County and commuted to Titusville and Cape Kennedy.

From 1972 to 1979 Leventhal worked on the course as a part-time employee during his last two years of high school and then became a full-time crew member while he attended the University of Central Florida where he received his B. A. in criminal justice. Leventhal says of his days at Wedgefield, "At that time our profession was not as proactive as it

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RONSTAR <sup>d</sup>	M	H	NR	M	M	NR	NR	NR
SURFLAN <sup>e</sup>	H	H	H	M	MH	M	H	H
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## The Interlachen Country Club

**Location:** Winter Park

**Ownership:** Member-owned private country club, 18 holes.

**Yardage:** 6,893 yards; par 72; course/slope rating: 73.4/138

**Design:** Joe Lee; constructed by Steve Nugent; opened November, 1975

**Management:** George Williams, club president; Robert Stanford, green chairman; Pete Albe, club manager; Jay Kennedy, head golf professional

**Acreage:** 110 acres under maintenance; total property is 270 acres.

**Greens:** Total 3 acres of Tifdwarf, average size 6,000 sq ft; HOC: 1/8" year round and 3/32" for special events; overseed: Penneagle bentgrass @ 2 lbs./1000 sq ft with Sabre Poa trivialis @ 9 lbs/1,000 sq ft; green speed goal: fast 9.0 daily with 10.5 for special events.

**Tees:** 2.5 acres of Tifway II; HOC: 3/8"-7/16"; overseeded: perennial rye @ 20 lbs/1000 sq ft; collar HOC: 1/4".

**Fairways:** 30 acres of Tifway II; HOC: 7/16"; not overseeded; roughs: 70 acres of Tifway II; HOC: 1-1/4"; not overseeded.

**Bunkers:** 67 bunkers with E. R. Jahna's 37J or 37F sand. Mechanically rake with Smithco bunker rake with leaf rake attachment. Hand rake bunker faces.

**Water/Ponds:** 12 ponds covering about 50 acres, maintained by Lake Masters; white amur carp in some lakes; aquatic plantings of arrowhead, pickerel weed, and canna lilies.

**Irrigation system:** Converting Toro Varitime hydraulic to Rain Bird Cirrus electric this year; source: effluent from the city of Winter Park; pump station: PSI

**Staff:** 16 full-time counting superintendent plus 2 part-time.

**Leading staff:** Tom Lantrip, assistant supt.; Ray Hooker, equipment manager; Jay McDonald, pest control technician; Doug Ballard, irrigation technician; Katie Cox, administrative assistant/environmental technician. Interlachen employs one OJT student intern from Lake City Community College each summer.

**Major Renovations/Ongoing Projects:** Rebuilt greens 5, 12, and 17 and regrassed all the greens in 1996; replacing Toro Varitime Irrigation system with Rain Bird Cirrus system in 2000; constant wood line clearing of exotic vegetation which overtakes the trees, like air potato vine, skunk vine and wild grape vine.

**Special circumstances:** The course was built over a large muck pocket in residential Winter Park. In some areas the muck is 70 feet deep. 1.5 million yards of fill was used to cap the muck. The fill generated from the lakes on site is a silty sand which does not percolate very well.

**Communications:** monthly crew safety and general information meetings; monthly green committee meetings; community outreach: Katie Cox has gone to local elementary school to help install a butterfly garden.

**Environment/IPM:** Fertilizer and nematicide applications only made based on soil and nematode samples. Nematicur used only once during establishment of rebuilt greens in 1996; Primo growth regulator used to reduce clippings and fuel and labor needed for cleanup; white amur carp used in lakes to reduce need for chemicals in lakes; 60% slow-release fertilizers used twice a year on fairways; use of natural areas, bird feeders, butterfly garden to enhance wildlife habitat.



*Wildflowers greet you on the tee at #18. 443 yards away a large double green serves the 9th (left of the bunker) and 18th holes. The elegant and spacious clubhouse is in the background. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.*

is today. We had a golf pro/superintendent running the operation and he was more of a schedule maker rather than an agronomist or mentor.”

After graduation, and because of his practical experience, Leventhal was able to land the superintendent’s job at Orlando’s Dubsdread Golf Course. Dubsdread, along with the Mayfair Golf Club up in Longwood, used to be PGA Tour stops back in the 1940s and 50s with pictures of Sam Snead and Ben Hogan to document their history.

It was at Dubsdread that Leventhal’s education in turf management was put into focus by former golf course superintendent turned architect and consultant Lloyd Clifton.

“My ride-throughs on the course with Lloyd put all my practical experi-

ences in perspective. He answered the why and how we did things on the golf course. He was the mentor I needed in my early years in the business,” he recalls.

“I went back to school for continuing education in ornamental horticulture at Valencia Community College, not to earn a degree but to learn more about soils, plant pathology and weed and insect identification and control.”

After he left Dubsdread, Leventhal spent three years at the Rolling Hills Country Club in Longwood, where he continued his association with Clifton and learned how to work within the private club organizational structure that prepared him for the eventual position at Interlachen.

This year at the annual employee

***My ride-throughs... with Lloyd (Clifton) put all my practical experiences in perspective. He answered the why and how we did things on the golf course. He was the mentor I needed in my early years in the business.***



*John Kopack, Central Florida GCSA president and the superintendent at The Legacy Club at Alaqua Lakes in Longwood, is one of Leventhal's former employees.*

## Central Florida Chapter

**History:** In the early 1970s, the metropolitan Orlando area was not the booming golf destination that it is now. With the coming of Disney World and the subsequent growth and development, area superintendents from Orange, Seminole, Volusia, Brevard, Polk, Lake and Marion counties began to meet informally. Finally in 1974 the Central Florida GCSA was formed.

**Founding members:** Aris Catsum, Bill Cahill, John Cottage, Lew Dolan, Larry Kamphaus, Phil Morris, Roger Widrig and Adam Yurigan. Yurigan was the first president of the CFGCSA and went on to also help found the Treasure Coast Chapter in 1980.

**Crowfoot Open:** The Central Florida Chapter hosts the Crowfoot Open in August of each year. The event began in 1976 at the Poinciana GC in Kissimmee and moved to Suntree CC in Melbourne for a couple of years. Finally the event moved to Orlando and rotated among Walt Disney World, Bay Hill and Grand Cypress courses for over a decade. In 1998 the event was renamed the Larry Kamphaus Crowfoot Open to honor longtime Walt Disney World superintendent Larry Kamphaus who died in June of 1997. Kamphaus and his wife Vilma served as co-chairpersons for the event for 13 years. The event now alternates between Bay Hill and Grand Cypress each offering a challenging golf venue each year. Proceeds from the event are used to fund research donations to the FGCSA and FTGA.

**Activities:** The CFGCSA also contributes locally to the Orlando Sentinel Santa Christmas fund for needy children and two CFGCSA board members each year judge entries into the Orange County Schools Science Fair. The chapter awards a \$100 savings bond each to the students they judge to be best in the botany/horticulture and environmental science categories. The CFGCSA holds 10 monthly meetings or golf outings each year including the CFGCSA Golf Championship in June. Monthly meetings are suspended in February and August to avoid conflicts with the annual GCSAA and FTGA conferences and trade shows. This year the chapter produced its first Chapter Membership Directory.

**Honors and Awards:** Central Florida members have been active contributors to the growth and success of their chapter, the FGCSA and service on a national level. FGCSA past presidents and FGCSA Distinguished Service Award winners include Joe Ondo, CGCS and Joel Jackson, CGCS. Immediate Past President Geoff Coggan, CGCS is currently serving as FGCSA Secretary/Treasurer.

**Officers for 2000:** John Kopack, Alaqua Lakes GC, president; Scott Welder, CGCS, WDW Palm & Magnolia GC, vice president; Brett Harris, Lake Nona CC, external vice president; Brian Lentz, DeBary G&CC, secretary/treasurer/newsletter editor.

**Membership:** 140 Class A, B, & C members included in a total of 252 members.

meeting for the entire club staff, club President George Williams presented Leventhal with two large, framed pictures of the golf course to recognize him for his service to the club. One was signed by the members and the other by the staff. Leventhal is justifiably proud and honored by the gesture

"In our business, recognition is sometimes elusive and superintendents can be taken for granted. Criticism is part of the job. How we deal with it and move on is the key to success. I really appreciated this special honor the club bestowed on me. It shows that deep down they appreciate what we have accomplished."

Leventhal's accomplishments at Interlachen include consistently some of the very best greens in central Florida, bar none.

"We have several special events each year when we tweak the greens as you would for a professional tournament. We can't keep them that way every day, but we do all the extras for these tournaments. For the men's member-guest called The Tartan, the ladies' member-guest called The Argyle, the member-guest and the club championship, Leventhal prepares the greens to a speed of 10.5 plus. For everyday play, the speeds range around 9.0 on the stimpmeter.

There is a fifth special event near and dear to central Florida superintendents. For the past 12 years in January, Interlachen has hosted a joint Florida Turfgrass Association/Central Florida GCSA fund-raising tournament for the Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation. Held on a Monday each year, Interlachen generously donates the use of the club, greens fees and carts, and provides a sumptuous gourmet buffet lunch at cost. Area superintendents are encouraged to bring a club official to the education session, lunch and two-man scramble tournament. Taking a page from his special-event preparations, Leventhal sets up the course as he does for the other events.

Leventhal says he doesn't have a secret formula for keeping his greens in top shape. Try to convince his peers

## April 2000 Wildlife Inventory

### Interlachen C.C.

- Birds of Prey:** osprey, bald eagle, red-shouldered hawk, American kestrel, northern harrier hawk, red-tailed hawk, vultures, belted kingfisher, logger head shrike
- Waterfowl:** lesser scaup duck, wood duck, mallard, ruddy duck, grebes, cormorant, anhinga
- Wading birds:** great blue heron, little blue heron, green heron, tricolor heron, white ibis, cattle egret, great egret, snowy egret, moor hen
- Other birds:** purple martin, cardinal, blue jay, mockingbird, brown thrasher, boat-tailed grackle, red-winged blackbird, mourning dove, red-bellied woodpecker, pileated woodpecker, downy woodpecker, crow, yellow-rumped warbler, prairie warbler, chimney swift, gnat catcher, starling, towhee, chipping sparrow, house wren, killdeer
- Mammals:** bobcat, river otter, fox, raccoon, gray squirrel, marsh rabbit
- Reptiles:** turtles, frogs, toads, snakes and an occasional alligator

*A lot of our members are very proactive for wildlife and the environment so they were all for us getting involved in the ASCP. For example, one of our members, Dr. Mitchell, is an avid bird watcher. He has documented 92 species of indigenous and migratory birds seen at Interlachen over the past 10 years.*



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*Fairway bunkers and a lake guard the dogleg on the 432 yard, par 4 second hole. It's the number one handicap hole. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.*

***We have treated for nematodes only twice... once after we first opened in 1986 and ten years later... on one green after we regrassed it... We do an annual nematode sample and just haven't found the need to treat.***

that he doesn't use some sort of magic as they play his course every year in the FTGA/Central Florida Research Tournament and drool at the consistency and roll of the greens.

"My main goal is to keep the greens from getting too soft and lush, which can mean slower greens. I don't like to use words like 'thin' or 'lean' because that might be taken as keeping them too much 'on the edge.' I am very comfortable with our regimen which is pretty standard, but monitored carefully."

"We do double-cut the greens three or four times a week with one of those days being Saturday which, of course, is a big golf day at the club. If time permits, we will double-cut with walk mowers, but if we have too many things going on, we will mow first with a triplex with groomer attachments and fin-

ish up with a second cut with a walk mower.

"We don't mow any clean-up rings with a triplex to avoid wear on the perimeters. We verticut every other week during the summer when the grass is growing aggressively."

Leventhal says he only aerifies twice per year in May and August and admits he wants to topdress more often but is currently applying light topdressings every three weeks in the warm months and maybe once a month in the cool season. He says the greens looked so good this past winter he skipped top dressing in November and December.

The key of course is inspecting the course and knowing firsthand what the turf is doing.

John Kopack, Central Florida GCSA president and the superintendent at The

Legacy Club at Alaqua Lakes in Longwood, is one of Leventhal's former employees.

"Good old Stu," said Kopack. "I never knew a superintendent could ride a golf course 400 times in one day!" Kopack, prone to exaggeration, does emphasize one of the reasons Interlachen's turf is in immaculate condition. Attention to detail. Leventhal strives for that elusive perfection that all superintendents hope for.

While Interlachen's greens draw rave reviews from members and peers, Leventhal has his share of challenges trying to manage turf on this former swamp. The fine, silty sand that was used to cap the muck makes for a poorly draining soil profile. Too much rain can result in soggy fairways that are hard to maintain when they get saturated.

Surface drain lines can relieve standing water in low pockets to an extent, but can't totally eliminate the problem.

Using Primo growth regulator is one tool Leventhal applies to keep the fairway turf tight and playable when mowers can't operate during prolonged rainy spells.

I mentioned earlier that these heavy soils were a curse, as we just discussed, but every cloud has a silver lining. Because of the heavy soil profile Interlachen is not plagued with nematode problems.

"We have treated for nematodes only twice," he says. "Once after we first opened in 1986 and ten years later we made one application on one green after we regrassed it and were having some thinning problems. We do an annual nematode sample and just haven't found the need to treat."

Annual nematode sampling and soil sampling for nutrient levels is just part of Leventhal's standard operating procedure and one of the reasons for his success. Leventhal says, "I use a lot of slow-release fertilizer blends with about

*For the past 12 years in January, Interlachen has hosted a... fundraising tournament for the Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation... Interlachen generously donates the use of the club, greens fees and carts, and provides a sumptuous gourmet buffet lunch at cost.*

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*The 12th hole is a tough 423 yard, par 4, S-shaped hole with lakes left and right. Remember this is Interlachen which means “among the lakes.” Photo by Daniel Zelazek*

***While we prefer a pretty clean lake-bank look to our water hazards, we have selectively planted canna lilies, arrowhead and pickerel weed as colorful accents and habitat. We also have some of the white amur grass carp in a couple of the lakes.***

60 percent being slow-release nitrogen, and I also use a lot fertigation. I just feel I can manage the turf growth and playing surfaces better with the “spoon feeding” approach.

This careful and considerate approach to turf management led Leventhal to pursue membership and certification in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program.

“A lot of our members are very proactive for wildlife and the environment so they were all for us getting involved in the ASCP. For example, one of our members, Dr. Mitchell, is an avid bird watcher. He has documented 92 species of indigenous and migratory birds seen at Interlachen over the past 10 years.

“We have done the usual things like putting up bird feeders and nest boxes and converting out-of-play areas from

turf to native plantings of cordgrass and faxahatchee grass. While we prefer a pretty clean lake-bank look to our water hazards, we have selectively planted canna lilies, arrowhead and pickerel weed as colorful accents and habitat. We also have some of the white amur grass carp in a couple of the lakes.

“Perhaps our most ambitious project was to establish a butterfly garden beside the 11th tee. We cleared out some dense undergrowth and planted several different varieties of flowering plants and trees to attract the butterflies. We also installed a stony brook complete with a recirculating pump. We had several members help us with that project which was coordinated by our environmental technician, Katie Cox.

