



# The Florida Green

Summer 2001



Number 4  
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Sarasota  
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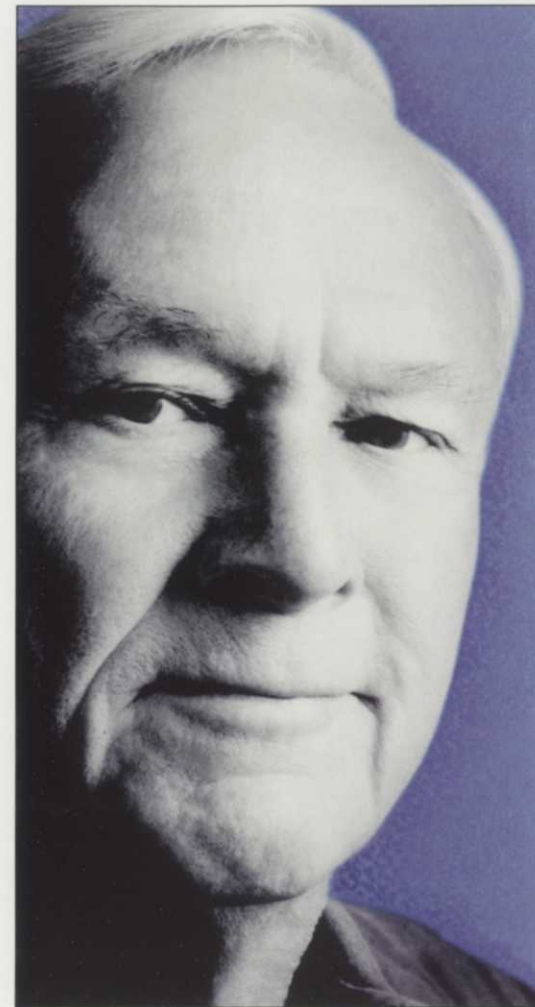
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Sara Bay CC.  
Photo by Joel  
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About the use of trade names: The use of trade names in this magazine is solely for the purpose of providing specific information and does not imply endorsement of the products named nor discrimination against similar unnamed products. It is the responsibility of the user to determine that product use is consistent with the directions on the label.

# The Florida Green

Published four times a year:

On the twenty-fifth of January, April, July and October

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**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** \$20 for four issues. Contact the FGCSA office.

**ADVERTISING:** For rates and information, contact the FGCSA office at 800-732-6053

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The Florida Green

**A**s I write my last president's message. I can't help looking back on the past year and what the FGCSA has done and what lies ahead. But first I must thank all the past presidents and their boards for the insight they had to establish the many things the association enjoys today. For example:

- Developing alliances with all of our fellow associations and agencies.
- Respecting local chapter autonomy, while providing a statewide organization to address common interests with a unified voice.
- Working at every opportunity to get the golf course superintendent the recognition and respect that our profession deserves.
- Development of *The Florida Green*, which is considered one of the best trade magazines in the country.

- Providing staff resources to assist local chapters whenever needed.

As far as this year is concerned, I feel we made real headway on some of our most pressing issues:

- Working closely with the water management districts to help protect our state's most valuable resource while helping to develop realistic water restriction for the future.
- Having a direct dialogue with state and federal regulators and working with them to provide real world data and information so critical in reassessing chemicals and writing BMPs for our industry.
- Building on the relationship with the University of Florida to ensure the turfgrass research in the future will be timely and assist us in finding the answers to our most urgent problems
- Recognizing our past by creating a membership class for Lifetime and Honorary

members for retired superintendents who helped us to get where we are today.

- Making sure our association's business practices are in order through independent auditing and consultation with tax and accounting professionals.

These and other issues will always be before us. Superintendents have traditionally been the leaders through their associations to address those nuts-and-bolts golf issues like environment, water, chemicals and fertilizers. They are not glamorous but they go the very core of maintaining a golf course to everyone's expectations.

I was once told, "If the general manager doesn't show up for work tomorrow, the membership will be inconvenienced. If the golf professional doesn't show up for work tomorrow the membership will be inconvenienced. If the golf course superintendent doesn't show up for work tomorrow, the game is over!"

Well that might be a bit presumptuous. In truth we are part of a team at every golf club, and one way to become a better team player is to be active in your local association. You can help yourself become a better professional through continuing education and networking with your fellow superintendents and other members of the industry. Each association needs new voices and people to volunteer a little of their time to keep their associations strong and effective. Please consider giving something back to your profession. It is worth your investment of time and effort.

I would like to thank the directors for their work this year. With Geoff Coggan, CGCS, MG as your new president, I'm confident that great things will continue to happen. A very special thank you to Marie Roberts, association manager and Joel Jackson, director of communication; these are the people who help make the FGCSA the outstanding organization it is. It has been an honor to serve this association and I will remember this year forever.

# Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Cary N. Lewis, CGCS

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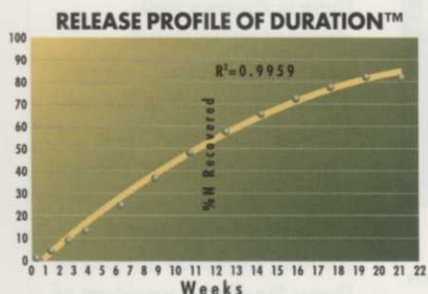
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PRESIDENTS AWARD WINNER

### Growing Grass in Shakeshaft's Heritage

For Ken Shakeshaft it has been a long journey from Port Charlotte to North Fort Myers... a journey that resulted in his selection by the Calusa Chapter as a recipient of the 2000 FGCSA Presidents Award for Lifetime Service.

Ken moved to Port Charlotte in 1958. It was a sleepy retirement community with no golf course — certainly not the logical location for a future golf course superintendent to grow up.

Despite his location growing up, Ken knew that growing grass was in his blood. His grandfather spent 35 years as the greenskeeper at Century Country Club in Westchester, N.Y. and his uncle, Dick Shakeshaft, was the golf course superintendent at Punta Gorda CC for 17 years.



Ken's experience in golf course management started at Punta Gorda CC during the summer after high school and prior to attending Edison Community College. It only took one summer for him to know that he wanted to follow his grandfather's and uncle's footsteps in the golf maintenance business. In 1974 he started full time for his uncle and entered the Lake City Community College Golf & Landscape Operations program in the fall of 1975.

When Ken finished school, he started as the golf course superintendent at the Oakland Hills course in Rotunda West. This was the course that the Superstars competitors played golf on for the televised competition. In 1986 he moved to Sun Aire GC in Haines City. He started for his current employer, Six Lakes CC in North Ft. Myers in 1993.

Six Lakes C. C. is a private, resident-owned, 18-hole, 3,100-yard course with 300 members. In addition to the maintenance of the golf course, Ken is responsible for the lawn maintenance for 594 home sites. His staff of 10 employees also does the common area landscape, trash removal and often residential utility work.

Ken is a board member for the Calusa Chapter,

which he helped form. He believes the chapter was needed because of the growth in the Fort Myers area. The chapter has a strong fellowship because many of the members face similar challenges on a daily basis. Ken has previously been a member of the Central Florida, Ridge and Everglades Chapters. He also helped to found the Ridge Chapter while he was at Sun Aire GC.

When presented with the FGCSA Presidents Award at a recent Calusa chapter meeting, Ken said, "As a 17-year-old edging bunkers at the Punta Gorda C.C., who would ever have thought that I would someday be standing here receiving such a wonderful honor from my peers."

BY MIKE MONGOVEN, CGCS Shell Point G. C.

#### 2001 POA ANNUA CLASSIC

### State's Oldest Fund-Raiser Nets \$28,000

The Everglades Chapter of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association hosted the oldest continuous superintendent fund-raising event in Florida May 17-20 at the Naples Hotel and Beach Club.



FGCSA President Cary Lewis, CGCS accepts a \$1,000 Research Fund donation from West Coast GCSA President Eric Joy.



Thomas Maloney of Cornell University, left, goes over the seminar schedule with Greg Pheneger, FGCSA Education Chairman.

The Poa Annuia Golf Classic began 31 years ago in 1970 when the Everglades Golf Course Superintendents Association invited the South Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association to a friendly get-together and golf match on Marco Island. The event rotated around to several Southwest Florida venues including Lehigh Acres, Mirror Lakes, and Oxbow before settling into its permanent home at the Naples Beach Hotel in 1980. The event has grown into the major turf research and education fund raiser for the Everglades Chapter.

However, the event is not just fun and games. The Florida GCSA holds one of its four statewide board meetings at the Poa, and there is always a well-attended professional education seminar. This year Thomas Maloney of Cornell University gave a seminar on "Finding and Hiring The Best Employees."

At the FGCSA Board meeting Thursday afternoon, Bryan Singleton, president of the South Florida GCSA.





Bryan Singleton, left, president of the South Florida GCSA presents Cary Lewis, CGS, FGCSA president with a check for \$27,000 to the FGCSA Research Fund during the FGCSA spring board meeting.

presented a check for \$27,000 to the FGCSA Research Fund from this year's SFGCSA Turf Expo, and Eric Joy, president and external vice president of the West Coast GCSA, added to the FGCSA Research Fund with a \$1,000 donation. Detailed minutes of the business meeting will be sent to all FGCSA members in the next *Green Sheet* newsletter.

On Friday morning, 47 people attended the GCSAA

Superintendent Leadership Seminar by Maloney, and his interactive teaching style kept everyone involved in the presentation. Superintendents earned .35 CEUs upon completion of a test at the conclusion of the seminar. Friday night everyone gathered for the annual luau on the Watkins Green behind the hotel.

A full field of players tackled the Naples Beach Golf Course on Saturday and



The Poa Annuia Classic winners this year were from the defending champion Everglades Chapter. From left: Tim Haskins, Tom Calaguire, Bob Roessing and Scott Hamm, who wasted no time in getting back into "beach mode" after the tournament.

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Mark Black, CGCS, aced the 160 yard, third hole at the Naples Beach Golf Club to nail down closest-to-the-pin.

four superintendents tied for low gross with scores of 71. In a match of cards, Bob Roessing took first place followed by Joe Ondo, CGCS, Mark Hopkins and Mark Henderson. Roessing led the Everglades Chapter to a first-place net victory in the team championship. Joining him on the team were Tim Haskins, Tom Calaguire and Scott Hamm. The highlight of the event was a hole-in-one scored by Mark Black, CGCS of the Quail West CC. Mark pulled off his ace with a six iron on the 160-yard 4th hole.

Sunday morning the hardcore golfers and UF alumni teed it up in the G.C. Horn Memorial Endowment Tournament. This annual event is held in memory of Dr. Granville Horn, who brought the Florida turfgrass industry to the forefront in the 1970s and '80s. Proceeds from this event have funded the Horn Fellowship which has produced two recent scholars who are actively involved in turf research at the University, Dr. Laurie Trenholm and graduate

student Raymond Snyder. This year's winners of the fun format event:

- G.C. Horn Winners**
- Overall (Net 56.5): Wayne Kappauf and son Kyle Kappauf.
- Scramble Nine (Net 25): Bob Shevlin and son Matthew Shevlin.
- Alternate Shot Nine (Net 27): Mike Hamilton and Cliff Anderson.

