



STEWARDSHIP NOTES BY SHELLY FOY

What is Stewardship?

Stewardship comes in many forms. I have been fortunate enough to see quite a bit of stewardship from golf course superintendents over the years. Knowing what you do in your everyday job is amazing enough, let alone all the “extras” that you get involved in from day to day.



One such stewardship effort is under way at South Fork High School in Stuart. South Fork is the only high school in the country that we know has a golf course on property fully maintained by students. The Bull Dog Horticulture and Sports Turf Complex is a 25-acre facility that includes a three-hole, par-three golf course with 11 tees ranging from 100 to 215 yards, a practice range, practice green, plant nursery, equipment compound, computer lab, classrooms, shade house and propagation house.

The nearly 100 students enrolled in the program are offered a three-year, six-course program on golf course operations, ornamental plant nursery operations, or landscape operations. They meet five days a week for 100 minutes a day to gain hands-on skills vital to the above three areas. They learn plant identification, propagation, plant care, soil science, landscape design and installation, the agronomics of growing turfgrass, and cultural practices including mowing, irrigation, fertilization, cultivation and IPM.

The project was started in 1989 with architect Charles Ankrom donating his time to design the course. Many local golf courses and members of the turf industry offered resources to complete the project and keep it functioning. The PGA of America has officially sanctioned the complex as a teaching facility and has recorded a video there. *Golf Digest* presented the facility with its prestigious 1997 Junior Development Award.

Instructor Keith Krueger teaches not only the turf program, but all the horticulture programs as well. Keith is a classroom teacher with over 22 years of experience, and he does this with practically no budget.

Rob Kloska, superintendent at the Jupiter Island Club, has formed a business advisory group to help Keith and his turf program. Members of this advisory group are Roy McDonald, superintendent, Hobe Sound Golf Club; Craig Weyandt, superintendent, Yacht & Country Club of Stuart; Kevin Downing, superintendent, Willoughby Golf Club; Bill Lanthier, Golf Ventures; David Oliver, Boynton Pump and Irrigation, Inc.; John Foy, director, USGA Green Section, Florida Region; and Shelly Foy, office coordinator, USGA Green Section

In November, SFHS applied for a grant from the USGA Foundation for equipment, consumables, summer interns and uniforms for their turf program. They were awarded a \$5,772 outright grant for interns, and a \$45,000 challenge grant. This is the second year that the USGA Foundation has made a challenge grant to the SFHS Turf Program. Under the terms of this grant, the USGA will match funds raised by SFHS, \$2 for every \$1 raised up to \$45,000.

Last year SFHS received \$41,860 from the USGA.

The following is a list of items needed for the SFHS Turf Program: trim mower; greens aerifier; multi-cutter power head; multi-cutter edger; multi-cutter string

trimmer; rebuilt sand pro; rebuilt fairway verticutter; money for parts/repairs and maintenance of equipment; sludge; 10-20-30 fertilizer; 15-5-15 fertilizer; 21-0-0 fertilizer; 11-3-22 greens mix fertilizer; Chipco Choice; Dursban; Round Up; MSMA; Spreader Sticker; Barricade; Momentum (240); Kerb; Drive; sand; overseeding; and uniforms.

The business advisory group is seeking donations for items on this list. The USGA has generously agreed to match donations received for this list, again at \$2 for every \$1. Please look over the list and consider making a donation to this program.

Benefits are already being realized to the turf industry, as several students are interning on local golf courses during the summer and some of them are already working full time on local golf courses after graduating from the program.

You can make a donation to the SFHS Turf Program by contacting any of the business advisory committee members.

Again, stewardship comes in many forms. We applaud the USGA for recognizing the value of this program, the business advisory group for getting involved, and all of you who will choose to help us reach our goal of fulfilling the USGA Challenge Grant.