“Katie is an environmental science major at the University of Central



*Perhaps our most ambitious project was to establish a butterfly garden beside the 11th tee. We cleared out some dense undergrowth and planted several different varieties of flowering plants and trees to attract the butterflies... We had several members help us with that project which was coordinated by our environmental technician, Katie Cox.*

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*From the gold tees on the par 3, 17th hole its only 166 yards, but its all carry and there can be some very challenging pin locations on this green. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.*

***We have been very fortunate to have Katie (Cox) help us with our ACSP certification requirements... We received our full certification in March. She has also gone out to a local elementary school to help them establish a butterfly garden.***

Florida and works with us part-time a couple of day per week. She also helps out as an administrative assistant in the maintenance office. We have been very fortunate to have Katie help us with our ACSP certification requirements and keep us on track. We received our full certification in March. She has also gone out to a local elementary school to help them establish a butterfly garden.”

For those golf courses looking to participate in the ACSP program, seek certification or just make their courses more environmentally friendly, hiring a student who has an interest and knowledge in that area seems like a logical way to achieve those goals. In fact in an era of low unemployment, it seems like a brilliant idea.

With the success of the ASCP program Leventhal has adopted an aggres-

sive campaign of limiting the use of pesticides on the golf course. Not only is it environmentally friendly it is economically practical.

“We all live and learn. I was like everybody else coming up through the ranks. If we saw worms on a green we sprayed all our greens. Now when we check our greens, if only a couple of greens show damage, we just treat those greens. It puts the emphasis on monitoring and scouting and not just on preventive spraying.”

While Leventhal prefers to spot-treat whenever possible, like his spring Ronstar applications to chronic weed problem areas, he does apply one wall-to-wall application of Kerb and Barricade pre-emergent herbicides to keep Poa annua under control in the unoverseeded fairways and roughs.

*Interlachen's member support and trust in Leventhal's expertise and programs have helped to create a finely manicured golf course that has become a wildlife sanctuary in the middle of a city, which proves that properly managed golf courses can indeed have a very positive impact on the environment.*

Since he also applies light overseeding rates to his greens, he does feel the need to apply some preventive fungicides during adverse conditions in the fall and winter.

Some of the other subtle but positive things Interlachen has done to minimize any negative impacts of the operation were to remove the underground fuel tanks and install above-ground fuel vaults. Just recently the club also installed a water recycling unit to capture and filter all the clippings and residue at the equipment wash-down area.

Interlachen's member support and trust in Leventhal's expertise and programs have helped to create a finely manicured golf course that has become a wildlife sanctuary in the middle of a city, which proves that properly managed golf courses can indeed have a very positive impact on the environment.

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## *Professional Development Initiative*

# What is Competency-based Education? How Will it Help Me?

BY HANNES COMBEST

*GCSAA Director of Education*

*Editor's Note: This article was written before the Membership Standards Resource Group met in late June to revise various parts of the original PDI proposal. However, GCSAA education will change in content and delivery regardless of PDI. This article will give you some insights on how future education will be structured and made more accessible to all members.*

*The goal is not to make life more difficult for members, but to create meaningful learning experiences that will enhance a superintendent's ability to be successful on the job.*

**T**he objective of all association continuing education is to advance the knowledge, skills and abilities of the members.

GCSAA is therefore developing a state-of-the-art curriculum that provides golf course superintendents the tools needed to meet the challenges they face in managing the golf course, their staffs and their budget. The result of enhancing our education program will be the elevation of the professional qualifications of our members: golf course superintendents.

In the last two years, the Membership Standards Resource Group has been developing the Professional Development Initiative. The PDI is based on the belief that for golfers and employers to truly value superintendents, the association must develop a mechanism to recognize their accomplishments and to enhance their knowledge.

The MSRSG believes this can be accomplished through an integrated, competency-based curriculum.

Furthermore, research indicates that we must be able to measure the impact of this education and its effects on the playing conditions of the golf course. We need to give employers language they can understand, a bottom-line financial impact or as they refer to it "a return on their investment."

In order to develop the needed curriculum, we must identify what the employers of golf course superintendents need, want and value from their golf course superintendents. Then, we detail the knowledge, skills, and attributes required of superintendents to satisfy these needs. Education provides the means for superintendents to fill any gaps between those competencies that superintendents have and what they need.

Using a competency model will

document this process. The model consists of three major components: competencies, levels of proficiency and performance statements. The competency categories, which reflect a superintendent's skills and knowledge, are organized into appropriate clusters. Each competency category is then subdivided into proficiency levels that range from a Level 1 (a novice) to Level 5 (an expert).

Within each proficiency level are performance statements describing the observable behaviors of superintendents performing at that level of proficiency. The chart below is an illustration.

The competencies will be managed through a unique, internet-based program called the HR Web (more information on this program will be available in future newsletters). Although currently under development, members can view this tool by logging onto

the Members' Only section of [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org)

So how will the competency model impact education for superintendents? As you may imagine, superintendents traditionally have focused their continuing education on the agronomic skills or golf course management. However, our research indicates that superintendents' professional demands are changing. Superintendents' job requirements have increased the need for competencies in management skills, leadership and communication. This doesn't diminish the necessity for good scientific education, but it does require superintendents to broaden their expertise into various areas.

The current proposal recommended by the MSRG requires Class A members and certified members to maintain some level of continuing education. These levels have yet to be defined. Many members have expressed frustration with this requirement be-

## Let's See Those Hands!

Excerpt from the May/June President's Message of the Carolinas GCSA in the Carolinas Green:

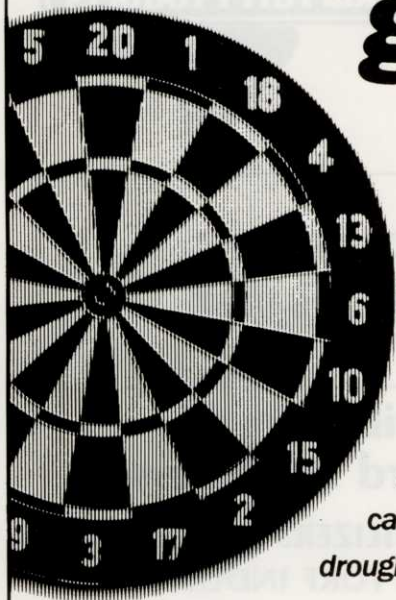
"...How many members would vote on PDI today? Not many hands up. How many of you would vote for:

- Increased salaries
- Enhanced job security
- Intensified recognition as a key member of the golf course management team
- Improved job opportunities
- Marketable credentials

Was that everyone's hand I saw going up? Can we agree that these are principles worth pursuing? These are the goals that PDI is intended to accomplish. Though we may not agree as to whether or not the current PDI proposal will meet these goals, I am sure golf course superintendents are excellent decision makers; therefore, I am confident that we will make the proper decision concerning our livelihood in the 21st century..."

Joel Ratcliff, CGCS  
President CGCSA

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## Resource Utilization: Rules of Golf

**Task: Manage the Course to Accommodate the Rules of Golf**

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access key rules information (USGA <i>Rules of Golf</i> and local rules)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an understanding of how rules affect golf course setup</li> <li>• Play golf</li> <li>• Demonstrate basic knowledge of golfing rules and etiquette</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remain current on updates made to USGA Rules of Golf and local rules</li> <li>• Set up course for both regular and tournament play to conform to the Rules of Golf</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct staff training on rules and course setup as it relates to the rules</li> <li>• Play the course regularly to determine how course operation and set up affect play</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain the experience and training to administer rules at a state or higher level event</li> </ul>

cause they do not believe they will have access to enough educational opportunities.

Currently members can obtain recognized education on various topics through GCSAA seminars, self-study programs and through limited external vendors. However, in the future, local education venues (chapters, industry, and extension avenues) will play

an important part in meeting requirements for continuing education (either for classification or certification, dependent upon the final outcome determined by members).

Furthermore, the education department at GCSAA is planning to pilot several programs next year that provide members education through various alternative methods. Some of these

could include videoconferencing, online education, additional self-study programs and an experiential learning program called Action Learning. This form of education provides superintendents the ability to document on-the-job learning experiences and submit them for credit. A template to facilitate this process is in development.

The education department is cur-



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rently completing a curriculum map of the existing programs. This involves comparing the content of educational opportunities (like seminars and courses) against the competencies that superintendents need to be successful. Performing a gap analysis tells us whether our current programs match the competencies completely, somewhat or not at all. Due to the diverse nature of our members' jobs, we will not be able to offer all the education our members need. Therefore we will rely on our members to tell us what they want GCSAA to develop and what should be provided via external sources.

At GCSAA, we are challenging our existing ways of providing services to members. We are investigating new ways to turn information and research into education. The goal is not to make life more difficult for members, but to create meaningful learning experiences that will enhance a superintendent's

ability to be successful on the job:

In October, 1999 the education committee adopted a new vision and mission for this program that contained several guiding principles. We will use this as our guide for developing programs for the future:

GCSAA education will be the main contributor to the professionalism and competency of golf course management and will be consistent with the best practice standards for state-of-the-art content, delivery and instruction. This will be accomplished by designing learning opportunities that are:

- Interactive
- Accessible
- Learner centered
- Available with multiple delivery systems
- Competency based
- Global in scope
- Culturally responsive

This results in instruction that is practically transferred to the workplace

and provides optimal value to all stakeholders.

All of the questions have not yet been answered, but it is clear that the education program currently available to members will be of higher quality, more diverse and available to more members in the future.

## How To Hire A General Manager

GCSAA has a new Career Development booklet entitled, "How to Hire a General Manager." While the booklet is aimed at employers and owners of golf courses, I am trying to get the word out about its availability to golf course superintendents, too.

Some of the information in it should be of interest to superintendents who are interested in pursuing a career as a general manager.

Also, if a superintendent has a gen-

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## Shared Competencies

For job descriptions, here is a quick review of competency areas that are (potentially) shared by both general managers and golf course superintendents.

### Club Management

- Policy formulation
- Board relations
- Committee relations
- Career development
- Golf operations management
- Golf Course management

### Food and Beverage

- Pricing concepts
- Ordering/receiving/controls/inventory
- Quality control
- Accounting and Finance
- Budgeting
- Cash flow forecasting
- Compensation and benefits administration
- Financing capital projects
- Computers
- Business office organization
- Long-range financial planning

### Human Resources

- Employee relations
- Management styles
- Organizational development
- Hiring/retention of staff

- Balancing job and family responsibilities
- Time management
- Stress management
- Labor issues
- Leadership

### Building and Facilities Management

- Preventive maintenance
- Insurance and risk management
- Remodeling and renovation
- Hiring and overseeing contractors
- Energy and water resource management
- Security

### External and Government Influences

- Legislative influences
- Regulatory agencies
- Environmental law
- Labor law
- Club law

### Management and Marketing

- Communications skills
- Marketing through in-house publications
- Professional image
- Member contact skills
- Media relations
- Marketing strategies

**Editor's Note:** It is not the intent of GCSAA to push superintendents towards the role of general manager. There has been enough movement in that direction already coupled with expressed interest from a significant number of GCSAA members to warrant making this type of educational tool available to those who wish to become general managers.

eral manager position open at their facility and is interested in it, this booklet would be helpful to pass along to their employer.

The "How to Hire a General Manager" booklet is complimentary to GCSAA members and can be ordered by calling the service center at 800-472-7878.

While on the subject of the general manager position, I would also like to make your chapter aware that the Club Managers Association of America (CMAA) has extended an offer to GCSAA members to take education classes presented through CMAA.

This should be of interest to golf course superintendents who are interested in broadening their skills to pursue a career as a general manager. Refer to the CMAA at [www.cmaa.org](http://www.cmaa.org) or call 703-739-9500 for more information.

*KIM HECK*

*Sr. Director of Career Development  
GCSAA*

### From the Introduction to "How to Hire a General Manager"

As competition grows in the golf industry, some facilities have changed from a green committee or advisory board reporting structure to a general management structure in the interest of keeping their competitive edge with other golf facilities.

Many successful golf courses are managed by a triumvirate of the club manager, golf course superintendent and golf professional. However, if

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smooth, it will change the way you  
work. No matter what kind of roller  
coaster terrain you work on.*





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The radical new Toro Active In-Frame suspension is based on a torsional pivot point that allows the entire vehicle frame to literally twist and contort to respond to your terrain.

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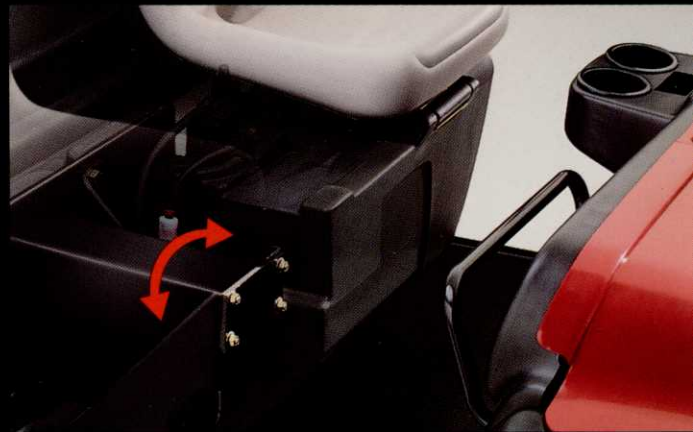
# URSELF IN. OLUTIONARY NEW FRAME™ SION FROM TORO.

To top it off, they added an independent front A-frame suspension, so each wheel reacts separately. Even fully loaded, you'll smoothly deliver your cargo over curbs, bumps and dips. And because the Active In-Frame suspension also promotes better traction, you'll glide over hills, knolls, and loose turf without a slip.



**Don't just drive. Float.** Large flotation tires, standard on both models, enhance your ride while decreasing compaction, even when fully loaded. High ground clearance leaves plenty of room for safe travel over obstacles.

**Smoother ride. Slip-free traction.** You'll feel the difference immediately with the Active In-Frame suspension. The heavy-duty frame literally twists around a torsional joint (shown below) to react instantaneously to your terrain for a smoother ride. It also gives the vehicle a "soft" traction – the wheels are always in firm contact with the ground, so tires grip better without damaging turf.



**The best turning radius around.** Like the Heavy-Duty Workman vehicles, the front wheels on the new Mid-Duty models turn an incredible 70 degrees for tight maneuvering.



**IT'S ABOUT  
PRODUCTIVITY**



**A custom fit for your crew.** The double-walled 49x52x10-inch cargo box was designed to be customized by you, with 1x4-inch pockets for stake sides or tool racks, vertical slots for box dividers, and a recessed inner-box ridge to fit a deck or cover.

**Impressive power.** Since it is equipped with either a twin cylinder, 16 hp or single cylinder, 11 hp Briggs & Stratton Vanguard™ engine, the Workman Mid-Duty offers the most power in its class. Letting you also tow an 800 lb trailer with ease.

**Room for everything. Including you.** Exceptionally large in-dash and under-seat storage provide ample space for tools, lunchboxes and other items. Plus, the seating area is designed to give you plenty of leg room.

**Efficient stop-and-go pedal start.**

Much like a golf car, the engine starts when you press the gas pedal, and stops when you hit the brakes. The ground-speed governor links the engine to the drive axle for a smooth top speed of 15 mph.

**Solid, non-corrosive, smart.** The rugged Toro frame is surrounded by a durable, corrosion-proof polyethylene body and bed that absorbs sound for a quiet ride.