JOEL JACKSON

### EVERGLADES SPRING SEMINAR **Symposium Tackles Drought Issues**

The Everglades GCSA Spring Seminar this year held at the Naples Beach Club April 18 zeroed in on water issues and managing turf under drought conditions.

Here are some of the highlights from the presentations by the distinguished panel of speakers and their topics.

**Thomas Missimer, Ph.D, P.G.,** Missimer & Associates (Where Will Our Water Come From in the Future?)

- In the past six years we have had three 100-year droughts.
- The largest water user is the natural system the hydrologic cycle. Man uses one percent of the annual rainfall.
- The future will see higher water costs; desalinization plants using brackish groundwater; aquifer storage and recovery of treated water. Golf courses will have to use effluent if its available; we must find ways to better store water for use in drought times.



The Everglades GCSA's 2001 Spring Symposium notables from left: Mike Smith, symposium committee; Dr. Ray Cooper, nematology; John Foy, USGA; Col. Sam Sifers, plant physiology; Jim Turner, water repellancy in turf; Dr. Shoumo Mitra, rooting influenced by stress; Steve Durand, EGCSA president; Matt Taylor, EGCSA education chairman. Not pictured: Dr. Tom Missimer and Tom Burrows. Photo by Joel Jackson.

**Col. Samuel Sifers** (Physiological Responses To Turfgrass Drought Stress)

- Nutrient management and cultural practices are man's only controls over drought stress to turf: nitrogen, potassium, sulfur and iron levels; mowing heights; irrigation frequency, disease control, aerify, slicing promoting root growth; and using growth regulators to help decrease water use.
- Most warm season grasses cease evapotranspiration, turn brown, go dormant and will recover when rainfall resumes.

**Dr. Ray Cooper** (Nematology)

- To lessen impact of nematode damage during droughts: water deeply and infrequently; avoid excess nitrogen; don't mow too close; avoid compaction and poor drainage.
- Nematode eggs can survive five years without hatching.
- Sample edges of damaged areas and adjacent healthy looking areas, not the

centers of weak areas.

- Depend on plant responses not on nematode counts to judge success.
- Biodegradation of Nematicur is becoming a problem with continued use. Most bio-control products have not shown good results. Possible exceptions are Avermectin and Synzyme, but mostly anecdotal results only.

**Tom Burrows**, Brookside Labs (Interpreting Soil Samples)

- Use only accredited labs that subscribe to North American Proficiency Testing.
- Consider pesticide screening of soil and water samples to document existing levels and establish baseline levels to refute member concerns and outside claims against your club.
- Request sodium levels in soils test. Amounts greater than 100 pounds per acre can inhibit growth if they are equal to or exceed potassium levels.

**John Foy** (USGA Update)

# THANKS

*The Everglades Golf Course Superintendents Association  
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- While we have rattlesnakes, purple grackles and raccoons as pests on golf courses, at the World Amateur Championship in Singapore they were dealing with cobras and monkeys. They also use “cowgrass” in their roughs. Guess what — it’s tropical signalgrass, a weed we battle over here.

- The USGA percolation test is a guide and not absolute. Pick a lab and stick with them. Different labs can use different methods yielding conflicting results.

- Ultradwarf grasses grow lower but are not necessarily faster.

- Check temperatures of sprigs when delivered. Temperatures over 140-150 degrees can kill the plant, making grow-in and establishment more difficult.

- Paspalum turf management using higher saline water requires regular fresh water flushing cycles or salts will build up too high and harm the plant.

- Paspalum may have acceptable shade tolerance at tee and fairway heights of cut.

**James Turner**, Eco Soil Systems (Factors Influencing Water Repellency)

- Ionic plus and minus charges of soil and organic particles control the attraction or repulsion of water molecules.

- Surfactant, adjuvant and penetrant products have different modes of action for specific situations.

- Understand completely how a “wetting agent” product works and the results it gives before



### Misty, the Mooch

*Misty, the white-tailed deer, unofficial mascot of the Misty Creek CC, takes full advantage of the club's Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary status as she mooches a handout from a club member during the Suncoast GCSA's annual Suncoast Scramble event at the club. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

wasting time and money misapplying a product.

JOEL JACKSON

*Ah... spring at last when a superintendent's fancy often turns to fundraising. It seems that March, April and May comprise the primary fund-raising season for the FGCSA chapters with a few more taking place later in the summer. This year is no exception and the local chapters are to be commended for their efforts to raise money not only for research and education, but also be good community neighbors and assist local charities. Here's a quick round-up of this year's events.*

JJ



*Tom Crawford, president of the Suncoast GCSA, center, presented \$2,500 checks for each organization's research funds to Don Benham, FTGA director of public affairs, left, and Joel Jackson, FGCSA director of communications.*

#### RIDGE INVITATIONAL

### 10-Year-Old Event Raises \$7,500

**O**n March 12, the Ridge GCSA celebrated the 10th anniversary of their Ridge Invitational Tournament and Fundraiser.

The chapter made it special by having a blind drawing among all participants for three people to have a chance at a million dollar hole-in-one shot. The lucky, but unsuccessful, ace attempters were: Ralph Brannan, Coastal Equipment; Dennis Mosely, Central Florida Soil Testing and Scott Wynn, DJ from WPCV, 97.5 FM Country. Meanwhile, the rest of the hackers and whackers were raising \$7,500 for turf research and local charities.

Winners of the tournament held at the Grasslands CC:

**Gross Division** - Brian Mortillaro (75); Steve Bernard (78); Jim Torba (78)

**Net Divison** - Bobby Ellis (64); Bayne Caillavet (67); Bobby Jacoby (68)

**Supplier Division** - Mark Wheaton (74 gross); T. Sellers (66 net)

ROY WILSHIRE

#### SUNCOAST SCRAMBLE

### 19th Annual Event Sells Out Again

**T**he 19th Annual Suncoast Scramble was another sell-out success. The traditional format calls for a chapter business meeting, entertainment, lunch and then golf followed by a reception while the scores are tallied. This is the major fund-raiser each year for the Suncoast GCSA. Tom Crawford made sure the real winner was turf research as he presented the Florida Turfgrass Association and the Florida GCSA each with a check for \$2,500 for their respective turf research



*Bemuda Maverick comedians Les McCurdy (left) and Ken Sons put on their improv skits and stand-up comedy routine. Audience participation makes this part of the program a big hit each year.*

*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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accounts.

This is one chapter that really reaches out to build superintendent relationships with golf pros, club officials and the community. This sense of community makes the Suncoast Chapter one of the most stable in our business. Each foursome in the tournament is made up of a superintendent, golf pro and club official from an area club and the team is filled out with a supplier who serves the area.

Congratulations on another great event that supports turf research, junior golf and local charities.

JOEL JACKSON

#### SOUTH FLORIDA EXPO

### Nearly 400 Turn Out For 14th Turf Expo

Nearly 400 people attended this year's event held March 22 at the UF/IFAS Ft. Lauderdale Research & Education Center. The attendance continues to increase as golf courses, local municipalities and lawn maintenance companies send their operators and technicians to the event.

Field tours of the research plots featuring presentations by Drs. Lawrence Datnoff (fungicides & Pythium blight), Phil Busey (weed ID & control), George Snyder (nitrogen leaching), John Cisar (FYN Project & ultradwarf management), Robin Giblin-Davis (nematode control) and Al Dudeck (fairway bermudagrasses) kicked off the event from 8:30 to 10 a.m.

From 10 to Noon saw the product exposition and equipment demonstrations



Some of the nearly 400 participants at the 14th Annual SFGCSA Turf Exposition watching an aerifier demonstration on part of the FGCSA Otto Schmeisser Research Green at the UF/IFAS Research & Education Center in Ft. Lauderdale. Photo by Steve Pearson.

followed by the now - traditional barbecue lunch provided by Emerald Island Turf, Inc. Donation of the lunches enables the Expo to clear enough profit to sustain the FGCSA's Otto Schmeisser Research Green.

After lunch Bruce Adams from the South Florida Water Management District gave an update on the current and pending water restrictions. Then from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. the crowd moved indoors to hear presentations and workshops on athletic field management (Dr.

Monica Elliott, UF/IFAS); pest management and regulations (Lee Bloomcamp, Syngenta); sprayer calibration and worker safety (Dr. Vernon Vandiver, UF/IFAS & Joe Limberg, Hector Turf); troubleshooting electrical problems (Terry Staten & Jay Milano, John Deere Corp.); troubleshooting hydraulic problems (Shay Maley, Kilpatrick Turf); fault finding & wire tracking (Charlie Barcellona, Boynton Pump); sprinkler spacing & nozzle selection (Dave Ragan, Boynton Pump, Hector Turf



Dr. John Cisar, left, the Turf Expo Whip with Wiley McCall, president of Emerald Island Turf. McCall has been donating barbecue lunches at the Ft. Lauderdale, Gainesville and Milton Turf Expos and Field Days, which means more proceeds go to turf research. Photo by Steve Pearson.

and Kilpatrick Turf).

The event raised \$27,000 for the FGCSA Research Account and the check was presented at the FGCSA Board meeting at Naples in May.

STEVE PEARSON

#### CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER

### Danny Burgess Memorial Draws 70

This year's Danny Burgess Memorial Golf Tournament held at the Windermere CC April 2 attracted 70 players from around Central Florida area to help raise money for turf students at Lake City Community College in the form of scholarships.

Burgess, the Windermere C.C. superintendent died in a boating accident five years ago. A memorial oak tree and bronze plaque on the first tee reminds everyone of Danny's contributions to our chapter and to his golf course. The annual tournament helps prepare future superintendents for our industry.

Between the players and hole sponsors, the gross receipts for the event totaled over \$5,400. The chapter also will donate a large portion of the \$3,025 raised at this year's Bay Hill Invitational golf tournament to the Danny Burgess Scholarship Fund. This money was earned by CFGCSA members serving as TV spotters and scorers for NBC Sports' coverage of the golf tournament. Our big winner this year is second-year turf student Rickey Craig receiving a scholarship check for \$1,200.00.

BRIAN LENTZ

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Front row from left: Carol MacCurrach, Mary Ann Richards, Clayton Estes NFGCSA president. Back row: Scholarship recipients Chris Durkee, Craig Banister and Jason Waller. Photo by Butch Singo.

NORTH FLORIDA CHAPTER

## Richards Memorial Adds 3 Honors

The North Florida Golf Course Superintendents Chapter held the Ninth Annual Mike Richards Memorial Scholarship Tournament April 9 at the prestigious Jacksonville Golf and Country Club. The host golf course superintendent for the 108 participants was Greg Tharp; Ray



Jeff Hayden, left accepts the Alan MacCurrach Lifetime Achievement Award given posthumously to his father John Hayden from Tom Cowan. Photo by Butch Singo.

Barr was host golf professional.

### History

Kim and Jim Shine initiated the Mike Richards scholarship tournament in 1992 to honor Mike Richards, sales manager for Tresca Industries, and his dedication to the profession. Over the past eight years, the NFGCSA has awarded \$42,000 in scholarships to deserving turf students in the North Florida area.

A Mike Richards Foundation has been established that has funds totaling \$30,930.00. The hope for this event is for the Foundation to become self-sustaining so as to be able to provide financial help to students.