Note: The USGA’s 2000 Turfgrass and Environmental Research Summary

Audubon Additions

Florida’s Newest Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Golf Courses as of 11/17/00:

Carefree Country Club, Winter Haven

Pablo Creek Club, Jacksonville
Weston Hills Country Club, Weston

St. Andrews Country Club, Boca Raton

New Fully Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries since 11/17/00:

Wildcat Run Golf & Country Club, Estero

Polo Park East, Davenport

is now available. If you are interested in receiving a copy, please call my office at 561-546-2620, or send me an e-mail at sfoy@usga.org. The USGA also has an updated version of the pamphlet, "Golf Courses Benefit People and Wildlife", which I would also be happy to send you.

BMPs vs ACSP: Different Aims and Both are Worthwhile

BY GRADY L. MILLER, PH.D.

I was recently asked to explain how the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF-IFAS) publication *Best Management Practices of Florida Golf Courses* (2nd edition, 1999) compares to the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program.

As a preface to an explanation let me first state that as a Land Grant University, the University is federally mandated to serve the citizens of this state. The Cooperative Extension Service is a partnership of county, state, and federal government that serves the citizens of Florida by providing information and training on a wide variety of subjects. Turfgrass science is one area of specialization where UF-IFAS has specialists that serve golf courses and other turfgrass production and maintenance industries.

The *Best Management Practices of Florida Golf Courses* book is intended as a reference guide for Florida golf course superintendents and regulatory agencies in their efforts to grow and maintain some of the most prestigious golf courses in the world.

The information contained in the book was compiled and written by more than 11 researchers, teachers and/or extension specialists. The recommendations in the book are as up-to-date as possible, and in most cases, are based on many years of research.

Much of the research that was used to generate this data was paid for by agencies such as the United States Golf Association, US EPA, Golf Course Su-

perintendents Association of America, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, various Florida water management districts, Florida Turfgrass Association, and the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association. Many other groups and individuals have likewise contributed toward research necessary for completing the publication.

The *Best Management Practices of Florida Golf Courses* was produced so as to provide a template and explanation of good turf management principles and also to provide information for green construction and reference values for irrigation water quality. The term "Best Management Practices" or BMPs has meaning on a number of different levels.

This IFAS publication *suggests* BMPs for golf course management, but they are not in the form of rule, law, or ordinance. The university is not a regulatory agency. In reality, many of the state's regulatory agencies defer to UF-IFAS in matters related to standards, due to our years of research experience on specific matters (e.g. nitrate leaching, water use, pesticide need, etc). We would like to think that policy decisions are substantiated with science, although we know that decisions are sometimes made based on political reasons.

In contrast to the IFAS publication related to turfgrass management, the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program presented by Audubon International (1991 inception) is a voluntary program designed to provide conservation management strategies for a golf course.

The primary goal of the program is to enhance wildlife habitat and protect natural resources. It is based around monitoring programs and implementing various stewardship projects. The primary financial supporters of this program are the USGA and the individual golf course members.

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program recognizes six categories:

1. Environmental Planning – each club generates a written plan out-

lining their goals and proposed projects.

2. Wildlife & Habitat Management – emphasizes the management of non-play areas to provide habitat for wildlife.
3. Integrated Pest Management – developing a responsible program for controlling pests, ensuring a healthy environment for both people and wildlife.
4. Water Conservation – attention is directed toward irrigation systems, recapturing and reuse of water resources, maintenance practices, and turfgrass selection.
5. Water Quality Management – directs emphasis on impact of golf course chemical use on quality of lakes, streams, and groundwater sources.
6. Outreach & Education – focus is placed upon generating public awareness through education.

These six areas require extensive documentation and in many cases, implementation of projects to support or strengthen the golf course's efforts in environmental awareness and/or protection. As you can probably gather from this list, the Audubon program is taking a more holistic approach to evaluating the golf course environment, addressing the turf, water issues, wildlife, pest control, and community education.

The university's goal with developing BMPs for golf courses is primarily focused on growing quality turf in the most ecologically friendly way, but we do not specifically address the extensive monitoring or the community outreach and education components as outlined in the Audubon program.

It is my experience that most of the university-directed golf course turf programs are geared toward the people who manage the turf rather than the end user (e.g. the golfer). The Audubon outreach and education programs are designed primarily for the golfers and potential future golfers.

Which program is the best? They both serve an important function for the sustainable future of this industry. 🦅