**Optional accessories.** Add any of these versatile attachments to increase your productivity: cab, canopy, windshield, electric bed lift, refreshment center, Rahn groomer, roll-over protection, off-road lighting, and signal lighting.

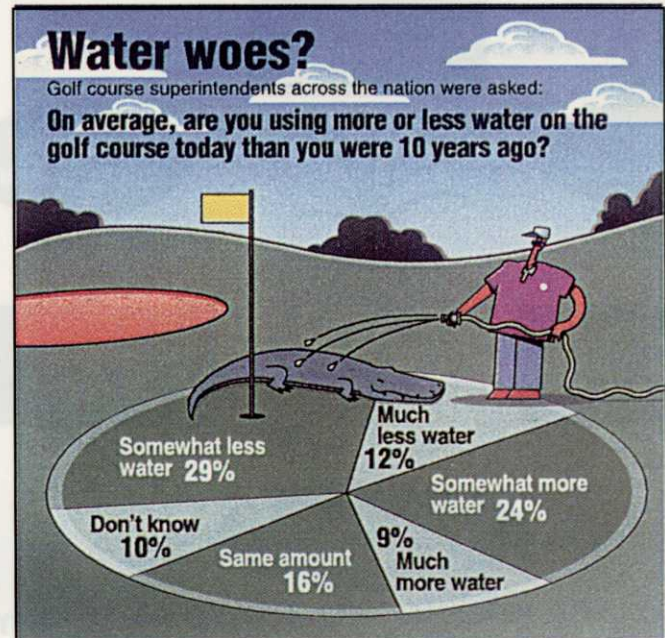
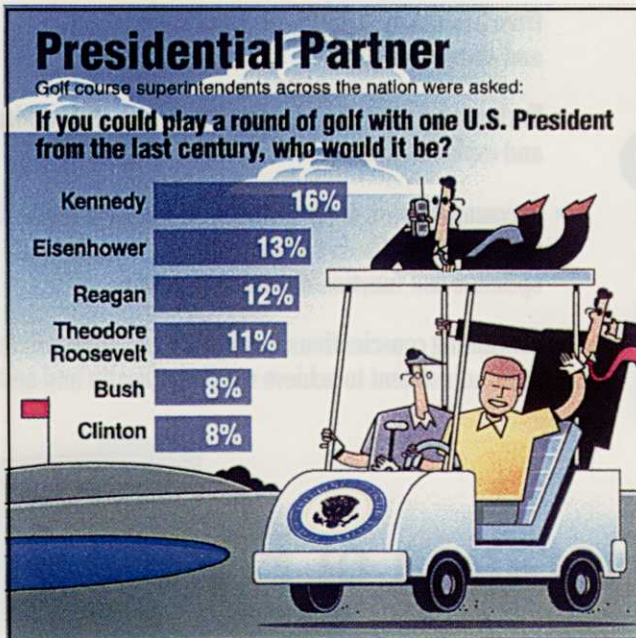
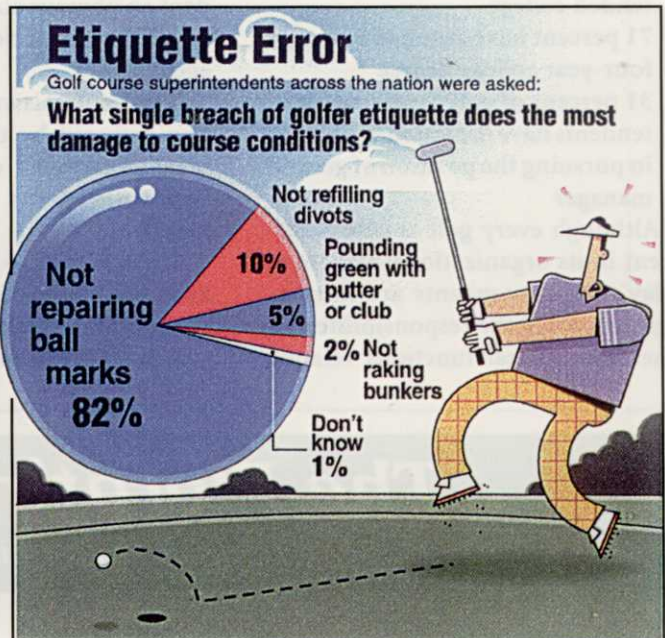
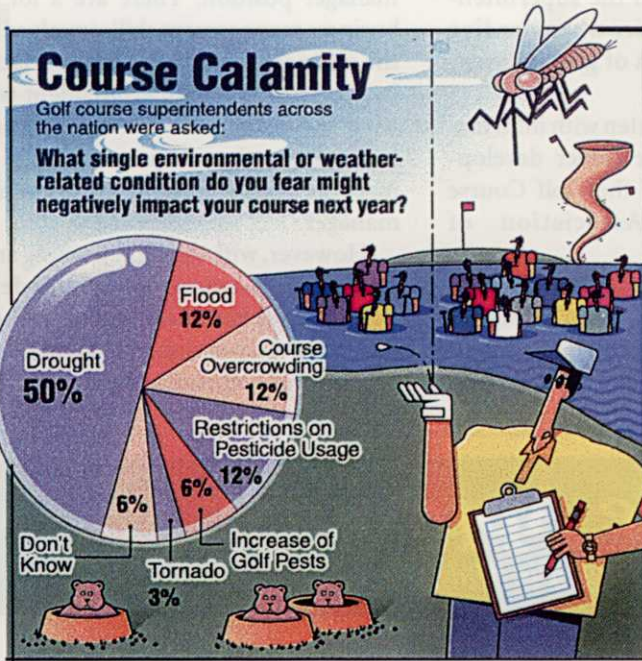
**TORO**

**IT'S ABOUT  
PRODUCTIVITY**

To learn more about the all-new Workman 1100 and 2100 Mid-Duty utility vehicles, visit [www.toro.com](http://www.toro.com), contact your Toro distributor, or call 1-800-803-8676.

# Factoids from GCSAA's 2000 Golf Leadership Survey

The GCSAA 2000 Golf Leadership Survey, a real-time, computerized, opinion poll conducted at GCSAA's conference and show in New Orleans, examined the opinions of more than 1,700 superintendents on trends in golf and golf course management. The survey is designed to position the golf course superintendent as an expert in trends affecting the golf industry. Here are some of the results.





your facility is already operating under a corporate-style of management or you are considering reconfiguring your facility's management structure, you may need an excellent general manager to oversee the daily operations.

General managers for all types of golf facilities may very well come from the ranks of golf course superintendents.

- More than 90 percent of all golf course superintendents have attended college
- 71 percent have attained a two- or four-year college degree
- 31 percent of golf course superintendents have indicated an interest in pursuing the position of general manager

Although every golf course is different in its organizational structure, today's superintendents are increasingly assuming the responsibilities for other operational functions relating

to the management of the entire facility.

Superintendents already manage the largest work force and the greatest portion of most facilities' budgets. Additionally, they are responsible for vast acres and millions of dollars worth of real estate, and they must be fully aware of and comply with federal, state, and local laws, rules and regulations.

This expanded knowledge, broadened management skills, and continuing education makes the superintendent an obvious choice when needing to fulfill the position of general manager.

This booklet is written with information gathered by the career development department of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

It is intended to guide employers in their decision making when hiring for the position of general manager at their golf facility. Within this booklet, you

will find:

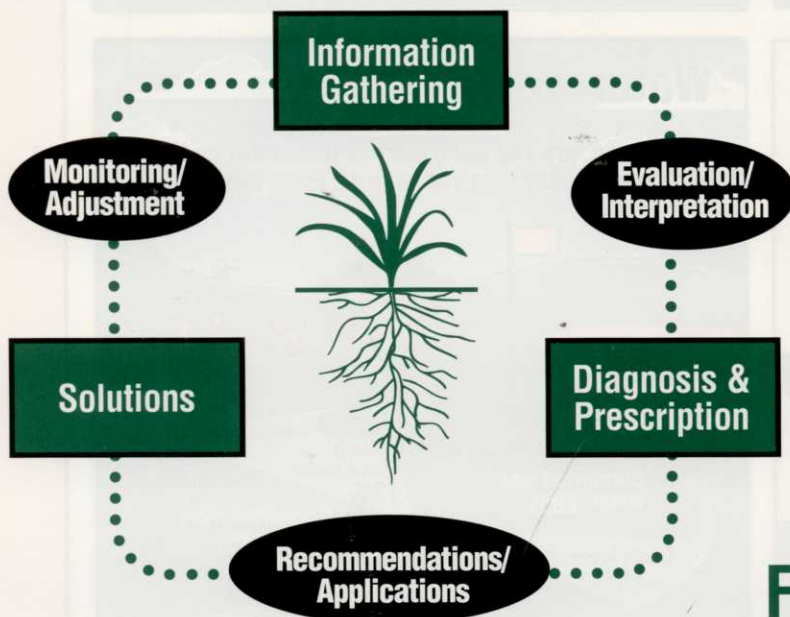
- The role of the general manager
- Analyzing the needs of your facility
- A comparison of job descriptions between the positions of superintendent and general manager
- The interview and selection process
- Creating a performance evaluation system for your general manager
- Ways GCSAA can help you

Not every superintendent is going to be the perfect candidate for a general manager position. There are a lot of business management skills involved in the management of an entire golf facility, and not every superintendent will have the desire to work more hours indoors nor the adequate training to meet the skills set required of a general manager.

However, with the right training and skills, a golf course superintendent should be the first place you look when hiring for the position of general manager at your golf course facility.

# The Floratine Approach

*"Prescription Without Diagnosis is Malpractice"*



- Accumulation of comprehensive, site specific information from laboratory analysis, physical examination, and client dialogue.
- Evaluation and interpretation of information to understand and explain agronomic conditions.
- Recommendation of scientifically sound, environmentally responsible methods and materials to promote optimum soil functioning and turf quality.
- Continuing conscientious monitoring and appropriate program adjustment to achieve maximum health and aesthetics.

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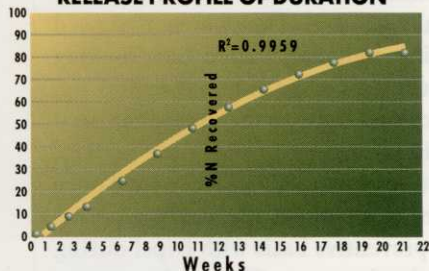
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- Patent pending.

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# Don't Bug Me!

**B**ugs, or more properly, insects are just another part of the turf management challenge facing golf course superintendents. Just when we get the turfgrass lush and healthy the bugs move in for a feast. If they aren't watched carefully, they can turn a velvety-smooth putting green into a ragged, pock-marked embarrassment.

If there is a trend in insect control, it would be that more and more superintendents are applying chemicals less often and to smaller areas on the golf course. Superintendents, who once used to spray all 18 greens if any signs of insect activity were spotted, now spray only those greens where actual damage is seen. If there are concerns about additional infestations, soap flushes are used to bring potential turf gobblers to the surface to evaluate populations and make more intelligent spraying decisions.

The good news is that insects have pretty consistent and definite life cycles which can be monitored to avoid surprises. The bad news is that, thanks to the 1996 Food Quality Protection Act, some of our familiar weapons against the creepy-crawlies are becoming endangered or extinct. There's more good news in that manufacturers are coming up with new products that require lower doses, are less toxic and are highly effective. The down side is that they tend to be specific to one kind of insect and they are more expensive than the older products. The cost factor added to reduced broad-spectrum control has superintendents looking for new ways to combat insect pests.

The following articles will look at some strategies and products for keeping the bugs on your course under control. Other suggested references for insect control are the *2000 University of Florida Pest Control Guide for Turfgrass Managers* and *Best Management Practices for Florida Golf Courses*. Both publications are available from your county extension offices or by calling the UF/IFAS Publications office at 800-226-1764.

JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

## New Weapons for Old Enemies in Y2K

**E**ven in the new millennium, and the computer age continuing to give us new technology, it is still the same age-old problems with insects that our men-

tors faced. I would have to say that the "big three" are nematodes, mole crickets and grubs.

"Todes" are probably the most frustrating to all superintendents because of the difficulty in controlling them. The majority of control needs to be done in the spring (March and April) to allow

the grass to set roots and get healthy for the summer heat.

My application weapon of choice has been Toro's high-pressure injector, and spot treating using liquid NemaCur 3 at a rate of 3 gallons per acre, with good results. Critical to good application coverage is to make sure the swaths are close together to avoid a zebra-stripe look that will not "green up" like the treated areas. An added benefit of using the injector is that the product is applied directly into the soil and doesn't sit on the grass surface waiting to be watered in after the entire area is treated, which equates to less exposure.

When it comes to controlling "crickets," scouting and timing are everything! The IPM specialist must scout and map the areas that need to be treated. Adults that have over-wintered become active in the spring and one or two treatments are required immediately.

And right away we have to prepare for the nymphs. Monitoring the adults and the egg development is an ongoing process. When the eggs get hard and become a pearl color, it indicates that they are ready to be laid.

At that point, we begin treating with a long-term-residual product, such as Merit. What we are looking to do is create a generation gap in the life cycle of the crickets, and grub control. By reducing the number of nymphs that survive, then you reduce the amount of adults to deal with later. After nymphs are controlled, adult mole crickets and grub control can be reduced.

For instance, we spot treat, and alternate spraying between the front nine and the back nine, once a week, with Turcam or Orthene (depending on the target), on approximately 6 acres, for the rest of the summer. Our IPM specialist continually scouts and maps areas that need treating, reducing wasted time looking for problems while out on the spray rig, and can go right to the areas that need treating.

Our greens get foliar fed at least once a week, year round. We treat for worms on a preventive basis with Dipel during periods of pressure. The results are usually very effective, yet, when the rains are

coming everyday, the webworms become relentless in their egg-laying. It is then necessary to apply a quick knock-down product such as Conserve or Astro.

There is no doubt in my mind that when a pesticide is improperly used, it results in a negative impact on the environment. It never fails that when we experience a *naturally occurring* fish kill in one of our lakes — due to a low-dissolved oxygen problem caused by a warm, cloudy day with a rain shower (like that never happens in Florida) — a club member will ask if all of the chemicals I use killed the fish! I have seen a fish kill due to the application of a pesticide with the onset of an unexpected afternoon rain that washed the treatment into the water, but it is my opinion that a lot of the fish kills caused by pesticides are actually the misdiagnosis of the low dissolved oxygen in the water.

As far as any problems with humans, the only incident that I can recall of someone being affected by a pesticide

application was myself. I was exposed to a chemical that caused me to have a bad reaction, and believe me, it was a living hell. Just remember, believe what they say on the label about possible effects on humans.

Always keep in mind, too, any possible exposure to any human when applying materials, and take all of the recommended safety precautions. Having experienced it myself, I would not wish a reaction to exposure on anyone.

For the most part, I am enthusiastic about the low dose, highly effective types of new chemistry that is being introduced. I focus on using products that are safe to us and to the environment. I believe that chemical manufacturers recognize the fact that they must produce safe, environmentally friendly products for golf courses because superintendents have come to demand them.