The family of Alan MacCurrach has also been instrumental in promoting a scholarship fund in memory of Alan and his accomplishments in the golf field as an agronomist for the PGA Tour.

### Scholarship recipients

Three separate scholarships totalling \$6,000 were awarded at the tournament.



Mrs. Ed Dyer (seated) was on hand with her sons Joe (left) and Jimmy to receive the MacCurrach Lifetime Achievement Award given in memory of Ed Dyer. Photo by Butch Singo.

Chris Durkee, a third-year student at Lake City Community College received the \$3,000 Mike Richards Scholarship. Chris

currently works with Greg Tharp at Jacksonville Golf and Country Club.

Recipients of \$1,500 Alan MacCurrach scholarships were Jason Waller, a first-year student at Lake City Community College and Craig Banister, a first-year student at Abraham Baldwin College in Tifton, Ga.

### Lifetime Achievement

A new tradition was started at the Mike Richards Tournament this year. The board of directors of the NFGCSA presented Lifetime Achievement Awards to three distinguished past members. The award itself was named the Alan MacCurrach Lifetime Achievement Award in honor of a person who demonstrated the meaning of lifetime achievement. MacCurrach passed away in 1997 and epitomized professionalism and dedication to the "Keeping of the Greens."

The recipients were



Tom Cowan, right, presents the MacCurrach Lifetime Achievement Award to the Ellison family recognizing the contributions to the North Florida Chapter by the late Gary Ellison. Jimmy Ellison accepts the award for the family. Photo by Butch Singo.





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chosen by the Historical Committee chaired by Tom Cowan. The Lifetime Achievement awards were presented to the families of the following past members of the NFGCSA: Ed Dyer, John Hayden and Gary Ellison. We extend our congratulations to the families of these wonderful men.

**Golf Winners**

**Low Gross Team** - Tom

Brennan/Ron Hill; Jim Ellison/Mike Ellison

**Low Net Team** - Fred

Klauk/Brad Tucker; Fred Klinfelder/Greg Tharp

**Putting Contest** - Steve

Moskos

**Closest to the Pins** - Tom

Brennan (#3), Steve Cantrell (#12), Fred

Klauk (#6) and Glen Klauk (#17)

GLEN KLAUK AND TOM COWAN

SEVEN RIVERS CHAPTER

**Barbaron Lifts**

**Envirotron Classic**

The Barbaron Company stepped up its commitment to this event and to turf research funding by increasing their annual Champion Sponsorship to \$13,500.

Led by Barbaron's generosity, the other sponsors and participants helped the Seven Rivers GCSA once again raise nearly \$50,000 which is earmarked for specific research projects conducted primarily at the Envirotron Research Lab on the



Barbaron, Inc. ups the ante at the 9th Annual Envirotron Classic by increasing its annual Champion Sponsorship by \$1,000 to \$13,500. From left, Terry Legree, Barbaron, Inc.; Glenn Oberlander, tournament chairman, Stuart Bozeman, Seven Rivers GCSA president and Ron Kitchen, Jr., Barbaron, Inc. Photo by Joel Jackson.

University of Florida campus.

The Seven Rivers GCSA, on occasion, authorizes money from the Envirotron

Account to fund other deserving turf research projects on a case-by-case basis.

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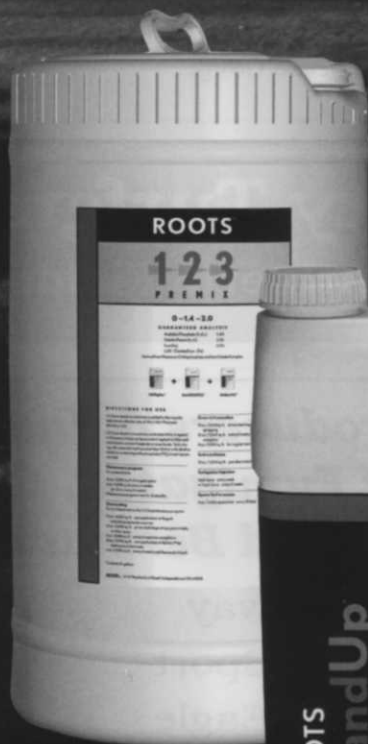
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Dr. Terril Nell, chairman of the UF environmental horticulture department thanked all the sponsors and participants for their support of IFAS Turf Research. Photo by Joel Jackson.

World Woods Golf Club for donating the facilities helping to increase the profits from the event. Congratulations to Glen Oberlander, Tournament Chairman and Seven Rivers GCSA President Stuart Bozeman and the corps of volunteers who helped cook the steak and shrimp dinner and helped with the par-3 contests and to Golf Ventures for providing the hot dog tent again this year.

**Pine Barrens Results**

**1st Gross (57) - Ron**

Chaney, Dave Brooks, Don Rider, Bob Crabill

**1st Net (56.8) - Bobby**

Jacoby, John Carlin, Dan Green, Ryan Willis

**Closest to Pins - Dennis**

Byrnr (Hole-in-One on



The men from GASH make a splash at the Envirotron Classic with their coordinated outfits. From left: Dale Mitchell, John Swaner, Richard Colyer and Chris Leahy. Photo by Joel Jackson.

#3); Chad Sartain (#7), David Holloway (#10), Kevin Vereb (#16 )

DeSear, Steve Lyerly  
**Closest to Pins - John Swaner (#2), Pat Murphy (#7), Tom Diggins (#10), Steve Lyerly (#16)**

**Rolling Oaks Results**

**1st Net (55.7) - Roger Hruby, John Neville, George**

JOEL JACKSON

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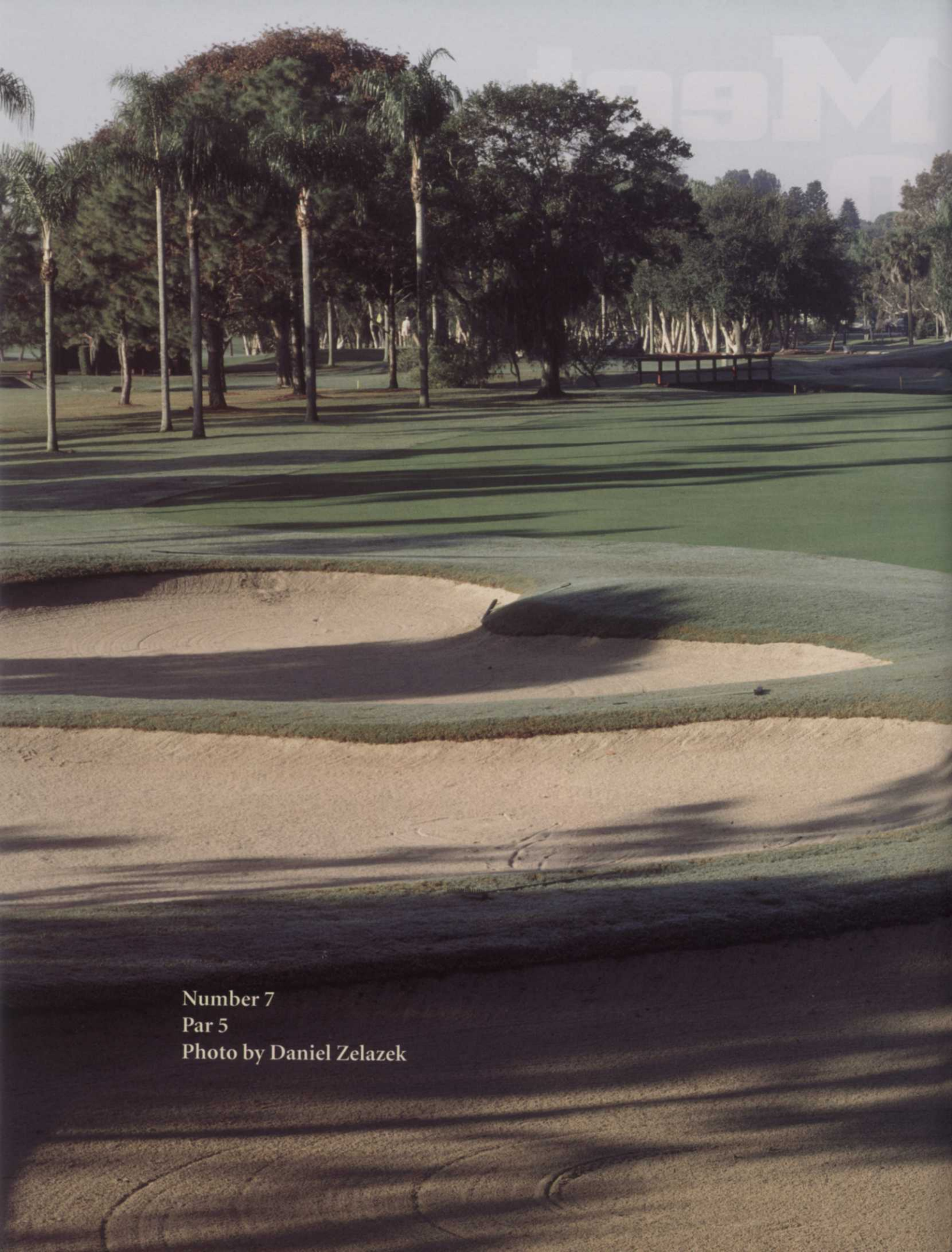
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Number 7  
Par 5  
Photo by Daniel Zelazek



*Sara Bay (nee Whitfield Estates) Country Club...*

# Florida's Legendary Links

BY JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

**T**he Sara Bay Country Club was born during the The Florida Land Boom of the Roaring 20s like many of our vintage courses throughout state. Originally called the Whitfield Estates Country Club, the Donald Ross-designed course opened in 1926. The course rose to rapid prominence in the golf world thanks in no small part to the presence of golfing legend Bobby Jones.

Jones lived and worked in Sarasota as the assistant sales manager for the Adair Realty Company which helped develop the property. When it came time to open up the new golf course and country club, the all-time amateur champion Jones took on Walter Hagen, golf's reigning professional champion in a 72-hole match. The first 36 holes were



The green on the 391-yard, par-4 11th hole is a good example of the famous Donald Ross "dome-shaped" greens. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

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played at the Whitfield Estates Country Club and the final two rounds across the bay at the Pasadena Yacht & Country Club.

The match was won rather handily by Hagen with a 12-up victory and gave rise many years later to the famed fictional "grudge match" between Hagen and Jones in the 2000 movie, "The Legend of Bagger Vance." Four years later in 1930 at the age of 28 Jones completed the fabled "Grand Slam" and then retired from competitive golf to practice law. Sports writer Mike Mersch of *The Herald* wrote in a Jan. 4 article on Sara Bay's 75th anniversary that in his autobiography Jones said, "I regard the Whitfield Estates course as one of the best in America."

Jones was not the only golfing legend to grace the greens and fairways of the old Sara Bay course. Photographs in the clubhouse document Sara Bay's lineage as a hallowed place of golf lore with pictures of such notables as Tommy

Armour, its first head golf professional and Joe Turnesa, former teaching pro at the club who won 34 PGA events and played on the first Ryder Cup team.

Other golf notables memorialized on the walls are Gene Sarazen, Joe Turnesa, Jug McSpadden, Johnny Ferrell, Leo Diegel, Jimmy Demaret, Jake Burke, Jr, Dr. Cary Middlecoff, Babe Didrikson Zaharias, Patty Berg, the Bauer sisters, Alice and Marlene Hagge, Louise Suggs and Kathy Whitworth.

Also according to the article by Mersch, Ross said in a televised interview in 1948 that Pinehurst No. 2 was his best course. When asked which was his next best, Ross replied, "The Whitfield Estates Country Club... that was before the members messed it up."

The Great Depression of the 1930's and misuse and abuse during the World War II years took their toll on the once-proud course. The original design was lost in a post-war renovation in an attempt to bring it back to life and the



Assistant Superintendent Scott Hoppe (left) and Bob Gwodz holding the original Donald Ross drawing of the 6th hole. The course has several of the original sketches on display in the pro shop. Photo by Joel Jackson.



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*(Donald) Ross said in a televised interview in 1948 that Pinehurst No. 2 was his best course. When asked which was his next best, Ross replied, 'The Whitfield Estates Country Club... that was before the members messed it up.'*

course did host several LPGA tournaments in the 1950's.

In 1990 Brian Silva, noted architect specializing in Ross course renovations, restored Sara Bay to the challenging links design with its domed, upside down, punch bowl-style greens made famous by Ross at Pinehurst No. 2. The course still has 17 of Ross's original sketches of the Whitfield Estates layout on display, and Silva's restoration was uncanny in recapturing the bump-and-run strategy depicted in the original drawings. The course has four winding creeks that snake across the holes, but the real test — as at all true Ross courses — is found on and around the greens.

The man charged with balancing modern golfers' expectations with a golf course designed to reflect the playing strategies of the 1920s is Sara Bay veteran superintendent Bob Gwodz. The task is made easier for Gwodz and his assistant Scott Hoppe because they truly honor and respect the historical significance of the course entrusted to their care.

Gwodz has been superintendent at Sara Bay for seven years and spent six years as the assistant under former superintendent Pat Sneed who left to take a job at the Mississippi State University course. Gwodz brings his own brand of golf tradition to the job as he has Scottish blood on one side of the family and says

## Bob Gwodz

**Originally from:** Whippany, N.J. Family: wife, Chris; Son, R. J. (age 9)

**Education:** Manatee Junior College

**Employment history:** 1983-85 assistant superintendent, Sunrise C.C., Sarasota; 1985-86 superintendent Sunrise C.C.; 1986-88 superintendent Hibiscus G.C., Naples; 1988-94 assistant superintendent, Sara Bay C.C., Sarasota; 1994 superintendent Groves and Highlands courses at the Meadows in Sarasota; 1994-present superintendent Sara Bay C.C.

**Professional affiliations and awards:** Secretary of the Suncoast GCSA and board member since 1998; Florida GCSA; Florida Turfgrass Association and GCSAA.

**Mentors:** Jamie Jackson Sr. gave me my first golf course maintenance job at age 13 mowing greens and raking bunkers. Jon Roxburgh was responsible for actually hiring me at Forest Lakes. It was either keep kicking me off the course for playing it on the sly or put me to work so I could really play golf. Also I am very fortunate enough to have worked with two very good superintendents, Mike Meehan, now a superintendent for Hyatt Hotels in Puerto Rico and Pat Sneed, CGCS, formerly at Sara Bay and now superintendent at Mississippi State University. Last but not least my dad, who taught me to also do a good job and never give up.

**Memorable moments:** I spent three summers in a row on renovating courses and after all the hard work, it was very satisfying to see all that was accomplished.

**Goals:** To become a certified golf course superintendent.

**Advice to prospective superintendents:** I believe in being a hands-on superintendent and to never be complacent. Always find ways to improve. Treat each member as though they are the president of the club.

**Hobbies and interests:** Family, fishing, football and Little League



*The Sara Bay topiary logo was transplanted letter by letter from the nursery area where they were grown in and shaped. According to the local extension agent, constant pruning of these Shillings hollies to one size can weaken the plants and make them susceptible to disease. The only cure is periodic replacement.*

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Bob Gwodz with his wife Chris and son R. J. and Putter, Bob's 2nd assistant and Canadian goose control expert.

## Fun Facts

Here are some things you might not know about our cover story superintendent.

1. Car: 1997 Chevy pickup
2. Last good movie I saw: The Green Mile
3. I stay home to watch: NASCAR and football
4. Book I've been reading: When I need a number, the phone book
5. Favorite meal: Porterhouse steak and potato
6. Favorite performers: Sam Elliot, Rolling Stones and Aerosmith
7. Prized possession: My boat
8. Personal heroes: Anyone who has served our country
9. Nobody knows that I: ...and they never will
10. I'm better than anyone else when it comes to: Saving money
11. If I could do it over: I'd be 15 years old again
12. My fantasy is: To live in the Tennessee mountains all summer and Florida all winter.
13. The one thing I can't stand: Two things - Liars and people who are late
14. If I could change one thing about myself: I'd be more patient
15. The words that best describe me: Works hard. Plays hard.
16. Gwodz is Ukranian for "Hard as nails"

## Suncoast Chapter

**History:** The growth and development of new communities and golf courses along Florida's southwest coast in the Bradenton and Sarasota area led to the formation of the Suncoast Chapter in 1976.

**Founding members:** President Bud Pearson, Palma Sola GC; Mack Baugh, CGCS, Longboat Key Club; and Gary Smither, CGCS Sec/Treasurer, Sunrise National GC.

**Activities:** The Suncoast Scramble began in 1982 and brings together all the key players in the golf industry on one team for this annual fund raising event. Each team consists of the golf course superintendent, a golf pro, a course official form an area course and a local supplier. Over \$250,000 has been raised for turf research, scholarships and junior golf. In 1996 the Suncoast GCSA began partnering with the Sarasota County Cooperative Extension Service to provide a full day of education and fellowship for turf managers at the annual Suncoast Grounds Management Seminar.

**Honors and Awards:** FGCSA Presidents Award For Lifetime Service have gone to: Bud Pearson, Jim Svabek, Hugh Bebout, Royce Stewart and Mack Baugh, CGCS.

**Officers for 2000-2001:** President Tom Crawford; Internal Vice President Joe Sittinger; External Vice President John Van Vranken; Secretary Bob Gwodz, and Treasurer Andy Burmester.

**Members:** currently 72 Class A, B & C members of the Suncoast GCSA and 108 Affiliate and Retired members.

*'It's an incredible experience to be working every day on some of golf's most hallowed ground.'*

some branches of his family tree have common roots in the Tufts family name of Pinehurst fame. He wants to see if there might be some ancient golf DNA in his blood that led him to his current vocation.

Hoppe has worked with Gwodz for nine years and they have known each other for 15. In growing up across from the 14th hole, Hoppe used to camp out and fish in the creeks as a kid. Instead of a "range rat" he was more of a "rough rat." Says Hoppe, "It's an incredible experience to be working every day on some of golf's most hallowed ground. It adds an element of pride to the job knowing the history of the course. It's not just a job when you are responsible for caring for such a remarkable place in the golf world."

Historical landmark or not, Sara Bay is still a golf course that needs tending and incorporating modern and innovative practices is a mission that Gwodz and his staff undertake with a purpose.

"We live and die by the creeks that crisscross the golf course," Gwodz says. "During heavy rain events and storm surges from Sarasota Bay, the creeks can flood significant portions of the course. This presents a two-fold problem. First, the obvious wet conditions that we have to deal with and second, the chance of chemicals and fertilizers getting into the waterways.

"We are very sensitive to our location and interaction with the creeks and bay. Scott and I both have our pesticide applicator licenses and we are the only ones who treat near the creeks. We always make sure the weather forecast is favorable to avoid any problems. We must be



## Sara Bay Country Club

**Location:** Sarasota

**Ownership:** Member owned

**Playing Policy:** Private. Annually hosts Donald Ross Invitational for junior golfers. Has hosted Florida Men's and Senior State Amateur tournaments.

**18 holes:** Yardage: 6,686 yds from the back tees. Par 72. Slope rating 132.

**Designed by:** Donald Ross. Opened in 1926.

**Management Team:** Club President Eddie Morton; Greens Chairman Charles B. Johnson; Club Manager Brigitte A. Conklin, CDM; Head Golf Professional Gavin Darbyshire; Golf Course Superintendent Bob Gwodz.

**Major Renovations/Ongoing Projects:** In 1990-91 golf course architect Brian Silva and Central Florida Turf, Inc. restored the course back to its original Ross design. We have 17 of the original Ross drawings of the holes. This summer replacing pump station with a VFD pump station. Following year installing Rain Bird computer control system

**Total turf acreage under maintenance:** 129 acres.

**Greens:** Average size: 5,000 sq. ft. Total 3 acres; turf - Tifdwarf; height of cut: .150 in. in summer, .130 in. in season.

Interseeding: Sabre & Fuzzy Poa trivialis @ 6 lbs/M. Green Speed goal: 8.5 - 9 normal play, 10.0 for special events.

**Tees:** 3.0 acres of Tifway 419; HOC 5/8 in. year round. Overseeding: None

**Fairways:** 23 acres of Tifway 419; HOC 5/8 in. year round. Overseeding: None

**Roughs:** 100+ acres. Mixture of Tifway 419 and common bermuda; HOC 1.5 inches. Not overseeded.

**Bunkers:** 88 bunkers with Standard Sand #220. Mechanically rake all bunkers with Toro Sand Pro with standard tines & flaps.

**Waterways/Ponds:** Four creeks run through the property. Bowles Creek, the largest, supplies our irrigation water.

**Irrigation:** PSI pumping station. Toro VTII Controls. Approximately 600 heads. Fertigation system: Two tanks — one for fertilizer and one for wetting agent. Fertigation used for feeding turf as granular applications begin to wear off and applying wetting agents during the drought conditions has been very helpful.

**Total staff including superintendent:** 13 full time & three part time budgeted. 13 full time currently on staff. Average weekly budgeted hours per person: Straight time 40 hrs. Overtime 3-6 hrs. Generally 3 hours OT weekly during cool season and 6-7 hours during warm season.

**Leadership:** Assistant Superintendent Scott Hoppe; mechanics James Saponic and Dick Ramon; pest control technicians Juan Sanchez and Anastacio Agapito; irrigation technician Doriteo Baltazar.

**Special circumstances:** When the creeks flood during storms and tidal surges, trash and silt can result in severe damage. Deep old-style Ross bunkers and the way the domed "punch bowl" greens slope halfway down the bunker faces requires constant maintenance especially after 1-2-inch thunderstorm downpours.

**Communications:** Monthly articles in the club's newsletter and monthly grounds and board meetings with members. Rainy days serve as training days for the crew with safety topic discussed.

**Cultural/Fertility/IPM Programs:** We have had good control of mole crickets using Chipco Choice. All herbicide spraying is done on a spot-treat-only basis. Nematodes are treated only when signs of stress cannot be controlled with water and fertilizer. We observe voluntary, common-sense setbacks from the creek banks when applying chemicals or fertilizers.

**Equipment Inventory:** Jacobsen walk mowers for greens; Toro Triplexes used when double-cutting greens. Toro Triplex for tees and chipping areas. Two Toro 6500's for fairways and two Toro 5-gangs for roughs.