I also believe that the FQPA could result in the loss of some of the safe chemicals out there due to lack of — or

*...The only incident that I can recall of someone being affected by a pesticide application was myself. I was exposed to a chemical that caused me to have a bad reaction, and believe me, it was a living hell. Just remember, believe what they say on the label about possible effects on humans.*



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***One of the biggest problems with mole crickets is that you get disruption to the root system. The roots and soil dry out, and the ground is not as firm for mowers and people walking, because of all the mole cricket tunnels. Turf quality, in general, decreases.***

Chip Fowkes  
Frenchman's Creek Golf Course.  
Photo by Kenny Brooks.

United States, mole crickets have done nothing but wreak havoc on turfgrass and turf soil.

In fact, some have compared the mole cricket to house guests who overstay their welcome — and unfortunately for superintendents, these guests won't leave without a fight.

"Mole crickets caused complete devastation in parts of fairways on both of the Boca Woods courses," says John Gallagher, Boca Woods Country Club superintendent in Boca Raton.

"The way I understand it, the crickets were here before the golf course was. This area used to be a dairy farm. From the moment the course was completed, we spent all summer trying to control crickets. Damage was everywhere."

The damage mole crickets cause to both turf roots and soil with their feeding and tunneling can be devastating. They feed voraciously on roots, stems and ground-level plant leaves. One mole cricket may tunnel and feed several yards each night.

They also disrupt the soil by tunneling underground, loosening the soil and uprooting turf.

The tunneling destroys roots and causes the soil to dry out, placing added stress upon plants. Not to mention, tunnels located just below the ground surface cause soil to bulge above the surface.

The raised tunnels spoil the smooth surface of the greens, affect play and can be hit by mowers or other maintenance equipment.

"One of the biggest problems with mole crickets is that you get disruption to the root system," says Chip Fowkes, superintendent at Frenchmen's Creek in Palm Beach Gardens. "The roots and soil dry out, and the ground is not as firm for mowers and people walking, because of all the mole cricket tunnels. Turf quality, in general, decreases."

#### **Biological Controls**

Since mole crickets have no native insect parasites in the United States, scientists have researched what insects

misrepresentation of — the truth, plus some hard-nosed science. Hopefully, golf courses will not suffer too much, and that new, improved products will continue to be developed for our use.

Keep in mind, however, that it takes approximately 10 years in research and \$50 million to bring a new product to market. It is a lengthy and costly process, and I, for one, am glad that manufacturers are keeping up with the advances in new science and technology.

BILLY DAVIDSON, GCS  
Colliers Reserve

## **Stewards Beware: Mole Crickets Afoot**

Say the words "mole cricket" to any superintendent in the Southeast, and you'll likely see him flinch, grimace or simply shake his head. That's because most superintendents in the region have either experienced the devastation and frustration of mole crick-

ets firsthand or know of another superintendent who's been plagued by them.

Mole crickets arrived in Georgia and Florida from southern South America in about 1900.

Currently there are 10 mole cricket species in the United States, but the three major species inflicting the most damage in the South are the tawny mole cricket (*Scapteriscus vicinus*), southern mole cricket (*Scapteriscus borellii*) and short-winged mole cricket (*Scapteriscus abbreviatus*).

The tawny and southern mole crickets reside primarily in the lowlands of Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, North and South Carolina; however, there have been reports of the southern mole cricket as far west as Arizona and California. The short-winged mole cricket resides mainly in Florida.

#### **Overstaying Their Welcome**

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***Mole crickets caused complete devastation in parts of fairways on both of the Boca Woods courses... the crickets were here before the golf course was. This area used to be a dairy farm. From the moment the course was completed, we spent all summer trying to control crickets. Damage was everywhere.***

*John Gallagher  
Boca Woods C.C.  
Photo by Kenny Brooks.*

### **Chemical Controls**

Superintendents have tried most of the chemical control products available in an attempt to control or slow down mole cricket populations. Common mole cricket controls include:

- Acephate - Orthene TTO, OTTO 97 and Pinpoint
- Bendiocarb - Turcam
- Bifenthrin - Talstar
- Chlorpyrifos - Dursban
- Deltamethrin - DeltaGard
- Ethoprop - Mocap
- Fipronil - Chipco Choice
- Imidacloprid -
- Lambda-cyhalothrin - Scimitar

Using strategic combinations of these products has proven to limit populations, at least on a temporary basis.

"I've used Orthene, Oftanol, Mocap, Turcam and the list goes on," says Gallagher. "We've gotten some good results out of all of them, but it was limited because the mole crickets are not surface feeders.

"It all depends on timing. If the crickets are near the top, we get contact. Those down deep are not affected."

Mole crickets are so difficult to control that the only product Gallagher feels he's had success with is fipronil — available as CHIPCO® CHOICE™ brand insecticide.

"After we applied CHIPCO CHOICE for the first time, we expected to have to go back in and spot-treat, as we have with past products," says Gallagher. "What I noticed was that there wasn't any mole cricket activity — the fairways were clean."

CHIPCO® CHOICE™ has become the standard in mole cricket control since its registration four years ago. With its consistency, residual control and flexible application window, the product dominates the mole cricket control market.

While some superintendents do rotate with other chemistries such as bendiocarb and acephate, they usually have to come back with spot treatments throughout the summer season.

### **Timing is the Key**

are available from the mole cricket's native continent of South America. Currently, they have experimented with two such pests — the Brazilian red-eyed fly (*Ormia depleta*) and the Steinernema nematode.

The red-eyed fly is a natural enemy of the tawny and southern mole crickets. Adult flies lay eggs on mole crickets.

After hatching, the larvae eat the mole crickets. However, because the red-eyed fly is accustomed to the warm, humid, subtropical climate of Brazil, it is unlikely that it will spread anywhere outside of Florida.

Nematodes, the other biological control, can be applied with spray equipment. The nematode waits in the soil until a mole cricket tunnels by, it then crawls inside the cricket's mouth or breathing tubes

It then releases bacteria that kills the crickets. The nematodes feed on that bacteria, reproduce and the cycle begins again. Nematodes eat the adult mole crickets in the spring before they lay their eggs or in the fall when larvae have matured to adults.

Both of these methods are still being researched. Neither the red-eyed fly nor nematode eliminates mole cricket problems. One difficulty of using the parasites (red-eyed fly, nematode) as a sole control option is that when the host mole cricket population is reduced, the parasite population also declines.

The red-eyed fly and nematode will not naturally regenerate later to populations necessary for control. As a result, the parasites serve to help keep populations in check, not as a complete control option.

# All in a Day's Work.

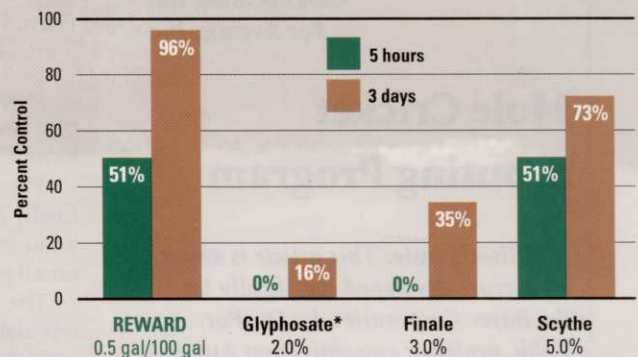
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\*Glyphosate used in this trial is a product of the Monsanto Company.  
Fred Yelverton, North Carolina State University, 1998 US12-98-W009B

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ZPP-REW-013



Whether it is biological or chemical, the key to effective pest control is timing. The best control is achieved when the eggs have just hatched and the mole crickets are most vulnerable. Larger nymphs and adult mole crickets, on the other hand, are increasingly more difficult to control.

As a result, closely monitoring the lifecycle of mole crickets is necessary. In general, hatching occurs around the end of May to the first of June, depending on the season's temperatures.

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*KERRY BROOKS  
Gibbs & Soell, Inc.  
For Aventis, Inc.*

## Mole Cricket Scouting Program

**Editor's note:** *This article is about a program developed specifically for the Bayer Corporation by Dr. Pat Cobb, professor emeritus from Auburn University, for the timing of MERIT™ insecticide applications for the control mole crickets and white grubs. This article is presented because the concepts and methods for determining the mole cricket egg hatch will determine the window of opportunity for optimum insect control regardless of the product used.*

**M**ERIT Insecticide is a broad-spectrum systemic insecticide that is effective at low-use rates with properly timed application against mole crickets. It is available in several formulations (MERIT 75 WSP, MERIT 75 WP and MERIT 0.5 G).

Merit Insecticide also offers value-added insect control for the white grub complex, while providing control of mole crickets. It is common for both

pests to cause damage in the same stand of turf. With one properly timed, self-applied application per year, this two-in-one control is a smart value and time-saver compared to making two separate applications.

MERIT provided the best results when properly timed. Scouting for adult mole cricket activity is the first step for determining optimal Merit application timing.

### Scouting Instructions

Begin by looking for active mole cricket tunnel damage, especially on

sunny southern slopes, tee boxes or areas damaged the previous year. Using a soap flush mixture of 1 to 2 tablespoons of lemon-scented liquid detergent in 1 gallon of water, flush active mole crickets to collect adults. Try to avoid overmixing. If the soap solution is too foamy, it can be difficult to detect the mole crickets.

The best time to flush is during the early morning or late afternoon. Pour approximately 1 quart of soapy water per square foot over fresh active tunnels. Multiple locations in a 20-foot area can be flushed at the same time. Marking with a flag makes a good reference to

## Product Clarification – Less Is More

May 22, 2000

To: All Florida golf course superintendents, distributor reps and other end users of ORTHENE™ Turf Tree & Ornamental Spray (75% Powder and/or New 97 Pellet)

From: Peter Blum, Technical Sales Rep., Professional Products Group, Valent U.S.A. Corporation

I would like to clarify a few issues that several superintendents have raised regarding ORTHENE Turf, Tree & Ornamental Spray (75% powder) vs. our new formulation, ORTHENE Turf, Tree & Ornamental Spray 97.

The new OTTO 97 is a 97% pure, high-grade pelletized product and is a totally dust-free, low-odor formulation. This new generation of ORTHENE addresses worker exposure issues - issues the industry remains concerned with on all products being sold in a dusty, powder formulation.

The new OTTO 97 is packaged in a .773 lb. can and a 7.73 lb. plastic resealable zipper-lock bag. These package sizes are equivalent in active ingredient to our 1 lb. and 10 lb. OTTO 75, respectively.

In other words, 1 lb. of OTTO 75 is equal to .773 lb. of OTTO 97. Furthermore, the price of OTTO 97 in a .773 lb. can is the same as the price of the 1 lb. OTTO 75. And the price of OTTO 97 in the 7.73 lb. bag is the same as 10 pounds of our OTTO 75. Thus, OTTO 97 will be the same cost per 100 gallons of tank mix or per acre as the OTTO 75. It simply takes less of the OTTO 97 to do the job as it is almost 25% stronger.

Distributors have the option of pricing OTTO 97 to the users on a per pound basis or on a per unit basis. If they price the OTTO 97 on a per pound basis, the cost per pound will be higher than a pound of OTTO 75. But if they price OTTO 97 on a per unit basis by container size (.773 lb. or 7.773 lb) vs. OTTO 75 (1 lb. or 10 lbs.), they should be of equal value.

One last point: The new OTTO 97 is available only under the product brand name ORTHENE Turf, Tree & Ornamental Spray 97 by Valent U.S.A. Corp.

I hope this addresses the questions you have had regarding these issues. Valent U.S.A. appreciates your business and your interest in our products. If I can be of further service, feel free to contact me. Thank you.

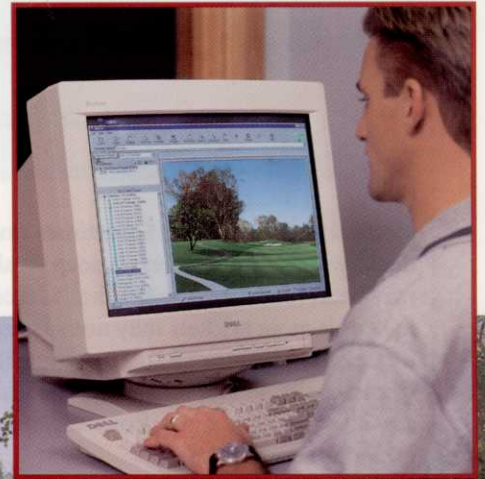
Sincerely,  
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Valent U.S.A. Corp.  
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***The best time to flush is during the early morning or late afternoon. Pour approximately 1 quart of soapy water per square foot over fresh active tunnels. Multiple locations in a 20-foot area can be flushed at the same time. Marking with a flag makes a good reference to locate the flushed spot.***

locate the flushed spot. Sometimes under dry conditions, an extra soap flush may be needed after the first has soaked in. Adult mole crickets may not surface for several minutes (5 to 10 minutes). Occasionally, tender foliage may be susceptible to slight burn from the soap under hot conditions.

Peak-season mole cricket activity varies depending on location and temperatures. Determine and record the identification of the mole crickets with each collection. Save collected specimens in labeled 4-ounce jelly jars half-filled with alcohol for future reference to predict egg hatch. Make sure all specimens are dated.

#### **Mole cricket sex identification**

You will need to be able to identify the female mole cricket in order to examine their eggs to predict egg hatch. The easiest way to determine the sex of mole crickets is to examine the wing area of the adults.

Adult tawny and southern mole crickets have wings that overlap and are the length of the abdomen. Hold the specimen so the wings are visible. Observe just behind the head at the base of the wings. The male will have a raised triangle that looks V-shape at the base of the wings. The female mole cricket will not have the darker raised area at the base of the wings and is lighter in color. This can be confirmed by rubbing a fingernail over the area at the base of the wings.

#### **Mole cricket egg development and early hatch**

Once you have identified the female mole crickets, you can examine their eggs to predict egg-lay and hatch.

Peel open the abdomen and locate the oval-shaped eggs behind the internal organs. In general, if eggs are small (pinhead size), light in color, flat or very soft to the touch, the female is in the early stages of egg development. In the later stages of egg development, the eggs become larger and more oval but remain soft and light in color — she may lay eggs within a few weeks. However, if the eggs are firm, and sometimes darker in color, egg lay can be expected within five days and hatch should begin in two weeks.

If you do not find eggs, the females may have already laid their eggs, and you should begin to monitoring for hatch. Start by soap flushing and observing for small nymphs (1 centimeter in size). These come to the top of the grass within a few minutes of soap flush. Small nymphs can be difficult to detect, so pay careful attention. Look closely for movement, because it is easier to see and collect small nymphs that are moving. You may notice nymphs when flushing for adult mole crickets. If your soap solution has too much foam, you may miss some nymphs.

Keeping records on species, numbers, sex and stage of development will provide useful information for MERIT ap-

plication timing. Record the size of nymphs collected if the program is initiated after egg-lay.

#### **MERIT application timing**

If the majority of females are in early stages of egg development, wait a week and scout again. If the majority are in the later stages of egg development, application time is near. Scout this area once or twice a week for small nymphs. If very small nymphs are found during flush, apply MERIT within seven to ten days. If larger nymphs (1 centimeter) are found, apply MERIT at first opportunity. Do not wait longer than one week.

#### **Irrigation**

Adequate irrigation or rainfall is needed after application to move MERIT into the soil. Apply sufficient irrigation to wet soil a minimum of 1 inch deep. For optimum control, irrigation or rainfall should occur the evening of application and before mowing.