**Wildlife Inventory:** We have a pair of nesting bald eagles on the course. We are also a release site for the Mote Marine Laboratory to release fingerling snook and redfish. We have all the common wading birds, ducks, song birds, owls and hawks as well as squirrels and an occasional fox.



## The Birthplace of Florida Golf

**D**id you know that Sarasota is reported to be the birthplace of golf in Florida? According to writer Kent Chetlain, the earliest golf in the North American colonies was probably played as early as the 17th or 18th century in New York or Pennsylvania. In a 1999 article titled "Our History of Golf on the Suncoast" for *Golf Scene* magazine, Chetlain reports that J. Hamilton Gillespie was probably the first person to tee it up in Florida in May 1886 as the manager of a Scottish colony that attempted to settle Sarasota.

After six months, most of the colonists returned home after failing to cope with the late-19th century conditions in southwest Florida. Gillespie stayed on to protect the interests of the English and Scottish investors and their 60,000 acres. In 1886 Gillespie built two greens and a fairway in what is now the downtown area near the Mira Mar Hotel, and forged forever Sarasota's legendary link to the game.

According to Chetlain's article, Gillespie eventually became the mayor of Sarasota and went on to develop his private nine-hole Sarasota Golf Club in 1904. He is also credited with helping to develop courses for the Bellaire-Biltmore Hotel in Clearwater, the Tampa Bay Hotel in Tampa and Cuba's first golf course in Havana. Gillespie was also hired to develop links in Winter Park, Kissimmee and in Jacksonville during the early Florida boom years. An avid golfer to the very end, Gillespie died of a heart attack while playing his course Sept. 7, 1923.

doing a pretty good job since the Mote Marine Laboratory on Lido Key uses Bowles Creek as a release site for fingerling snook and redfish. They regularly come by the course to check on the development of the fish."

"One way we have tried to minimize the impact of chemicals and fertilizers on the environment is to just use less material overall. But I have found this to be a trend in general talking to my peers at our chapter meetings. We have adopted a total spot-treatment approach to all pesticide treatments.

"I have found over the years that practically all nematode tests come back marked 'Treat!' However, by diligent monitoring and treating only those thin areas that don't respond to water and fertilizer, we save a lot of time, money and ecological impact. We only used six acres' worth of material to treat 27 acres of fairways.

"We did treat 88 acres with Chipco Choice this past year to control mole

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*With the front of the green wide open, the 387-yard 15th hole invites a classic bump-and-run approach shot. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.*

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## Sara Bay

### 'Inno-ventions'

Clockwise from upper left: **Mini Bulk Bag Hoist** Scott Hoppe, left, and head mechanic Jim Suponic show off the rig used to lift and load half-ton fertilizer containers. **Spray Rig:** Old Groundsmasters fitted with 25-gallon electric sprayers are highly maneuverable for spot-spraying, especially around trees and ornamental beds.

**High Lift Cage:** Hoppe stands in the roomy cage that attaches securely to the front-end-loader bucket and is used to do all the in-house tree-trimming work. **Monster Drag:** Suponic assembled this tire drag for use after deep-tine aerification. Not shown are three loops of chain of different lengths which trail behind the tires to help break up the plugs and work the sand into the turf.





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crickets. The new chemistry is fantastic and it helped reduce our overall spraying for crickets. When some hot spots develop, we use Orthene in a mix we call Sara Bay Lemonade. We have some lemon trees on the property and we squeeze the juice of about 20 lemons into the mix and it really helps attract the crickets to the pesticide and make it more effective so there is less follow-up spraying needed. Any grub problems are handled by carefully monitoring thin areas and spot treating with Turcam."

With chemical applications done only as needed, the key is to grow healthy turf year round. To accomplish that goal Sara Bay has an annual aerification plan to stimulate the turf.

"With all the attention focused on greens and tees, fairways often get overlooked," Gwodz says. "We deep-tine our fairways and greens every summer and top dress the fairways as well. The first time we did it we called the process 'The Pipe Finder;' we found all those irriga-

tion lines the hard way. The greens are cored three or four times during the warm months with a CoreMaster aerifier and in the cool season we Hydroject the greens monthly."

Gwodz also monitors nutritional levels closely with an eye to an overall reduction in use over the years. "I experimented with one fairway and did not fertilize it with granular for almost a year to see how the turf would compare to the rest of the course. It did surprisingly well, making me think we could get by with less in general. We make three granular applications a year on our fairways using slow-release material. On the greens, we apply about a pound of nitrogen every three to four weeks. If we need to supplement between granular applications we do foliar feeding through our fertigation system."

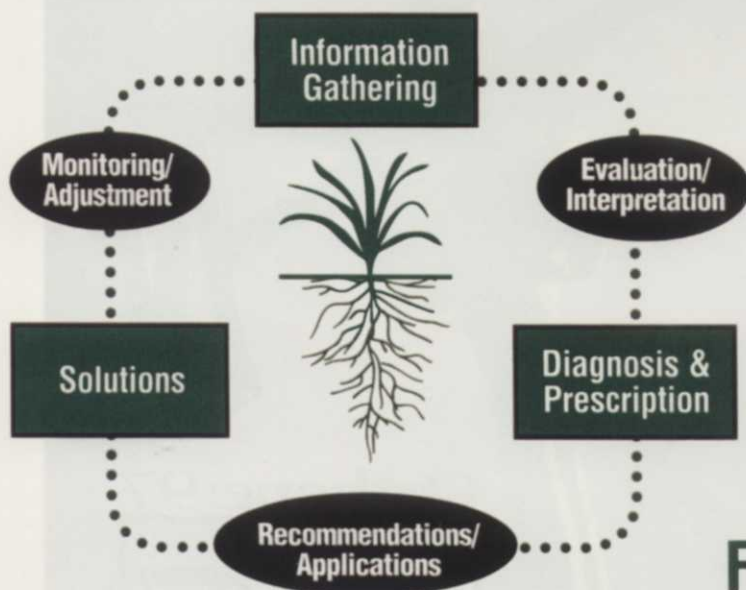
With an adequate but modest budget, Gwodz and staff must be inventive and do as much work as possible in-house, which includes all the tree trimming work

on the course. They fabricated a platform that attaches to the front end loader tractor thus saving the club \$3,000 monthly rental fees for a high-reach unit. Old Toro Groundsmasters no longer capable of rigorous mowing schedules are retrofitted with 25-gallon electric spray tanks and make great herbicide spot treatment spray rigs able to do a perfect circle around trees. Rather than landscape the course with expensive specimen trees, more than 400 3-gallon size oaks have been planted with special attention to future growth and shade impact. In three years 15-foot high trees are filling in the open out of play areas.

All the trees means lots of leaves, trimmings and storm debris. Gwodz used to do a controlled burn of the woody material, but tighter air quality laws in Manatee County mandated physical removal only. To avoid costly fees, Gwodz purchased a chipper and recycles the desirable material into

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The par-4 fifth hole at only 336 yards still ranks as the number-one handicap hole at Sara Bay.  
Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

mulch and compost for use on the course and clubhouse grounds and puts the rest in the dumpster for hauling.

Utilizing common sense, modern technology and the teamwork of a dedicated staff Gwodz and company have proved that even the older golf courses

can be as efficient and environmentally friendly as the new ones with all the latest design bells and whistles. Gwodz and Hoppe and the crew deserve a lot of credit for their role in helping to preserve one of golf's legendary links.

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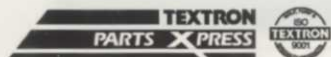
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Martin Downs CC in Stuart celebrates the diversity of its multicultural staff by displaying the national flags representing their countries of origin over the entrance to the crew operations room in the maintenance facility. From left: Haiti, Canada, United States, Guatemala and Mexico.

## Understanding Our Newest Employees...

# The Hispanic Workforce

**Editors Note:** We all know that the Hispanic workforce is already playing a big role in golf course maintenance in Florida. Superintendents are taking Spanish classes and workers are taking English classes. But how well do we understand the work ethic, culture and dynamics of this ever-expanding source of labor? If managing a non-English-speaking workforce is new to you, this article may give you some insights on improving communications and performance in your operation.

BY STEVE VALDEZ

The Hispanic population in the United States is growing every year, and Hispanic labor is beginning to play a big role in the American workforce.

More and more businesses are hiring non-English-speaking Hispanics, but there are still many employers who are afraid to hire them because of the communication gap.

There are some interesting facts that need to be taken into account in determining if hiring Hispanics is the right step for your business.

As many employers have found, Hispanics consistently have great work ethics. The majority of Hispanics who come to the United States from Mexico and places in Central and South America like

El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras are here to try to make a better life for themselves and their families. They are not necessarily planning to live here forever.

They want to come to the U.S. to work hard and earn good money to send back to their families.

As we all know, the U.S. dollar is worth from seven to twelve times more in their countries. An Hispanic working

here and sending \$1,000 U.S. to Mexico is sending 7,000–12,000 pesos to their families.

Depending on the exchange rate. This kind of money goes a long way in Latin American countries.

These Hispanics generally come from small towns and farm areas where jobs are scarce, the economy is bad, and farming isn't profitable.

Most Hispanics coming to work here

## Secret to Successful Supervising

I will always be grateful to Dominic Ferro my former boss, co-worker and friend at Boca Grove for sharing his secret to successful supervising with me. It was, "Keep the workers happy!" Sounds pretty simple doesn't it?

All jobs, no matter what the pay scale, can become routine and boring if we don't keep the workers involved in a meaningful way. We are responsible for seeing that stagnation and boredom don't set in. With monetary constraints at many courses, supervisors must substitute pride in a job well done and recognition for the effort when extra dollars aren't always available in the paycheck.

Happy workers do better work more efficiently, which is exactly what supervisors are supposed to achieve. When employees work this way, the boss looks good and whole operation benefits. We work as a team.

A happy, positive workplace has a snowball effect which makes the power to achieve goals almost effortless. It is much more effective than a manipulating or fearful atmosphere, which makes a crew member wonder if this is really a good way to make a buck.

Thanks again, Dominic for showing me a better way to work with people.

JEFFREY J. ROTH  
Senior Spray Tech  
Polo Trace G. & T.C.

in the U.S. will stay here anywhere from eight months to two years. Some go through hardships getting to the U.S. Therefore, they will stay long enough to make the trip worthwhile. Others will come and go every year, working in seasonal jobs from spring to fall and then go back home for the winter.

During their stay in the U.S., they will take advantage of the time and work from dawn to sundown seven days per week to make as much money as they can within that time period.

Some of these Hispanics possess skills such brick laying, carpentry plumbing, electrical and equipment operator, which can be extremely useful in the golf course industry.

Although I was born and raised in the United States, as were my parents and grandparents, I grew up speaking both English and Spanish. I have worked with non-English-speaking Hispanics for many years.

For the last seven years, I have had the opportunity and privilege to work with, manage, interpret and train Hispanics at premier golf courses in Tennessee. With a background in counseling and minor in psychology, I found myself focusing on getting to know them and better understand their situations so that I could improve working relationships. Through this process, I learned a great deal about non-English-speaking Hispanics and developed a great respect for their work ethics.

Many businesses that have not hired non-English speaking Hispanics, but would like to hire them, are apprehensive to do so because of the obvious potential communication gaps.