#### **Summary**

- MERIT effectively controls mole crickets and the white grub complex with only one preventative application each season. This two-in-one approach is economical and a time saver.
- MERIT provides the option of self-application or custom-application.
- Proper timing is critical to achieve the best results with MERIT. Scouting for adult mole cricket activity is the best way to determine proper timing.
- Mole cricket egg-lay can be predicted by observing eggs in the female's abdomen. If eggs are firm, hard and sometimes dark in color, egg-lay can be expected within five days.
- Male mole crickets have a dark, raised v-shaped at the base of their wings, females don't.
- MERIT is most effective when timed with the first hatch of mole crickets.

*PAT COBB, PH.D.*

*Entomology Professor Emeritus  
Auburn University*

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*The Great Outdoors Golf Resort, Titusville*

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*— Geoff Coggan, certified golf course superintendent at The Great Outdoors and immediate past president, Central Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association*



*Tank mixing is a breeze with new dust-free ORTHENE 97.*



*Cobblestone Country Club, Palm City*

"Somebody did their homework when they created this product. It's a lot neater in my chemical room because of the resealable bag. My technician finds ORTHENE 97 much easier to work with because of the low dust. I've had my crew mention that the odor is less, and the members have also noticed less odor with this product."

*— Lee Bladen, golf course superintendent, Cobblestone Country Club*



*From tee to green, ORTHENE 97 is the new choice at Cobblestone Country Club.*



*Atlantis Golf Club, Atlantis*

"I've really liked ORTHENE, and I've used a lot of it over the years. What I like about ORTHENE 97 is the smell. It is much better. But the most noticeable difference is the elimination of dust. The resealable bags are perfect. You don't have to worry about it spilling or making the chemical storage room dusty."

*— Karl Schmidt, golf course superintendent, Atlantis Golf Club*



*Atlantis superintendent Karl Schmidt is sold on new Valent ORTHENE 97.*

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## How Ya Gonna Keep 'Em Down On The Farm?

**O**n a recent "turf tour" with a few of my peers, we visited The Farm Golf Club in Dalton, Ga. where Tim Kennelly, CGCS has been employed for six years. As with most golf course visits, I left with several tips that I may use in my operation.

The first thing that greeted our group at The Farm was a sign on the front door of the grounds management facility that read, "Our Goal - For all our golfers to tell their friends how great The Farm Golf Club is."

Kennelly placed this motivational sign on the door upon accepting the position at The Farm. Like many good ideas, the thought originated from a similar sign that Kennelly once saw while he was employed at The Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. Kennelly said, "It is important to remind the golf course staff on a daily basis of the main reason we are employed at The Farm."

Inside the grounds management facility we discovered another motivational tool, an "employee of the year" plaque on a few of the employee lockers. Kennelly initiated this honor at The Farm in 1996. Although Kennelly presents the award each year, the recipient is selected by an employee vote.

Three weeks prior to the annual end-of-the-year staff party, nominations are taken from the crew. The top five vote-getters are then placed on the ballot for the award. One week prior to the big event, ballots are passed out and the employees are instructed to place their completed ballots in a locked box up to one hour prior to the party.

During the end-of-the year-party, while the employees are munching on steak, shrimp, and Alaskan king crab claws, Kennelly counts the votes. The winner not only receives the plaque on their locker but also will have their own private parking spot for the upcoming year.

"There are no set rules since our employees seem to recognize those who put forth the extra effort and are deserving of the award," Kennelly said. He added, "I think the award along with the dinner has been well received by the employees and

their stomachs!" Saving money from the vending machines and recycling aluminum cans raises the funds for the event.

Not all is lost for those crew members who are not elected "employee of the year." Prior to the party, one raffle ticket is given to each employee and after the huge feast, items that were given to Kennelly throughout the year by vendors such as hats, shirts, jackets, etc., are raffled off to the employees.

Kennelly said, "The pro shop and vendors that we have done a lot of business with throughout the year are also hit up for donations." Kennelly seems to have mastered the fact that a happy, well-motivated crew will work hard and make him look great.

*Darren J. Davis*  
Olde Florida Golf Club



*Sign on the Grounds Management Facility at The Farm, "Our Goal — For all of our golfers to tell their friends how great The Farm Golf Club is."*



*Employee of the Year plaque on employee lockers at The Farm.*

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FTGA UPDATE

### Cisar Passes Turf Liason Baton to Working Group

At the Florida Turfgrass Association's March 24 board meeting in Gainesville, UF/IFAS Turf Coordinator, Dr. John Cisar passed the responsibility of industry liaison to the Turfgrass Working Group headed by Dr. Bryan Unruh.

Under the IFAS reorganization instituted by UF/IFAS Vice President Mike Martin, each commodity group served by IFAS has developed a working group of faculty members. Turf is no exception and Drs. Unruh, Trenholm, Miller and Nagata make up the core leadership of the Turf Working Group.

In a special presentation ceremony by Dr. Martin, congratulations and thanks were expressed to Dr. Cisar for filling the industry-requested turf coordinator role. We add our thanks to Dr. Cisar and look forward to his continued contributions in turf research as part of the new Turf Team.

#### 48th Annual Conference

As we move into summer, the FTGA office staff and conference and show committee members are wrapping up the list of speakers and topics for the 48th Annual Conference and Show Aug. 14-16 at the O'Connell Center on the University of Florida campus in Gainesville.

This year all of the classroom education has been moved to the O'Connell Center or just across the street in the Florida Gymnasium Building. No more cross-campus hikes to catch a concurrent session or workshop. Park at the garage next to the O'Connell center and you're set!

This year the Trade Show will kick off with an afternoon and evening grand opening and reception on Tuesday, August 15th from 5 to 8 PM. This format has been gaining widespread popularity at other trade shows and

## 2000 Florida Plants of the Year - Part 3

*Editor's Note:* The Florida Plants of the Year program was launched in 1998 and has been beneficial to both consumers and growers. Purchasers are introduced to under-utilized but proven Florida plant material. The plants are chosen each year by a committee of horticulturists, nurserymen, educators, landscape architects and other members of the horticulture industry representing Central, North and South Florida.

### COMMON NAME: Ficus TooLittle

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Ficus benjamina* 'TooLittle'

**HARDINESS:** Low to medium light

**MATURE HEIGHT AND SPREAD:** At one year old the plant is 12-24 inches high and 8-10 inches wide.

**CLASSIFICATION:** Ornamental foliage plant

**LANDSCAPE USE:** Bonsai or small topiary

**CHARACTERISTICS:** This true dwarf ficus can be distinguished from the regular benjamina by its unique small curled leaves and tight internode space.

This is a chance mutation that was discovered in 1988. Ficus 'TooLittle' is a full plant with approximately 7-10 times more leaves than its parent benjamina. The numerous leaves give 'TooLittle' its dense appearance.

'TooLittle' is currently being grown from tissue culture and its small size makes it a good candidate for bonsai. The large sparse roots under the soil can be exposed to add to the bonsai effect. The 'TooLittle' also lends itself well to use by the small topiary foliage market.



### COMMON NAME: Golden Jasmine

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Cestrum aurantiacum*

**HARDINESS:** Zones 8-10

**MATURE HEIGHT X SPREAD:** 8 feet tall and wide

**CLASSIFICATION:** Landscape shrub

**LANDSCAPE USE:** Specimen or mass plantings

**CHARACTERISTICS:** Bright orange-yellow flowers in spring and summer.

The sprawling habit of this shrub can be contained by light pruning. Orange-yellow flowers are attractive to butterflies. This fast grower blooms continuously from spring to summer, requires full-sun or partial shade and tolerates drought and poor soil. It may die to ground in colder zones, but recovers quickly in the spring.



### COMMON NAME: Mahogany Fern

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Didymochlaena truncatula*

**HARDINESS:** Zones 9-10

**MATURE HEIGHT X SPREAD:** 2-3 feet tall, upright

**CLASSIFICATION:** Tropical upright fern

**LANDSCAPE USE:** Ground cover for medium to dense shade

**CHARACTERISTICS:** Rich mahogany new growth enlivens the dark green glossy mass of foliage

This ground cover flashes a glossy green foliage with contrasting bronze new growth reminiscent of Autumn Fern, but more upright. Mahogany Fern grows best in shade and evenly moist conditions.



gives attendees a chance to enjoy a libation, some snacks and take in the trade show at the same time.

The FTGA leadership is counting on all segments of the turf industry to support the conference and show. While golf course superintendents have been key in this effort in the past, our numbers have been tailing off the last couple of years.

With universal issues facing the total turf industry these days, the FTGA Conference and Show will be a good place for everyone to gather and join forces.

There are plenty of moderately priced hotels west of campus located at exits 75 and 76 on I-75. Last year I stayed at the Red Roof Inn for only \$34.50 a night. There is also a cluster of hotels on U.S. 441 (SW 13th St.) south of campus.

There is also a new DoubleTree Hotel on campus at the corner of SW 34th St. and Hull Rd. This will be the



*At the FTGA's Spring board meeting in Gainesville, Dr. Mike Martin, vice president of IFAS presented Dr. John Cisar with his thanks and a plaque commemorating his service as IFAS Turf Coordinator for the past two years. Martin announced that IFAS is now installing a Team Working Group approach to communicate with various industry commodities. Dr. Bryan Unruh will be the chairman of the new Turf Working Group for IFAS. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

site of the GCSAA Leadership Seminar. All of these locations are just minutes away from the O'Connell Center.

JJ

UF/IFAS OVERSEED FIELD DAY

## Combined Event Draws Crowd

**S**uperintendents from as far away as Naples and Miami took advantage of the combined Overseed Field Day and FTGA board meeting to visit the turf plots to make seed variety evaluations and listen to research updates at the G.C. Horn Memorial Field Laboratory and the Envirotron Research Laboratory.

Out at the G. C. Horn turf plots Dr. Al Dudeck reviewed the 1999-2000 Overseed Trial results. Dr. Jerry Sartain updated data on his cool season turfgrass fertility research and Dr. Grady

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New UF/IFAS faculty member Dr. Carol Stiles was introduced by Dr. Everett Emينو at the IFAS Overseeding Field Day held in March. Stiles's specialty is turf pathology and she is looking for input from superintendents on their current disease problems. Photo by Joel Jackson.

## 48th Annual FTGA Conference and Show

### Monday, Aug. 14

8:00 AM Registration

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM Workshops (2 hours each). Topics include: Weed ID & Weed Control; Lawn, Trees or Shrub Maintenance; Turfgrass Insect Control; Ornamental Troubleshooting; Sprayer & Spreader Calibration; Sod Production; Landscape Beautification; Vertebrate Pests; Personal Protection Equipment; Pest & Weed Control in Sod Production.

2:30 PM University Tour (Includes the Envirotron, athletic fields, turf plots)

12:00 PM to 6:00 PM Golf Tournaments

6:00 PM to 10:00 PM Toro Corn Boil on the Touchdown Terrace

### Tuesday, Aug. 15

8:00 AM Registration

8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Equipment Technician Seminar. Buses to Lake City CC.

8:00 AM to 12:00 PM GCSAA Leadership Series Seminar - .35 CEU's available.

9:00 AM to 12:30 PM Long Grass Concurrent Sessions. Topics include: Sod Certification; Annuals; Athletic Field Management; Biostimulants; Florida Fertilizer & Seed Laws; Worker Protection Standards; How To Legally Hire An Employee; Pest Control In Outdoor Structures. Some of the Monday Workshop topics will be presented in a condensed format.

11:30 AM to 12:30 PM UF/IFAS Research Reports

1:00 PM to 2:30 PM Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon

3:00 PM to 4:00 PM UF/IFAS Research Reports

4:00 PM to 5:00 PM Protecting Our Natural Resources. Special presentation by Wes Skiles. John Wildmon helped in this project which was filmed and shown on the A&E cable network.

5:00 PM to 8:00 PM Reception and Trade Show Grand Opening

### Wednesday, Aug. 16

8:00 AM Registration

8:30 AM to 11:30 PM Short Grass Concurrent Sessions. Topics include: Crisis Management Plan; Management Practices for USGA vs California Sand Based Greens; New Seashore Paspalum Grass. Some of the Monday Workshop topics will be presented in a condensed format.

10:00 AM to 3:00 PM Trade Show Open

Miller demonstrated the methods used to determine damage to soccer field turfgrass based on cleat design.

There were plenty of replicated plots of seed varieties and fertilizer combinations to give the audience a good look at performance differences.

Dr. Everett Emينو, assistant dean of research administration, introduced the newest member of the IFAS turf team, pathologist Dr. Carol Stiles. Dr. Stiles didn't waste any time getting her feet wet as she distributed a questionnaire asking for turf disease input from the attendees.

Then everyone traveled over to the Envirotron where Emerald Island Turf served up another delicious barbecue lunch. Those guys are putting a lot of miles on that tow-behind grill. Mr. McCall, thanks for the grub.

Before lunch, however, there were more turf plots and greenhouse experiments to check out dealing with *Poa trivialis* seeding rates, nutrient concentrations and leaching, light intensity and cutting heights on ultradwarf greens, soil amendments, tropical signalgrass and torpedograss controls and shade tolerance of St. Augustine.

Principal investigators on these projects include Drs. Grady Miller, Laurie Trenholm, Jerry Sartain, Russell Nagata, John Cisar, and Bert McCarty; plus researchers Jan Weinbrecht, J. R. Higby, Ray Snyder, Travis Shaddox, Jason Kruse, Eric Brown, and Jeff Edenfield.

Attending one of these field days is always a good reminder that turf research is on-going and time consuming. There's very little instant gratification in research. It is a body of work in progress that takes our continual support.

#### USGA REGIONAL SEMINAR

## Topics Are Up, Attendance Down

The 2000 USGA Regional Conferences held in Palm Beach and Tampa this year were chock full of interesting information as usual, but



# Golf Course Environmental Compliance, Safety, and Security Starts With Safety Storage

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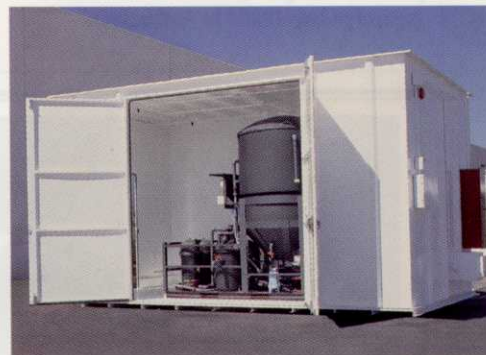
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Scott Gillihan, Director of the Colorado Bird Observatory told the audience at the USGA Regional Conference in Tampa that golf courses have an opportunity to send a very positive message about bird habitats to the general public. Photo by Joel Jackson

USGA officials were disappointed the attendance numbers were down from previous years.

The presentations this year offered a wide variety of topics. Some of the maintenance highlights from the Tampa conference:

•Behind the scenes of a major championship - Tim Morahagn, director, USGA Championship Agronomy, had this to say about charges that the USGA tricks up U. S. Open courses to run up the scores, "Some people say we try to embarrass the best players in the world. We say we try to present conditions which identify the best players in the world."

•Regrassing: It's more than picking the right variety - Chris Hartwiger, USGA agronomist Southeast and Florida Regions, focused on making sure greens locations had adequate sunlight to grow grass. He talked about plotting sun and shade patterns before you install the new turf. Other-

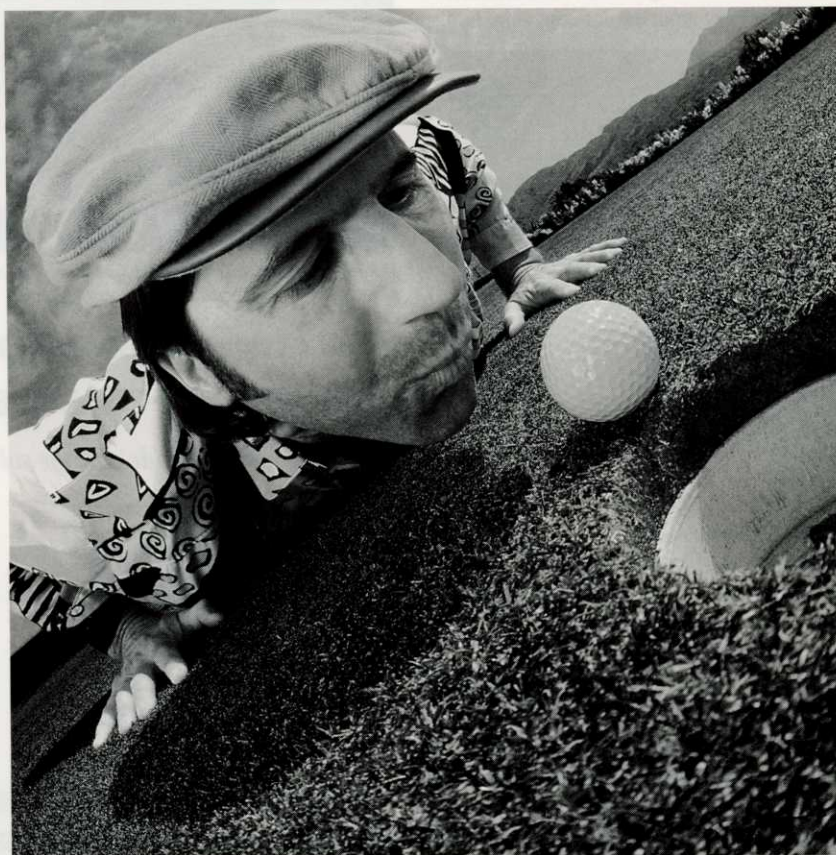
wise the new grass will be doomed to fail as well.

•Digital Imaging: See it before you do it - Keith Harpp, USGA agronomist Mid-Atlantic Region had a great presentation of how superintendents and clubs can view projects before and after the fact on screen to avoid mistakes discovered only in hindsight.

One example was the planting or removing of trees. Computer software makes it possible to install and grow a tree to see the effect it will have on shot values on a digital picture of your golf hole.

•Sharing your golf course with birds - Scott Gillihan, director of the Colorado Bird Observatory had a very hopeful message for golf courses. He has come to regard golf courses as one of the best potential habitats for birds as they become the obvious refuges in the urban sprawl.

He went on to say that domestic cat



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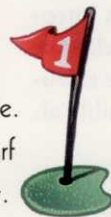
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Dr. Bryan Unruh, IFAS Extension Specialist at the West Florida Research & Education Center in Milton presented an update on his research into Methyl Bromide alternatives at the USGA Regional Conferences this year. Photo by Joel Jackson

## Drought Outlook Worse Than 'Severe'

The winter, spring, and early summer are the normal dry season in Florida. However, since late fall of 1999, a large portion of the state has not received any significant rainfall. A recent assessment published by the Climate Prediction Center has more than two-thirds of the state rated as being in a D2+ condition. D2 is the designation for a severe drought condition and the + indicates that the forecast calls for further intensification.

With day and night temperatures building, water requirements of turfgrasses also are increasing quickly. The net result experienced at a large number of courses around the state is growing problems maintaining a uniform green turf cover.

The base bermudagrass turf cover of Florida golf courses is considered to have excellent drought resistance. Bermudagrass is able to survive prolonged dry periods by going into a dormant stage, and then breaking dormancy when adequate soil moisture redevelops. As the bermudagrass enters into dormancy, it quickly loses its green color, but an acceptable playing surface still can be maintained.

Of greater concern at this point is completing the transition process out of winter overseeding cover. With hot daytime temperatures, any remaining overseeding material will quickly burn out. If the base bermuda is under drought stress, recovery will be prolonged.

The following is a review of some basic agronomic principles about managing grass during a drought.

**1. Control traffic.** Heavy traffic on grass under wilt/drought stress can cause permanent damage. Restrict traffic to paths, minimize traffic on roughs to the extent possible, do not allow crossover or the "90 degree rule," and even encourage walking.

**2. Raise mowing heights** and mow less often. After all, the grass should be growing slower.

**3. Use plant growth regulators.** Where

*As the bermudagrass enters into dormancy, it quickly loses its green color, but an acceptable playing surface still can be maintained.*

appropriate, apply or continue using growth-regulating chemicals. These products can reduce water use rates by as much as 30 percent.

**4. Pest management.** On a positive note, insect (mole cricket) and disease activity is reduced.

**5. Fertility.** Defer fertilizer applications, especially granular, readily available nitrogen materials, until the weather moderates. Guard against stimulating too much growth. Sprayable forms of fertilizers can be beneficial when applied in a timely fashion. Maintaining adequate potassium is helpful for increasing stress tolerance.

**6. Irrigation water quality.** Regardless of the source, it would be advisable to check the irrigation water for sodium/salt build-up. In several locations, salt intrusion is a growing concern.

**7. Renovation/Reconstruction.** Rethink renovation or reconstruction projects. In general, do not disturb the turf unless you have the ability to irrigate these areas. Be patient, wait for better weather, and monitor district and local regulations covering renovation and turf establishment.

Remember that all golf courses represent the turfgrass industry and the game of golf. Respect irrigation regulations and requests for voluntary conservation. While individual conditions vary, we are in a serious drought, and unfortunately no relief is in sight. Hopefully, these points will help golf courses manage their turfgrass through a difficult period. If any specific questions arise, feel free to call our office at 561-546-2620. Good luck and let's pray for rain.

JOHN FOY  
Director, Florida Region

predation accounts for 300 million bird deaths a year. Gillihan has authored a book titled *Bird Conservation on Golf Courses: A Design and Maintenance Manual*.

The book is available from Ann Arbor Press, 800-487-2323. It makes a great companion to Ron Dodson's book, *Managing Wildlife Habitat on Golf Courses*, also available from Ann Arbor Press.

•Methyl bromide and ultradwarf updates - Dr. Bryan Unruh, assistant professor UF/IFAS extension specialist told the audience that while a couple of products hold out some hope for being used as a fumigant, nothing has come along yet that matches methyl bromide's effectiveness.

He also reported that California representative Richard Pombo has introduced bill H.R. 4215 to try to delay the ban on MeBr until 2010 to give scientists more time to develop a viable alternative.

Until something is found, MeBr production will decrease and product will become more expensive as we head toward the current ban date of 2005.

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KEEP ON TRUCKIN'

## Are You SURE You've Got a License to Drive That Thing?

BY CRAIG WEYANDT

*Y&CC of Stuart*

**W**hat do you drive at work? I'm not talking about your big gest Big Bertha or any other oversized titanium monster that you bought on the home shopping channel. I'm talking about your company trucks.

It seems that every time I go to a superintendent's meeting there are more pick-up trucks than any other vehicle in the parking lot. Let's face it. A truck is a practical vehicle to have. You can haul people, fertilizer, mulch and many other things.

When I started at the Yacht & Country Club, the company vehicle was a 1986 Chevy Blazer. The Blazer was nice but not a practical work vehicle. If I wanted to haul anything of size I would have to drive the dump truck, a 1982 Ford 350.

The dump truck had the size but was really on its last legs. As a matter of fact, our head mechanic, Ken Kolinski, had to build a complete new dump body for the truck. He did a great job and this helped, but it still did not change the fact that one door was welded shut and if you had to stop in a hurry you could always pretend you were Fred Flintstone and put your feet through the floor board to stop.

As budget time approached I decided to put in a capital request for two new work vehicles. The dump truck was a simple replacement of the cab and chassis. After all, Ken had just built a new dump body and with a few modifications it would fit perfectly with the new cab and chassis of a 1999 Ford F350.

To replace the Blazer I definitely wanted a truck... but what type and size? To get a better price, I decided to stay with Ford for the make of the truck. As far as size, I wanted to try to anticipate what would be the maximum amount of weight that I would want to haul or tow.



*Craig Weyandt, superintendent of the Y&CC of Stuart stands by his new Ford pick up truck that he could buy – but not drive until he upgraded his driver's license to a Class D status. The upgrade requires taking a written test and paying a fee*

I thought to myself, "What if the dump truck is busy and I want to get a pallet of sod or fertilizer?" We also have a Vermeer 935 chipper that requires a 500-pound tow hitch capacity.

After looking at all the capabilities that I wanted, I had no choice but to go with the 1999 Ford 250, 3/4 ton Super Duty Truck. I think the name says it all and if I were Tim Allen, I would be grunting right now. The proposals were made, pictures taken and turned in for approval in the fall of 1998 for the purchase in 1999.

I did my homework, shopped for the best prices, justified my needs and was confident in my selection process. I won't let the suspense kill you, I got the trucks. However, there was one thing that I missed. If I wanted to drive the vehicles off property to get sod, rock or any other material, I didn't have the proper driver's license! That's right. It turns out I needed a Class D license to drive either truck.

In the 1999 Florida Statutes, 322.54 Classification 2d states:

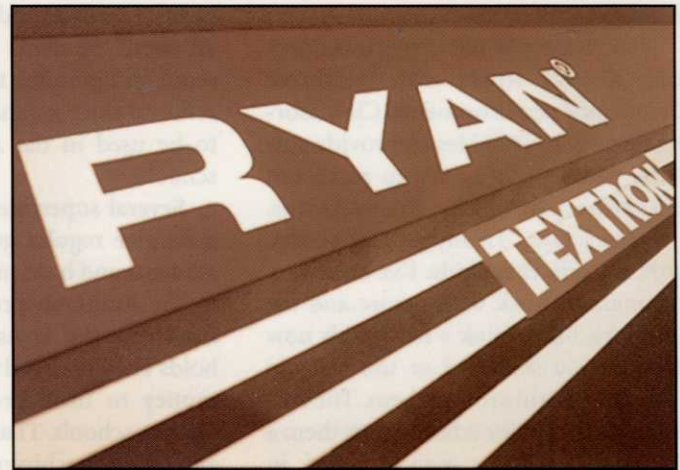
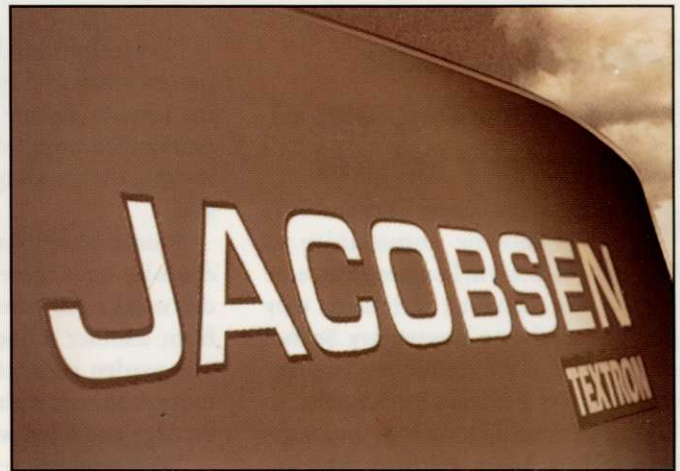
"Any person, except a person who possesses a valid Class A, valid Class B, or valid Class C driver's license, who drives a truck or a truck tractor having a gross vehicle weight rating, a declared weight, or an actual weight, whichever is great-

est, of 8,000 pounds or more but is less than 26,001 pounds, or which has a width of more than 80 inches must possess a valid Class D driver's license.

"Any person who possesses a valid Class D driver's license may be subject to the appropriate restrictions and endorsements, drive any type of motor vehicle other than the type of motor vehicle for which a Class A, Class B, or Class C driver's license is required, within this state."

So what does all that legalese mumbo-jumbo mean in laymen's terms? It means that if you have a truck with a sticker on the inside of the door that says it is rated for over 8,000 pounds, if the registration is rated at over 8,000 pounds, or if the physical weight of the vehicle is over 8,000 pounds (which ever is greater) you must possess a Class D license to operate the vehicle.

This is the first time I had ever heard of a Class D license and I wouldn't be surprised if this is the first time for a few others. To change your license to a Class D requires taking a written test and paying a small fee for the new card. To be on the safe side, double check your company trucks' weight ratings and make sure all potential drivers are licensed properly.



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## Legacy Sponsors Audubon Program at Elementary School

Soon after the Legacy Club and Taylor Woodrow community at Alaqua Lakes in Longwood became an Audubon Signature Sanctuary, they adopted Heathrow Elementary School as a member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Schools.

The relationship took root under superintendent Adam Feltman, who recently moved to the Laurel Oaks G. C. in Sarasota.

New Legacy Club superintendent John Kopack works with Heathrow Elementary's Environmental Club coordinator Susan Halkides to provide students with opportunities to reach out and touch nature with hands-on activities.

Kopack says, "I really get a kick out of working with these kids. I've been very fortunate to work with nature and the outdoors, but I think a lot of kids now days are too sheltered or too busy to notice the world around them. The Audubon program for schools gives them a chance to learn that man can work in harmony with nature."

Last March Kopack cranked up his sod cutter and cut out a garden plot in the shape of a butterfly. Several of his crew helped haul in some soil mix and mulch, and then they stood back and let the kids landscape the garden with plants and homemade stepping stones.

"We let the kids do everything except the real heavy work, and they loved planting lantana, purple fountain grass and marigolds among other varieties and arranging the stepping stone borders," he said.

More recently, Kopack helped the students lay out a flower and vegetable garden using some leftover concrete blocks from another school building project. The garden consists of several 5-by-6-foot raised beds with the concrete blocks on edge and filled with dirt.

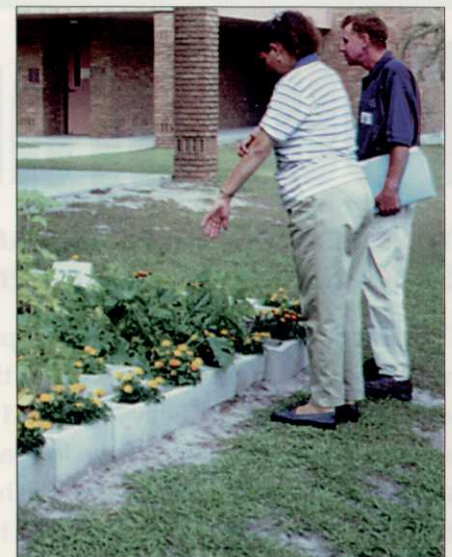
"You ought to see these plots now," Kopeck says. "They've got corn, squash, beans, tomatoes and flowers coming up all over." Students are taught how to scout and monitor the gardens for pest removal since no chemicals are allowed to be used in the ACSP program for schools.