There are ways to bridge those gaps and make it possible for a smooth flow of business.


First, videotapes in Spanish on operating and servicing their equipment are available from your equipment re-

tailers. You can also obtain Spanish-translated videotapes explaining golf course maintenance by contacting the GCSAA. Also, there are consultants now available that can give hands-on training on equipment operation, golf course maintenance methods, and interpreting, along with seminars on working with a multicultural workforce.

The American workforce is going through a change and we in the golf course and lawn care industries need to appreciate and take advantage of the resources available to us.

If you employ non-English speaking Hispanics or would like to employ them and have any questions, please send your questions to me in care of this magazine or telephone me.

*Steve Valdez is owner/instructor, Carpe Diem Consulting Services, Nashville, Tenn. He may be reached at 615-330-0193.*



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# Got Wheels!

## On Today's Golf Courses, There's a Set for Every Purpose

**W**hen I first set foot on a golf course as a construction laborer in 1959, the rolling stock consisted of two tractors and a pickup truck. The pickup truck was used to haul two walking mowers around and they were walked up and down a plank to load and unload them at each green.

Seems like they added a Jacobsen G-10 to pull a fairway gang mower when the course opened. The bunker-raking crew (all four of us) shouldered those big aluminum rakes and walked the nine-hole course.

Fifteen years later at Walt Disney World, we were riding three-wheeled Minute Misers, Red Ryders and Cushmans and Toro Sand Pros raked the bunkers. Since then utility vehicles have evolved into multi-use workhorses with heavy-duty chassis, or light-duty modified golf cars with an array of options. There are all-terrain-type vehicles and mini-trucks. Something to fit every need and every budget. Read on to see what some of your peers have to say about utility vehicles.

JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

### THOUGHTS ON UTILITY VEHICLES

## Sales Reps Can Help You Find the Vehicle to Fit Your Need

**T**he very first time I rode on a golf course utility vehicle I was a passenger. It was a 3-wheeled Cushman Truckster and the driver was going like a bat-out-of-hell. I was sitting on the bed next to the driver who was occupying the only seat. I had my feet propped on the



Today's golf course utility vehicles come in all shapes and sizes and have a variety of uses. Photo by Steve Pearson.

deflector on the side, one hand on the back rest of the seat and the other hand holding on (for dear life) to the bed. We flew around a corner heading towards the tee of a par three.

There was a ball in the center of the path.

This guy, skillfully and obviously well practiced, slammed on the brakes, grabbed the ball and threw it at a fleeing coot hitting him in the head, killing him instantly!

There were two problems with his plan: The lady who hit the ball to the path was still on the tee only 20 yards away and the dead coot was floating on the lake that now contained her ball. The following day, at 15 years old in 1972, my second day as a golf course maintenance employee, I was no longer the crew member with the least seniority! I quickly came to the conclusion that these stout little vehicles offered a considerable potential for abuse.

The possibility for abusing the attributes of the utility vehicle is only one consideration that should be given when assessing your needs in this area. There are many and I will attempt to cover some of them in this article.

One thing I would like to point out before proceeding is that you already have the very best people available to help you with this. These are your equip-

ment sales people who represent distributors and manufacturers who have spent, and continue to spend, considerable amounts of time and money analyzing your equipment needs.

I would also like to say that, in my opinion, small pick-up trucks and all-terrain vehicles have no place on the golf course. They were not designed for the work we do, and talk about the possibility of abuse! It is pretty hard to sneak up to the corner store for lottery tickets in a golf course utility vehicle.

In my experience there are three common situations at a golf course when it comes to lightweight utility vehicles; (1) the correct number of properly utilized and maintained lightweight utility vehicles are present, (2) a crew member is heading out to repair a damaged cup riding a bunker rake, or (3) the superintendent is driving the only heavy-duty truckster on site and every other vehicle has tires rubbing against body moldings and no brakes.

How do you determine the right number for your course? The right number is 5!

Seriously, you will need to put a pencil to paper to determine the number of each type of vehicle that is right for your course. Looking at what the course has had historically is also helpful. Just as we have found it difficult to compare main-



tenance budgets, equipment inventories will vary with the demands and idiosyncrasies of each course. You do not need a heavy-duty vehicle for a string trimmer and you do not want a glorified golf cart to carry divot sand, particularly if the divot sand finds its way into the vehicle via that new loader you bought.

If you are going to make a mistake in any area of this business, I believe it is best to make it on the conservative side. I believe it is better to buy heavier duty vehicles if there is any question. At the very least, they will last longer, be safer and less likely to be damaged by your loader. We have many choices now over a wide variety of specifications and prices. As one esteemed colleague once said to me, "It is better to have too much capacity and not need it, than to have too little and overdo it."

The options that are available on today's utility vehicles are somewhat staggering. I suggest purchasing anything that will prolong the life of the frames and bodies. It has been my experience that most heavy-duty utility vehicles were taken out of service, bodies broken in half, with the engine still running.

Galvanizing, alternatives to steel, and utilizing more fiberglass have all prolonged the lives of this equipment. I would like to point out that when you do your long-term capital budget, do not get too carried away with this perception of prolonged life. Historically, I believe superintendents have overestimated the safe, useful life of their equipment. It is my impression that today's attorneys feel that brakes are much more important than the attorneys of days gone by. Did anyone ever use or even check the brakes on their Toro Workmasters 20 years ago?

Safety features are certainly an important consideration on any piece of equipment. If you do not have a plan in place to check your safety switches periodically and you have any assets at all, you're crazy. More and more equipment is coming with ROPS (roll-over protection systems) and guess what else? Seat belts. Having that big bar over your head and not wearing the seat belt is like playing Russian roulette — you may end up with a piece of metal coming at you that will not stop until it hits something harder than you. Anyway, tell your employees to use the seat belts in any

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vehicle equipped with ROPS. Some supervisors have told me their people would quit if they were required to wear the seat belts.

I have used a heavy-duty truckster as my transportation vehicle in the past. It had plenty of speed if I needed it, and many times I would exchange the bed for a spreader or sprayer in order to complete applications more efficiently. I found that it was easy to change attachments: "Hey Charlie, put the spreader on the Cushman, will you?"

I could fertilize all greens in less than an hour with the spreader attachment and the footprint of the unit was so light that I never saw tracking.

It is hard to beat the economy of sprayer with a centrifugal pump and poly tank, but I prefer a PTO-driven sprayer with mechanical agitation, diaphragm pump and repairable tank. Mechanical agitation helps assure that the chemicals stay mixed and help facilitate pumping the mixture to the last gallon. The diaphragm pump provides higher pressures for spraying trees and is

not likely to be affected by turf paints or silicon-based materials. The repairable tank is nice in case Charlie happens to drop it during a changeover!

Certainly there have been many innovations in golf course utility vehicles over the years. I would urge every superintendent to discuss these improvements and the needs of your course with every equipment sales representative who calls on you. Things are changing quickly and these people take the time to stay abreast of these changes. They know more about your operation and equipment needs than you probably realize.

The fact that they come to you, the manufacturers they represent create these innovations with you in mind and their companies support our industry shows that they are committed and deserving of your time. Education in this relationship goes both ways. If you listen to their recommendations, you will become better versed in this area of your operation even if you do not take their recommendations.



If you provide input, who knows? Maybe they will come out with a dependable safety switch or a unit that can be rinsed properly in less than 45 minutes!

SCOTT WAHLIN, CGCS  
The Links At Boynton  
Beach

#### MANAGING A SMALL FLEET

## Buying Golf Car Fleet Can Expand Your Utility Vehicle Budget

**O**ur utility vehicle fleet consists of two E-Z-Go GXT 1500s with dump beds; two E-Z-Go GX800s; two Club Car Carry-All IIs and one Club Car Carry-All I.

The two E-Z-Go GXT 1500s are used for hauling sand, gravel, topdressing, concrete and miscellaneous course debris. With their 1500 lb. capacity and 6-ply tires, they are able to take care of most of our heavy-

## Improved Speed, Consistency And Overall Playability

Aggressive management practices can compromise the health, quality and playability of traditional bermudagrass varieties. Tifdwarf, Tifgreen, and even some of the new superdwarf varieties become stressed when subjected to reduced mowing height, frequent verticutting, increased topdressing and minimal irrigation. TifEagle, on the other hand, was created to withstand just this kind of abuse. In test after test, TifEagle's quality rated superior to Tifdwarf and other warm-season grasses. Improve the speed, consistency and playability of your greens. Insist on TifEagle.

  
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- ◆ Report & Recommendations

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duty work. We do rent a dump truck for any super heavy duty projects.

One of the GX800's is used full time by our landscape person for all his work. The other (older) one is used for transportation, dragging-in topdressing and miscellaneous light duty jobs.

The two Club Car Carry-Alls are used by the superintendent and cup cutter in the morning or by the person fertilizing greens, tees or other various hand work or irrigation jobs.

We get the use of these vehicles in an agreement with Club Car for buying our golf car fleet. After one year we turn in one vehicle and get a replacement. All of our vehicles have lights because our regular dew-sweeping golfers tee off at the crack of dawn and we have to get out ahead of them, which means working in the dark almost every day.

The Carry-All I is an electric vehicle and is used in the clubhouse area for trash hauling and for hauling range balls from the range picker back to the club-

house. We chose the quiet of electric power so we won't disturb our guests, because this vehicle will be working around the 1st and 10th tees, the range and clubhouse constantly.



We recently purchased a Smithco Spray Star 160 for all spraying needs. We change the nozzle sizes as needed to fit the various applications from greens to fairways.

JOE ONDO, CGCS  
Winter Pines GC

#### MANAGING A LARGE FLEET

### Leasing Can Make Sense for Vehicles that See Heavy Use

For our project work we have two Toro Workman 3200s.

Specifications: Made of steel. Gas powered. Load capacity of 4,000 lbs.

#### Added options:

- Roll bar lights for special-event-preparation work done at night.
- Dump body for ease of hauling and placing materials.
- Toro topdresser attachment for topdressing greens, tees and approaches after aerifying. Selected mounted topdresser versus pull-behind for easier turning and traction.
- Hydraulics used only for the topdresser.

**Uses:** Transportation for course set-up. Hauling topdressing, project debris and clippings. Pull hand mowers, greens rollers and drag mats.

**Lease strategy:** These vehicles are leased because they are constantly used in heavy-duty situations due to their payload capacity. Therefore the wear and tear on them after a couple of years would require a great deal of repairs that would not be cost effective if the vehicle were purchased.

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## Observations from the Open

**T**here are some who might have the perception that little can be gained by serving as a volunteer crew member at a major golf tournament. After all, isn't it true that these host clubs begin preparations years in advance, they increase the operating budget, and have a commitment from the membership that allows them to do whatever is necessary to shine for that one week in the spotlight? Well, yes, while all of that is true, serving as a volunteer at a major tournament can still be a very rewarding, educational experience.



*A 4x4 piece of lightweight plywood protects the putting surface during preparations of the U.S. open at Congressional CC. Photo by Darren Davis.*

A couple of small super tips that I learned while working at the U.S. Open at Congressional a few years back have helped my staff shine when we host our annual Member/Guest or Club Championship. Both of the following tips deal with preparing the putting surface for play.