Several superintendents around the state give regular golf course tours to students and have made a commitment to the Audubon program for schools. Each year the Treasure Coast Chapter holds The Blue Pearl tournament to raise money to fund programs for Stuart County schools. Thanks to John Kopack and others for shining a positive light on golf course superintendents. Won't you think about asking your club to sponsor a local school in the Audubon Sanctuary program? It's a great way to show the public that we are not the "bad guys" so often depicted in the media.

JOEL JACKSON, CGCS



Legacy Club superintendent John Kopack used plastic plant pots as molds to pour stepping stones for the Heathrow Elementary School's garden areas. Kopack (standing) looks on as students decorate the stones with sea shells and small stones.



J1-P2: Heathrow Elementary teacher Susan Halkides and Legacy Club superintendent John Kopack inspect the school's flower and vegetable garden made of raised concrete blocks. No synthetic pesticides are used to control pests in the ASCP school program. Scouting, monitoring and plants like marigolds are used to discourage pests.

## Audubon List Grows

Congratulations to Florida's Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Golf Courses

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Eglin AFB – Falcon Course, Niceville

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Kingsway CC, Lake Suzy

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Polo Park East, Davenport

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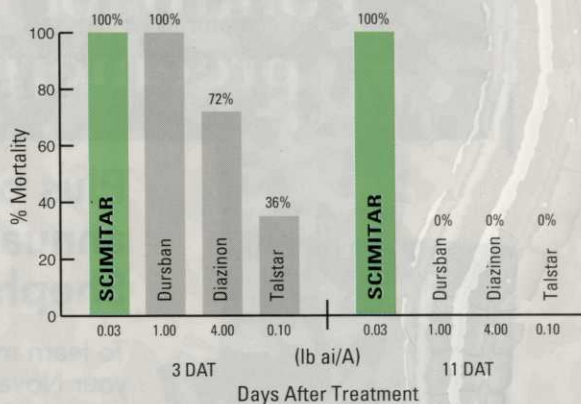
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## FTGA Announces \$97,000 for Turf Research in 2000

The Florida Turfgrass Association has announced research grants totaling \$97,489.50 have been awarded for 2000. Some of these funds are for multi-year studies that started in 1999. This amount does not include the possible funding in 2000 from the Seven Rivers GCSA restricted Envirotron Research Account.

The Florida Sod Growers Cooperative has raised \$10,000 to begin a two-year, \$20,000 study by Dr. Barry Brecke on tropical signalgrass control in st. augustinegrass sod.

Turfgrass Research Funding for 2000			
Year	Research Project	Cost This Year	Length of Study
<b>FTGA Research Grant Funding for 2000</b>			
1999	Influence of silicon on controlling gray leaf spot	\$2,100	2 years
1999	Evaluation of nitrogen leaching in St. Augustine	\$17,250	2 years
1999	Evaluation of ultradwarf bermudagrass management practices	\$9,437	2 years
1999	Fate of nitrogen during grow-in of a golf course fairway	\$15,352	2 years
2000	Bahiagrass improvement for rough turf applications	\$10,925	3 years
2000	Development of a simple technique for evaluating insecticides for southern chinch bug control	\$5,750	1 year
2000	Seashore paspalum management in Florida	\$2,875	2 years
2000	Breeding bermudagrasses for Florida	\$20,000	1 year
2000	The role of gypsum and sodium in the maintenance of bermudagrass and overseeded grasses on sand soils	\$13,800	2 years
<b>Florida Sod Growers Cooperative Research Grant</b>			
2000	Tropical Signalgrass Control in St. Augustinegrass Sod	\$10,000	2 years
<i>Projects do not include funds raised by Seven Rivers GCSA to equip and maintain the Envirotron Research Laboratory in Gainesville.</i>			

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# How!

*YMCA offers an exciting program that provides opportunities for busy superintendents to slow down, step back and enjoy nature and our environment, while strengthening their family relationships.*

BY ROBERT KLITZ, CGCS

*General Manager, Golf Hollywood  
Orangebrook Country Club*

In the summer of 1996, a flyer came home from my son Robert's school announcing orientation and registration for the YMCA Indian Guide/Princess program offered by our local North Broward YMCA. My wife Lisa asked me if I would be interested in joining the program with Robert so we could spend more time together.

Camping? In the woods? With a 5-year old? Are you crazy?

My response was not well received.

Hesitantly and reluctantly, I attended the orientation/registration program with a strong sense of being railroaded into something against my will.

Fortunately this program has become a key component in my desire to establish a close and enduring relationship with my children. Time will tell if my efforts will have an effect on my long-term relationships with my children, but the short-term impact on our relationships has been significant.

Now the question you are asking is "What is this nonsense doing in a golf course superintendents' magazine?"

## to Build Relationships With Your Children.



*Bob Klitz, CGCS and his daughter Lauren working on bow and arrow skills while on a YMCA Indian Guide/Princess outing.*

**'Camping? In the woods?**

**With a 5-year old? Are you crazy?'**

**My response was not well received.**

Please bear with me and all your questions will be answered.

In March 2000, the St. Lucie County YMCA Indian Guides state campout (POW WOW 2000) was held on the 7,000-acre Florida Ranch Tours property.

This state gathering brought together 2,500 fathers, sons and daughters (and the occasional squaw who was permitted to attend because this is labeled as a family event), for four days of music, war games, Native American

demonstrations and crafts, out-of-control bonfires fires, and cow pies.

It was during this weekend that my path crossed that of several other turf professionals who are involved in the Indian Guide/Princess program in Florida.

Jeff Taylor, golf course superintendent at Boca Pointe Golf Club in Boca Raton, joined the Indian Guide program in the fall of 1999 with his son Anthony.

In Jeff's words, "At the state

campout, Anthony was extremely interested in Jimmy Sawgrass. We listened to his show four times. One observation I have about my tribe is how all the sons got along and enjoyed each other's company.

"For Anthony and me, Indian Guides is a top priority. We will skip Little League or Cub Scouts for a monthly meeting or campout. I am certain my son will always remember our involvement in the program."

The Indian Guide/Princess program typically starts at age 5, and will continue until the son or daughter is ready to move on, break their arrow, and move up into the Trailblazer program. The commitment is typically one monthly meeting to do a craft or activity with your tribe of 10 to 12 families, and then a monthly camp out or similar event with your Nation of 10 or 12 tribes.

Mike Dasher of Dasher Golf Design in Winter Park was also at the state

campout with his daughter Kate.

"I like it because you get to go swimming, hiking, climbing trees, riding bikes, and taking pictures," says Kate. Mike says that taking his daughter away from home for a weekend gives Mom a break, and gives him a chance for some quality one-on-one time with his daughter.

What is a typical campout, and how does it work? One of the most enjoyable spots we have visited this year has been the Peace River campground in Arcadia. I have spent three weekends at this site in the last six months, and will be returning in November.

When camping in the primitive area, you need to be somewhat self sufficient in regards to food, tents, and sleeping equipment to enjoy the true camping experience.

Showers, bathrooms, and a heated swimming pool are available, but they are a slow five-minute drive away. Canoe excursions are available on the

*As a father, the best part is the time I get to spend just with the boys, doing guy things such as getting dirty, and skipping the shower... eating stuff that mom won't allow, and staying up in the tent playing Yahtzee and Uno.*

**- Greg Pheneger**

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Peace River, and that has always been the highlight of our trip.

My son Robert and my daughter Lauren both enjoyed sifting through the river sand for ancient shark and mammoth teeth, spotting alligators, birds, and fish, eating a picnic lunch in a canoe, and heading back to the camp site for a pasta dinner over a gas cooking stoves.

A tribe can get as simple or as complex for an outing or a camp-out as the members would like. A short drive close to home is recommended for first-time campers and then, as your kids start to enjoy the experience, heading out for the three-hour road trip will not seem so intimidating. As they say, getting there is half the fun. A three hour drive with your children will surely initiate some in-depth conversations.

The YMCA Indian Guide program was established in 1926 in Richmond Heights, Mo. Harold S. Keltner, St. Louis YMCA director, and his friend Joe Friday, an Ojibway Indian, initiated the program as an integral part of the YMCA work.

Keltner's motivation came from Friday's comments:

"The Indian Father raises his son. He teaches his son to hunt, to track, to fish, to walk softly and silently in the forest, to know the meaning and purpose of life and all he must know, while the white man allows the mother to raise his son."

The parent-child program that Harold Keltner started in 1926 now involves more than 200,000 adults and children annually in the United States. Some of the current Indian Guide dads were brought up in the program with their fathers.

Greg Pheneger, golf course superintendent at Johns Island Club in Vero Beach, cherishes the special times he had with his father in the guides program. Greg's two children, Alex, 8, and James, 4, are currently enjoying the program with their dad through the St. Lucie County YMCA.

"As a father, the best part is the time I get to spend just with the boys, doing guy things such as getting dirty, and skipping the shower," says Greg. "Eat-

ing stuff that mom won't allow, and staying up in the tent playing Yahtzee and Uno."

Alex's favorite camp-out "...was at Wekiva Springs outside of Orlando. We left the campsite at 11 pm, and took flashlights and walked the spring, catching crayfish, turtles, frogs, and minnows with our bare hands."

Greg says this lasted for three hours and resulted in a long nap for the boys on the ride home the next morning.

James's favorite part of camping is the campfires. (Note: Scientists believe that the human male has a gene that is absent in the female species that causes our fascination with fire.)

Greg says that he feels James enjoys the program because "it allows him to feel more grownup. He has to talk in front of the group and tell three things that we have done with each other in the past two weeks. That is part of the ceremony that takes place during the

monthly meetings."

In the turf industry, and many other professions, we are constantly being asked to fix this catastrophe, attend this function, go to this meeting, or find a solution to this problem. Many of these situations force us to choose between work and family.

The YMCA Indian Guide/Princess program will offer you a structured, committed, planned-in-advance opportunity to spend time with your children. You can even mark some events one year ahead in your date book.

I recently read that as men start to enter their mid-life crises in their 50s, their biggest regret is not having spent time with their families. This program could help reduce that pain. If you are interested in the program, contact your local YMCA. Registration is typically held in September, but new members are encouraged to join at any time.

## Making Memories for a Lifetime

After reading Bob's article, I sent an e-mail to my daughter, mentioning we were going to run an article on the Indian Guide/Princess program and wondered what she remembered. This is what the now 26-year-old Jennifer had to say:

*Dad,*

*Do I remember? Oh, the days where you didn't realize how silly you looked running around in fringe and a headband!*

*One of my favorite memories is of the car race that was at Windermere Elementary. You painted flames on the front of my little block of wood, and we put stick-on letters on the side, proudly proclaiming "Happy Squirrel." That little car looked good, and I won in my age range. I'm sure I still have the trophy. I know I have a ton of ribbons on my walking stick (or whatever the official Indian name for it is), which is actually tucked just inside the right front corner of my former closet there, just in case you're feeling really nostalgic.*

*I also remember how much fun the camping was. In the early days, we were the smallest of the tribes, so the whole underdog thing was always at play. I remember one time we did a really good job on our parchment paper teepee and maybe even won the competition, and the next morning the teepee had been slashed! Horrors! We were quite secure in being the most noble of the tribes.*

*There are some fun pictures of our group in the family albums, though not many father-daughter shots. It was great fun and something I am very glad we did. Thank you!*

*Lots of love and a feather to you from Happy Squirrel*

I relish the time we spent together in organized activities, camping and competing against the other Indian Princess tribes on campouts. I like to think some of those experiences have helped Jennifer's self-confidence as she now blazes new trails for herself out in Los Angeles.

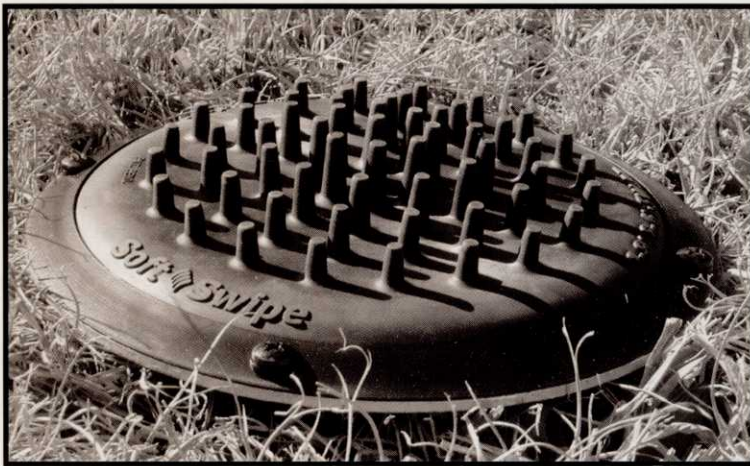
*JJ (alias Gray Fox)*

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# Conventional Wisdom in the Balance

*Peter Huber has written a book, **Hard Green**, that many have described as a conservative alternative to Vice President Al Gore's **Earth in the Balance**. Huber's book outlines a conservative manifesto that challenges many traditional theories that self-styled environmentalists have long presented as undeniable facts.*

To get a flavor of Huber's *Hard Green* philosophy, you need only read a few excerpts on the jacket of his book. For example:

- There is no inherent scarcity of food, fuel, metal, mineral or space to bury our trash. When we exhaust economic goods, we grow, find or invent others to replace them.

- The one real growing scarcity is scarcity of wilderness. We should maintain and extend protected forests, lakes, shores, wetlands and wilderness.

- Fertilizers, pesticides, growth hormones and genetic engineering allow us to transform earth, sun, corn and wheat, chicken and cow, into edible calories more efficiently. Soft alternatives are less green because they use more land.

Huber is a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute and a columnist for *Forbes Magazine*. An MIT-trained engineer and a Harvard law graduate, Huber taught engineering at MIT, and served as a law clerk to then-appellate judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Huber visited Florida in April to speak to a leadership program sponsored by the Agricultural Institute of Florida. Florida Agriculture Editor Ed Albanesi and Florida Farm Bureau Public Relations Manager Rod Hemphill worked around Huber's tight schedule by volunteering to pick him up at Orlando International Airport for the 70-minute ride to the FFA Training Center in Haines City.

Albanesi warned Huber that they would be playing devil's advocate by

asking him some tough questions. Huber smiled and invited a no-holds-barred line of questioning.

**Florida Agriculture:** You are in favor of conserving what you call "uneconomical things" such as forests, lakes, wetlands, etc. Does this conflict with your philosophy of unleashing markets? For example, much of South Florida was drained and filled for agricultural and residential development. Was this a good thing?

**Huber:** You have to view it in context. First, agriculture is our main use of the environment. A lot more real estate is used by agriculture than is used by highways, homes or factories. The second really striking fact about U. S. agriculture is that over the course of two centuries, we have steadily shrunk our footprint on the wilderness. We've been getting more and more food out of less and less land. In the course of this century we've moved our agriculture to the most productive places and then used the transportation and distribution systems to get the food to where it was needed. Florida doesn't just feed people in this state. It feeds the country and other parts of the world. In that context, using real estate in Florida efficiently has been a very positive development. Viewed in isolation, there's no question if you take a wetland which could be wilderness and have a farm there, of course you have less wilderness. But the trade-off for the environment as a whole has been positive.

**Florida Agriculture:** Government controls many of the markets it regulates: for example, municipal-owned utilities. Given this, are things like government-mandated water conservation worth the effort?

**Huber:** I think agriculture has got to find efficient means to allocate water when it is scarce. Clearly, on the downstream end, you have to think about pollution and I address those aspects of water in my book. But when government gets down to the point where they're dictating size of our toilet cisterns, this is government meddling for the sake of meddling. Those

kinds of things never fit realistically with real needs and real opportunities.

**Florida Agriculture:** Some may see a conflict between your support of conservation of land and water and water resources and your less-than-enthusiastic view of the value of recycling. Is there a conflict there?

**Huber:** What worries me most about recycling is that it gives people the fake illusion that they are doing something really good for the environment. Real conservation isn't about trash. Real conservation is taking wilderness spaces that we treasure, whether it's the Grand Canyon or the Everglades, and making intelligent choices about how much we want to develop or not develop them. The notion that you can duck those hard problems, or sidestep them by sifting through what's in your trash bag is a distraction.

**Florida Agriculture:** You make the point that hard power is greener than

soft power because it is more efficient and consumes less material and land. But doesn't it also produce more pollution?

**Huber:** First, there is absolutely no question that if you dig up your fuels rather than trying to harvest them across the surface, in most places that means using very much less land at the front end, per unit of energy used. It is certainly the case that (using underground fuel sources) doesn't cause more pollution. If you tried fueling the vehicles in Florida from the farmland in Florida, you'd be talking about a massive expansion in usage of real estate and a massive expansion in your transportation system to move all that biomass around.

**Florida Agriculture:** You say nature has a great power to cleanse. You also say that the best way to purify water is to maintain unspoiled watersheds. Should man or nature be in charge of maintaining unspoiled watersheds?

*The second really striking fact about U. S. agriculture is that over the course of two centuries, we have steadily shrunk our footprint on the wilderness. We've been getting more and more food out of less and less land.*

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**Huber:** Some combination of both... nature begins with what we would define as unspoiled watersheds. That sure doesn't mean you can drink every drop of water in a mangrove swamp. And clearly there is an important objective of wide open spaces and wilderness areas. Nature will not leave those areas untouched on its own. Those are choices we will make and we have made. Wealth and high technology and agricultural efficiency are what have let us conserve large areas of wilderness and, better still, return large areas to the wilderness.

**Florida Agriculture:** Governments get involved in markets because other governments make the playing field uneven. Can the U.S. government actually serve the best interests of its commerce and economy by ignoring economic goods while foreign governments are not?

**Huber:** Much as I favor free trade, other countries can do ruinous things and simultaneously ruin themselves and other people as well. A coherent case can be made to say to not let (another country's) economic insanity become a plague in our country as well. But don't quote me as saying I'm for protection on everything or your favorite product. Those things have got to be studied on a case-by-case basis and you've got to know the facts.

**Florida Agriculture:** What do you think of EPA's implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA)?

**Huber:** There's no doubt that it's possible to take pesticides and other chemicals and use them badly and, if you're stupid enough, to toxic effect. We

know that these studies that have predicted every cancer and every mortality from these things 10 or 20 times over. You just add up all the ill effects they have predicted and we're all dead not once, but 20 times over; which tells you from the get-go these models are very easy to create, and most of them are wrong. Intelligent use of pesticides has one clear effect and that is they stop pests from eating your produce in the fields or during transportation. That means more food from fewer acres. And more food from fewer acres means a smaller footprint for agriculture. The real ecological catastrophes are occurring in countries that don't use these technologies, not those that do. The best thing that we could do for ecology worldwide is get a lot of these technologies in the hands of (Third World) farmers who are not using them.

**Florida Agriculture:** What's your take on biotechnology?

Huber: I'm vaguely heartened by the fact that despite their (biotech opponents) most desperate PR, they don't seem to have made much of a dent. I'm hoping that it will stay that way but I'm sure not sanguine. And of course in Europe, they've gone way over the top and we all know why. Europe is doing pure agricultural protectionism. There's not the slightest doubt about it. I'm heartened because, for Americans, biotech means more and better food for lower prices. For Third World it can mean more nutrition. In this country, intelligent genetic engineering can be a direct substitute for pesticides. Serious people

*Wealth and high technology and agricultural efficiency are what have let us conserve large areas of wilderness and, better still, return large areas to the wilderness.*

in this country are not opposed to biotechnology. As far as I can tell, there is a certain kind of mindset that says if large corporate agriculture, backed by large Monsanto-like companies has any hand in it, then it has to be bad and we're against it. There's no logic to it.

*Hard Green* by Peter Huber is available at most bookstores and can also be ordered through Amazon.com

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MAY 2000, VOL.59, NO.5

**Editor's note:** I attended Peter Huber's presentation to the Ag Institute in Haines City last April. While many of his comments are directed at agricultural concerns, his macro thinking may have a bearing on how the turf industry might view its footprint on the environment.

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## 2000 Florida Green Photo Contest

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

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

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

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



2000 Photo contest - Category 4 — Scenic Hole. 11th hole, Interlachen CC. Photo by Stuart Leventhal, CGCS.

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, 2000.

### Prizes

- 1st Place (\$100) and 2nd Place (\$50) in each category.
- Editor's Choice-Best Overall Photo - \$100.
- All winning entries published in the Fall 2000 issue.

### Easy Rules

1. Color prints or slides. Only one entry per category.
2. Photo must be taken on an FGCSA member's course. Photo must be taken by an FGCSA member or a member of his staff.
3. Attach a label to the back of the print or slide which identifies the category,

## Call for Articles

This is a call for articles for the 2000 - 2001 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:** Share your best practices and tips for these upcoming topics. Slides or photographs are encouraged.

- Fall 2000 - Maintaining Native, Natural and "Waste" Areas
- Winter 2001 - Personal Financial Planning
- Spring 2001 - Fertility Programs
- Summer 2001 - Utility Vehicles
- Fall 2001 - Computers as Management Tools

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

### SUPERINTENDENT'S JOURNAL:

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

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**F**orgive me in advance if this article rambles a bit — I'm trying to make sense of the current economic state of the golf industry and "the big picture" is still fuzzy. Pending changes at Palm Beach National after 21 years of service have made this my number-one priority.

Articles and conversations with peers indicate that finding and retaining good golf course employees is a superintendent's most pressing issue. We joked in Naples at the Poa that the unemployment rate was 2 percent, and that 4 percent of the population didn't want to work. I don't remember anyone laughing.

Last year a record 509 golf courses in the U.S. opened for play, with another 936 courses under construction. According to the National Golf Foundation, the number of golfers and the rounds they play have remained stagnant for a decade. Each year about 3 million people take up the

game, but nearly 3 million golfers also drop out. The reasons: golf is too expensive, too time-consuming, too difficult, and too intimidating. If these figures are correct, the math indicates that every golf course, with each year's new course openings, has fewer and fewer golfers and rounds available to draw from with which to cover its expenses.

Pride may keep most people from admitting that affordability is the main reason they left the game, but I think there is little doubt that the high cost of golf is the main culprit. The perception of growth and prosperity in golf is bolstered by our current strong economy, with the high end and low end clubs weathering the storm of competition better than many of the clubs in the middle. But is this going to last?

We have enough delinquent accounts at our club to hint that many members desire the country club lifestyle, but really just can't afford it. We also have our share of "trunk slammers" (a new word I just learned from Marty Griffin) — members who come out and play their

round of golf and leave — who will not support the bar, the dining room, or the pro shop with purchases. We used to have one older member who poured a shot of vodka from a bottle in his trunk at the conclusion of his morning round, and would toast us if we happened to be driving by. By far the weirdest factor in the mix is the rumor that one nearby club with very low rates is owned by underworld types who need some place to launder their money, and that they are looking to purchase another club in our area. Is reporting to a Godfather any worse than the typical green committee Chairman? But I digress.

For superintendents, this continued growth — perceived or actual — appears, on the surface, to be a good thing. More golf courses mean more superintendent positions. The more prestigious clubs pay higher and higher salaries, while the clubs feeling the economic squeeze look to management companies or bargain basement superintendents.

Meanwhile, the turf schools continue to churn out graduates. Is this really a good thing? Where, exactly, are we headed? Are superintendents like pro athletes, with the stars getting it while they can and everyone else struggling to make the team? I think most of us, at least those in my age group and older, expected to make a lifelong career out of being a golf course superintendent. I look around me and see how many ex-superintendents are on the commercial side of golf, and how few superintendents are age 50 or older. Is this what we want?

I'm not offering any answers; pretty much I was just thinking out loud. I do think that we have the opportunity to help shape our own futures through our organizations' activities, rather than just being kites caught in the winds of market forces. Job security and stability are issues superintendents have talked about for decades, and we still haven't made much progress.

My opinion is that anything we do to enhance the stature, prestige, and professional relevance of the golf course superintendent will help all superintendents with job security and longevity. Are you doing your part?

# The Numbers Don't Crunch

## Mark My Words



Mark Jarrell, CGCS

## BackWords

The year 2000 seems like a good time to check the archives to see how the trends in our association and the industry have changed. Here's a few editorial snapshots from our history documented in previous Summer issues of the *Florida Green*.

### 25 Years Ago

The *South Florida Green* (the parent of *The Florida Green*) is two years old and 14 pages from front to back. Mike Barger is president of the South Florida GCSA. After suffering from low turnout at meetings in 1971, improved education at monthly meetings now has the attendance averaging 80-100. The GCSAA's certification program was revised to require two years as a Class A and a modification of the study materials. 229 superintendents had attained CGCS status as of 1975. Editor, Mike Barger; associate editor Tom Mascaro.

### 20 Years Ago

The first issue of *The Florida Green* is published in the summer of 1980 as the South Florida Chapter votes to let the *South Florida Green* be adopted as *The Florida Green* to serve the entire state. The magazine is 32 pages cover to cover. Tim Hiers is the president of the newly unified Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association. The Florida-Georgia Chapter (now North Florida) led by Amelia Island's Ron Hill's 70 wins the Poa Annuu Classic. Suntree C.C. hosts the 4th Annual Crowfoot Open. Hans Schmeisser wins Palm Beach GCSA's first Distinguished Service Award. Ed Combest is trying to recruit golf course mechanic students to Lake City. Some things never change. Editor, Dan Jones; associate editor, David Bailey; photographer, Henry McCartha.

### 15 Years Ago

Marie Roberts has been on the job for one year. Tom Burrows is president of the FGCSA. Chapter reporters write articles for each issue of *The Florida Green* with column titles like Central Florida Crowfoots (Joel Jackson); Palm Beach Trade Winds (Mike Bailey); North Florida Divots (Eddie Snipes); Suncoast Sails (Mike Meehan); Treasure Coast Tide-ings (Todd Miller); Gulf Coast Sun Beams (Charles Brasington); and Everglades The Gator Growls (Sandra Carmouche). The topic for this issue was vandalism. The magazine is 64 pages including a fold-out front cover which began with the Fall 1983 issue. The FTGA Conference and Show is drawing 2000 people to Tampa. Editor, Dan Jones; assistant editor, Tim Hiers; photographer, Daniel Zelazek.

### 10 Years Ago

Joel Jackson is president of the FGCSA and has just taken over for Dan Jones as editor of the *Florida Green*. The magazine is 84 pages from cover to cover. The FTGA raises \$350,000 to get matching funds from the state to build the Envirotron Research Laboratory. The USGA Green Section creates a separate Florida Region. John Foy the first USGA agronomist in the Southeast Region is named director. FGCSA launches new research green in Fort Lauderdale. Marcus Prevatte hired as technician.

Dan Jones's Afterwords column, "Florida's drought poses challenges and opportunities." Editor, Joel Jackson; assistant editor, Tom Benefield; photographer Brian Everhart; publisher, Janlark Communications.

### 5 Years Ago

FGCSA President Scott Bell. The magazine is 102 pages from cover to cover. *Florida Green* photo contest debuts. Treasure Coast Blue Pearl is two years old. Lonnie Stubbs, Joe Snook and Lou Oxnevad win FGCSA Presidents Awards. Environmentalism issues are the hot button topic. Biocontrols, superintendent Image, Golf Link weather computers fill the Hands On section. Water quality issues are covered in Heads Up section. Editor, Joel Jackson; assistant editor, Mark Jarrell; photographer, Daniel Zelazek.

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**I**'m not trying to get you to approve or disapprove of GCSAA's Professional Development Initiative. That is up to you. This is to call your attention to the issue, because it is important for you to know that this proposal has the potential to affect your standing in the industry.

If you don't even know the basic purpose behind PDI and what's been happening, then read the article in the Professional Development

section of this issue and shame on you. I'm not going to explain what it is, but I do want to report to you on where it is in the scheme of things. Timing of decision-making between now and the conference and show in Dallas is critical. This is what I know based on conversations and reports from GCSAA Headquarters and the FGCSA spring board meeting.

The Member Standards Resource Group has met and

considered all the feedback from around 95 PDI chapter presentations held across the country. They have made some revisions to the original set of proposed requirements. The revised PDI has been sent to the GCSAA committees which have an administrative stake in PDI: Career Development, Bylaws, Certification, Membership and Education. These committees must discuss and make their recommendations for action to the GCSAA board directors who will meet sometime later this summer and before the chapter delegates' meeting in September.

I can't give you a list of specific changes to the original plan because I have only heard a few of them. In general the proposal is not as stringent as it was before, but I will withhold any comment until the completed revised version is in print.

Several things can happen between now and September. First, if the respective committees

still have too many questions on details of the proposal they may not recommend that the GCSAA board put it on the ballot for Dallas. The committees may ratify the revised proposals and send it on for board action. The board may still have concerns and not move forward to put it on the ballot for Dallas until it has been discussed at the chapter delegates' meeting.

Hopefully we will all have a chance to see the revisions and details of how PDI would function before September. Even if we do, we will not have much time before your local chapter delegates go to Lawrence to discuss the issue. Each chapter must make a concentrated effort to discuss PDI and give your delegate a consensus view so he/she can let GCSAA know how the rank and file membership feels about the new version of PDI. This meeting will go a long way toward deciding whether PDI makes it to the ballot in Dallas and the views expressed in that forum should reflect the will of the members, not one person's opinion.

If the delegates give a thumbs up to the new PDI version and it goes to a vote in Dallas, you still have the opportunity to vote individually for or against PDI. However, it will require you to make the effort to either contact the FGCSA Voting Delegate, Dale Kuehner, directly or through your chapter to register how you wish your individual vote to be cast. While most of you have your votes assigned to the FGCSA for normal GCSAA officer and director elections, the association will gladly total up and cast the yea and nay votes of any individual members who make their wishes known.

That is why it is critical over the next few months to pay attention to all information about PDI and for each member and chapter make extra efforts to communicate and decide how they wish to vote.

Decisions are made by those who show up or step up to be counted. This decision is one of the most important you will make regarding your professional path. Ask questions, pay attention, get involved. It's pretty darn important and time is running out.

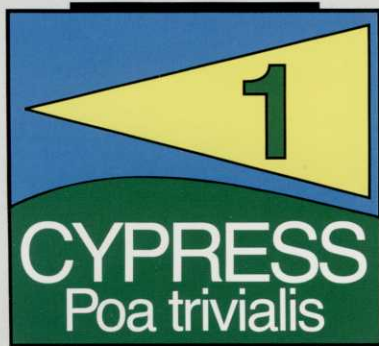
# PDI: Pretty Darn Important

## Green Side Up



Joel Jackson, CGCS Editor

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**"Highest mean for turf color"**

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