The first tip is the use of a piece of plywood by the individual who sets the pins. The lightweight piece of plywood that was used at Congressional measured approximately four feet by four feet and had a round opening removed to insert the cup cutter where the new hole location was to be placed in the green's surface.

The biggest value of the board is to help prevent any dents, scuffs or other irregularities from being accidentally made on the green's surface. Without this board, as the operator works on the cup, the weight of their body could potentially result in indentations or scuffs and tears on the surface.

The board also allows the employee to place items such as a sand bucket, painting supplies, or the hole liner on the board while they work, without fear of the items causing indentations, or leaving debris on the green's surface.

The second useful tip that I picked up from the

"Open" and have initiated for our special events, is the use of fine sieved green sand to help mask and smooth poorly repaired ball marks on the greens. By dotting a small amount of green sand in the small voids on the putting surface, there is an aesthetic improvement as well as a smoothing effect, so a golfer's putt is less likely to stray off line.

No, these little tips will probably not make your bermudagrass golf course comparable to a northern golf course with striped bentgrass fairways and four-inch bluegrass roughs with huge stands of large leaf deciduous trees. Nor will they make your greens roll like a finely manicured, tightly mowed bentgrass green; but I am a big believer that the little details such as these go a long way to the enjoyment of a round of golf.

*DARREN DAVIS  
Olde Florida Golf Club*



*Adding fine, sieved green sand to ball marks can clean up the appearance of our greens for a major club event. Photo by Darren Davis.*

duty work we have 11 Club Car Carryall II XRT vehicles.

**Specifications:** Gas powered. Aluminum box bed with a load capacity of 900 lbs.

**Added options:**

- Roof and windshield on two units for assistant superintendent transportation. We often have to inspect the course during wet weather, freezing cold weather and at night.

- Manual dump body for dumping clippings, debris, sand, soil, etc.

**Uses:** Cup cutting and course set up. Pulling hand mowers and rollers. Hauling punster. Dragging clippings debris.

**Innovative Modifications:** A drag net was attached to the bed to scatter clippings around bunkers, greens, and tee complexes where a tractor blower may not be practical or have access. It also works well to drag fairways with excessive and hard-to-scatter clippings debris.

**Leasing options:** These vehicles are also leased due to the the daily use and wear and tear 365 days a year. Keeping them repaired after two or three years of use would not be cost effective.

Our spray rig is a John Deere Pro Gator.

**Specifications:** Steel body and frame construction. Diesel powered.

**Options:** Lights on the roll bar for night spraying.

**Uses:** The Pro Gator is used only for spraying. It is mounted with a Chem Pro 160 sprayer that is equipped with its own Kohler engine. It has a 160-gallon capacity.

The separate engine is a definite plus, allowing the sprayer to maintain full power and pressure. We selected a diesel engine so the Pro Gator would be able to maintain constant speed up and down our mounded areas better than a gas engine.

**Leasing options:** This vehicle was purchased because it is not used on a daily basis which limits the wear and tear on the vehicle.

TREVOR BRINKMEYER  
Assistant Superintendent  
Olde Florida GC

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USGA FLORIDA REGION UPDATE

## Wetting Agents Effective in Battling Drought Stress

**W**ater on many Florida golf courses is becoming scarce, and superintendents are forced to prioritize the water being applied.

Localized dry spots are worsening with the drought and are becoming more apparent on many of our Turf Advisory Service visits.

These brown spots range in size from one to two feet on greens, and up to 10 or more feet on tees, fairways, and roughs. Decreasing the amount of water at each irrigation cycle exacerbates the problem and reestablishing adequate soil moisture becomes difficult.

Wetting agents are effective tools during these dry times and preventive applications are much better than curative. Fertiligation units can efficiently apply preventive treatments. However, granular wetting agents also are successful.

It is very important to keep an eye on the winter overseeding during this dry period. The overseeding has been transitioning over the past few weeks, but some courses (central to north Florida) still contain 50 percent to 60 percent overseeding.

Several courses experienced rapid transitioning as the ryegrass/bluegrass became too dry during a recent warm spell. The overseeding burned out before the bermudagrass was actively growing, and this created thin spots on several putting greens. Ample water and fertility should continue on putting surfaces to allow for a smoother transition and to encourage sustained bermudagrass growth.

Although forecasts are not optimistic, we're all hoping and praying for a normal rainy season this summer.

TODD LOWE  
Agronomist, Florida Region  
USGA Green Section  
tlowe@usga.org or 941-828-2625  
Credit: USGA Links On Line

## 2001 Florida Plants of the Year - Part 3

**Editors 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. This program is sponsored by the Woody Division of the Florida Nurserymen and Growers Association (FNGA). This group of plants deserves consideration for their drought and stress tolerances and wildlife attraction.

### COMMON NAME: Indigo Spires

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Salvia 'Indigo Spires'*

**HARDINESS:** Zones 7-10

**MATURE HEIGHT AND SPREAD:** 3'- 4' x 3'- 4'

**CLASSIFICATION:** Herbaceous perennial

**LANDSCAPE USE:** Long lasting color in perennial border or accent plant

**CHARACTERISTICS:** This herbaceous perennial does well in sun or light shade. It is a butterfly and hummingbird plant that blooms for a long period of time. The vigorous plant has cuttable flower spikes of deep blue with gray-green foliage and responds well to pruning.



### COMMON NAME: Miniature West Indian or Singapore Holly

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Malpighia coccigera*

**HARDINESS:** Zones 10-11

**MATURE HEIGHT X SPREAD:** 2.5' x 3'

**CLASSIFICATION:** Evergreen shrub

**LANDSCAPE USE:** Low hedge or groundcover

**CHARACTERISTICS:** The spreading branches with shiny dark, holly-like leaves are a backdrop for 1" white flowers in spring followed by orange edible berries. Sun or part shade are best, and the plants have a tolerate high pH and some salt exposure.



### COMMON NAME: Varigated Dwarf or Asiatic Jasmine

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Trachelospermum asiaticum 'Tricolor'*

**HARDINESS:** Zones 7-10

**MATURE HEIGHT X SPREAD:** 6'-12' tall and 5'-6' wide

**CLASSIFICATION:** Groundcover

**LANDSCAPE USE:** Groundcover for sun or shade

**CHARACTERISTICS:** This is a rapidly spreading evergreen viney ground cover. It has varigated white, green and red foliage and rarely blooms. Good for partial shade or full sun, this plant grows in places where other can not. As in all Dwarf Jasmines—the first year it sleeps, second year it creeps and the third year it leaps.



### COMMON NAME: 'Summer Wave' Torenia

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Torenia fournieri 'Summer Wave'*

**HARDINESS:** Zones 8-11, sensitive to frost

**MATURE HEIGHT X SPREAD:** 12" x 12"

**CLASSIFICATION:** Perennial

**LANDSCAPE USE:** Bedding plant for partial shade, containers and hanging baskets

**CHARACTERISTICS:** This perennial spreads quickly and can tolerate sun and partial shade. Deep blue color is hard to find in heat tolerant plants. will be available in other colors soon—deep purple and pink.





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USGA LINKS ONLINE UPDATE

## Drought Strategy Can Mitigate Damage

*Editor's Note: The following information is excerpted from a USGA Links On Line Update. I edited out references to snowfall and mountains, which weren't pertinent. I found the remaining information useful and I hope you do to. The parentheses are mine.*

**D**rought conditions are again predicted for much of (our area). Below-average precipitation this spring has (us under) water restrictions. Developing a plan early could help mitigate widespread damage across the golf course if water will be a limiting factor.

1. Develop a traffic control program if one is not already in place. Drought-stressed turf will not tolerate traffic very well.

2. Evaluate your irrigation system. Inefficient operation wastes water.

3. Use water sparingly during spring. Deep and infrequent watering will promote strong root development, and deep roots will allow for water conservation later in the season.

4. Employ a judicious fertility program to avoid excess top growth in the early part of the season.

5. Consider plant growth regulator use if you are not using any already. PGR use can improve root development and conserve soil moisture through top growth reduction.

6. Evaluate irrigated areas and determine which portions of the course are most important to play, i.e. up the middle from tee to green.

7. Establishing more drought-tolerant species across the golf course may be an option for the long haul. (When regrassing in-play or out-of-play areas, check with the University of Florida for possible drought resistant alternatives)

These are but a few tips to keep in mind heading into this season. Trees and

other plantings also need attention during drought. Some species of trees require considerable amounts of water and may slowly go into decline during years of drought. Assess tree conditions regularly. Deep soaking periodically may be necessary to save desirable trees.

MATT NELSON  
Agronomist, Northwest Region.  
USGA Green Section

USGA PACIFIC AND THE NORTHWEST

## Seashore Paspalum Looks Very Promising

*Editor's Note: You may be wondering what in the world news from the Northwest Region has to do with Florida. Read on and check out the comments on Paspalum in Hawaii.*

**W**hat are the two words heard most often when the following question is asked, "What is the biggest challenge facing golf maintenance in the fu-



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ture?" The answer is "water and the environment."

Covering the vast and distinctly different regions of the Pacific Northwest and Hawaii, both of these topics are of utmost importance.

At this writing, the western Washington area has experienced approximately 60 percent of normal rainfall and snow pack in the Cascades.

This may impact golf courses that are coming under increased scrutiny for water issues and our beloved salmon. Despite the negatives of a rainy day, the Green Section office in Gig Harbor has done its rain dance.

Across the ocean, Hawaii continues to deal with its own water issues. Starting this summer, the entire Ewa plains (a large area near Pearl Harbor) will begin delivering all of the golf courses treated water.

This will be interesting to watch since a golf course on the North Shore (The Links at Kuilima) has been dealing with this issue since the time of construction in the early 90s. Effluent water-use on golf courses is not earthshaking news, but The Links at Kuilima may become the poster child for environmentalists and the golf course industry.

What makes this golf course so different? Tell me the last golf course you played or visited that had gone more than four years without fertilizing some of its fairways? Show me the fairways that have not received any fertilizer and also never had a herbicide or other pesticide applied? Then let's see what kind of playing quality these fairways provide for the players.

As you may have already guessed, the grass is seashore paspalum and the effluent water provides all of the nitrogen necessary for regular growth. Superintendent Mike Honma reports that this grass is rapidly taking over the entire golf course, including the greens. The more I see of this grass, when it is managed properly, the more exciting it becomes. Is seashore paspalum the grass of the future? No, it is the grass of today!

LARRY GILHULY  
Northwest Region Director  
USGA Green Section  
lgilhuly@usga.org or 253-858-2266  
Credit: USGA Links On Line

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# Environmental Complacency

As an industry, we cannot rest on our laurels. We must be vigilant in our efforts to inform golfers about the price of what they are demanding. Why do the golfers appear no more involved than they were a decade ago? Why isn't every course in the Audubon Program?

FRANK S. ROSSI, PH.D.  
Cornell University

When Rachel Carson penned the now-famous *Silent Spring*, she addressed an aspect of American life wrought with ignorance regarding pesticide use and environmental quality. The outrage stirred by *Silent Spring* provoked the anger created by the "cranberry scare" of 1959.

Cranberry growers applied a pesticide during the growing season in defiance of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) restrictions. The pesticide found at low levels in the cranberry supply was suspected of causing cancer. These events had a profound and enduring effect on the public consciousness. In many parts of the country, this concern persists today.

The golf industry experienced a similar *Silent Spring* event with publications from the United States Government General Accounting Office in 1988 asking the question, "Are the Hazards of Lawn Care Pesticides Underestimated?"

Then in 1989 the Attorney General of New York published "Toxic Fairways; The Risk of Groundwater Contamination from Golf Courses." Jay Feldman and his organization, National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides (NCAMP) and other activists seized the moment to confront

the golf industry.

The initial response from the industry was defensive. The 1992 GCSAA conference held a packed session for thousands for golf course superintendents to hear from Mr. Feldman and officials from the EPA. The following year the GCSAA invited Michael Fumento, author of *Science Under Siege* who reported the results of topical searches he conducted on "golf courses" and "cancer."

"Golf courses fight cancer, as professional tournaments raise funds" Fumento proclaimed with the results of his search. The crowd erupted and you could sense that the golf course superintendents wanted this crisis over. Still, information was lacking regarding the fate of pesticides and nutrients applied to turf.

The United States Golf Association embarked on an important research initiative to more thoroughly understand the influence of golf turf management on environmental quality. The environment under investigation was air and water quality.

Concurrently, Ron Dodson was introducing a program to the golf industry that assisted the golf course superintendent with environmental management. Ron was also the driving force behind the Wildlife Links Research Program that investigated the

influence of golf turf management on wildlife. The research information was on its way, and now there would be a mechanism for implementation.

## Environmental Evolution

The USGA held a symposium at a 1998 meeting of the American Chemical Society to discuss the decade of USGA-funded environmental research. As a member of the Research Committee at the time, it was a unique experience to hear from the leading researchers in our field and then to have their work in a Symposium Book published in 2000.

The opening chapter authored by Mike Kenna and Jim Snow provides an excellent overview of the research. In the concluding section they state, "university research shows that most pesticides used on golf courses have a negligible effect on the environment." This has been the cry of golf course superintendents since the research has been completed.

Audubon International programs for new and existing golf courses has grown over the last decade, but still represents about 10 percent of all courses in the US. In fact the number of fully certified courses is well below 5 percent of all courses. Most courses are either not involved or if they have paid the entry fee (\$100), have not actively pursued full certification. Yet, in many states, the Audubon Programs are actively embraced by government agencies as a means of insuring environmental quality when a new facility is proposed.

Many golf courses throughout the country continue to face public opposition to pesticide and fertilizer use. Several communities in California have banned the use of most pesticides and this trend is actively underway in New York. The turfgrass industry has responded by mounting significant lobbying efforts to combat the legislative agenda of advocacy organizations. At the same time, the industry faces new pest problems such as bentgrass deadspot and gray leafspot that require substantial pesticide inputs to maintain expected quality.

## Another Level

Millions of dollars have been invested to research the environmental fate of applied chemicals. These studies attempt to

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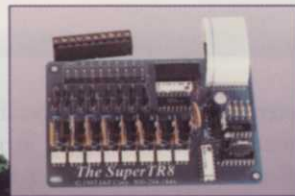
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### GCSAA Environmental Management Program

Stephen W. Wood, CGCS, El Conquistador C.C. in Bradenton has earned an environmental management specialist certificate from GCSAA for completing a specialization program in Integrated Pest Management.

trations that might cause human health concerns. But what if the levels we have been using were harmful to other species vital to aquatic ecosystems.

Environmental researchers from Canada published an assessment of nitrogen pollution influence on amphibians in a 1999 issue of *Environmental Health Perspectives*. The paper is a review of available water quality information for the Great Lakes region of the US and Canada. Of the over 8,000 water-quality samples collected in areas surrounding the Great Lakes, 20 percent of them were found to have concentrations that cause sublethal effects in amphibians. Nitrate levels as low as 2.5 par per million have been shown to affect amphibians.

The nitrate in the water appears to disturb the digestive process in tadpoles in a way similar to the mechanism in humans. The nitrate is converted by the bacteria in the infant's gut and then severely restricts the blood's ability to become oxygenated. There is a significant lack of information

determine the role that specific management practices may play in minimizing off-site movement and often use EPA con-

centrations to evaluate success. In general, these levels are established from toxicological research that determines concen-

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available on the toxicity levels relative to the different amphibian species, including influence on the predators and prey.

The review did not point the finger at the turfgrass industry, but rather pointed to the need to understand the influence of wastewater treatment, livestock, precipitation, and fertilizers on nitrate pollution. Clearly, as major users of fertilizers for turfgrass areas such as golf courses, we must be aware of best management practices to minimize off-site movement. In addition, turf is an important vegetative buffer and biofiltration system to protect sensitive aquatic habitats. Now is the time to think about this bigger picture before another crisis occurs.

#### What's Next?

Kenna and Snow end the chapter in the ACS Symposium Book saying, "The USGA, and the game of golf, need to keep asking questions and looking for new ways to maintain golf course grasses. More important, efforts should be increased to educate

the golfer about environmental issues." The importance of these points cannot be overstated, yet I am regularly amazed at how many in our industry feel that the environmental crisis is over. I sense a complacency among organizations and industry leadership that image, labor issues, and expected turf quality are greater challenges, since they know the results of the USGA studies.

There is nothing more important to the wellbeing of the game of golf and our industry than environmental quality. Yes, the data is encouraging that as far as we can measure, there appears to be little negative influence, yet as we continue to ask questions we find new answers. At the same time, we need to look at course management. Should we plant ryegrasses where gray leaf spot is going to be a problem? Can we justify intense pesticide use for new pest problems? Are we creating these problems from the conditions we create? Why do the golfers appear no more involved than they were a decade ago? Why isn't every course

in the Audubon Program?

As the human population grows, the concern for environmental quality will be even greater. As an industry, we cannot rest on our laurels. We must be vigilant in our efforts to inform golfers about the price of what they are demanding. In some cases, we may not know exactly, but shouldn't we err on the side of caution? The amphibian study is only one aspect of what we are a part of, as Carson states in *Silent Spring*, "the fabric of life, on one hand delicate and destructible, on the other miraculously tough and resilient, and capable of striking back in unexpected ways."

*Frank S. Rossi, Ph.D. is assistant professor of horticulture at Cornell University. He can be reached at 607-255-1629, fax 607-255-9998, email fsr3@cornell.edu. Submitted by Shelly Foy, USGA Green Section Florida Region and reprinted from Dr. Rossi's 2001 USGA Regional Seminar presentation with permission.*

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STEWARDSHIP NOTES BY SHELLY FOY

# Summer is Really Here!

One of my favorite things about this time of year in South Florida, however, is that you can't go outside without hearing birds everywhere. For the first time in four years, I have great crested flycatchers nesting in a box in my backyard.



I have to laugh because I am constantly telling superintendents to be patient with their nest boxes, that sometimes it just takes a while for the birds to find them. I should take my own advice, because I am probably the most impatient person on this planet. Happily, I can now sit out on my patio and watch the mom and dad flying in and out of the box feeding their young. It just makes me feel incredibly satisfied with life.

I have found the secret to getting information for this column: pick up the phone and call people. Since you won't send the information to me, here is your heads up that I will be calling, so start making some notes on your environmental projects and programs.

### Nest Boxes

I have truly enjoyed some recent phone conversations with George McBath, ornithologist from Naples. George works with

a lot of golf courses in Florida installing birdhouses and setting up monitoring programs for them. George now has over 1300 birdhouses on over 46 golf courses in Florida. He is currently monitoring birdhouses on 26 golf courses in Southwest Florida.

For any golf course interested in establishing a nest box program, George McBath is the person you need to call. George has designed his own nest boxes made out of all recycled material. You can call George at 941-774-2820.

According to George, "It is nice to have birdhouse projects, but it is important to adopt the physician's credo: *First, do no harm.* You need to check the birdhouses at least twice a month during the starling nesting season, and if you find starlings, they absolutely need to be eliminated."

George went on to say that, "Particularly on more urban courses that are surrounded by homes and shopping centers,

you really need to be concerned about starling reproduction. They are going to be more prevalent in these areas because they tend to hang around areas where there are a lot of people." Shelly's advice: Go out and buy a good book on Florida birds that has pictures of the birds and the eggs before you start your monitoring program.

George also talked about birdhouses fulfilling another function: wintertime roosting. He has seen quite a few red bellied woodpeckers roosting in boxes during the winter.

George tells me that these are the birds in Florida you can expect to find nesting on your golf courses: screech owls, bluebirds, great crested flycatchers, carolina wrens, red bellied woodpeckers, downy woodpeckers, nuthatches, kestrels and purple martins,

Now, obviously that does not mean that every golf course will attract all of those birds. It basically depends on the surrounding habitat, and what area of the state you are in. For instance, even though technically bluebirds could be found in Southeast Florida, I can't tell you where any are. However, they are all over the place in Southwest Florida. Same with Kestrels: you are more likely to find them the further north you go in the state.

In talking about purple martin houses, George says that the success rate for the first year is over 90 percent. Basically, if you put up purple martin houses, you are going to have nesting success. He was particularly pleased with the purple martin boxes at Stonebridge in Naples. They had very good first year results with the boxes on the golf course, and more than that, a lot of the homeowners were so impressed they

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## North American Birdwatching Open

Florida golf course participants  
in Birdwatching Open:

### ACSP Courses

(Golf Course, City, Total  
Species)

IGM @ Aquarina CC, Melbourne  
Beach, 33

Foxfire Golf and CC, Naples, 54

Heritage Pines GC, Hudson, 66

Indian River Club, Vero Beach, 50

Interlachen CC, Winter Park, 30

Royal Poinciana GC, Naples, 51

Seminole GC, Tallahassee, 17

IGM @ Spessard Holland CC,  
Melbourne Beach, 23

The Majors Golf Course, Palm  
Bay, 42

Panama CC, Lynn Haven, 28

Shadow Wood CC, Bonita Springs,  
50

IGM @ The Habitat GC, Malabar,  
43

### Signature Courses

Bonita Bay East Courses,  
Naples, 42

Collier's Reserve, Naples, 61

IGM @ West Bay, Naples, 50

Twin Eagles, Naples, 25

got involved and put the purple martin boxes on their properties as well. And that folk's is what it is all about... educating people and setting good examples.

George was also particularly impressed with the Waterlefe Golf Course in Bradenton. He said they had quite a diversity of birds, and that on the first day he was on the course he counted 62 species. They must be doing something right!

Can you imagine the data we would have if every golf course in Florida kept track of the bird species present and monitored and kept track of nesting birds? I have no doubt we would all be impressed with the numbers. More importantly, people outside of our industry would be impressed as well.

### Everglades grants

The EGCSA recently gave grants to two golf courses to install bluebird boxes: Countryside and Gleneagles. Countryside had

three nesting pair this first year. Gleneagles had bluebird sightings on top of the boxes, but no nesting to date.

I also recently checked in with Collier's Reserve, and Pepper Terry reported that in a three-year period, 129 species of birds have been counted! Collier's Reserve has some members that are avid birders, and they keep an ongoing species list.

I also enjoyed hearing about the golf course tours they give every year to schools. This year, they gave 28 tours in three months to 580 students ranging from first graders

to seventh graders. These students toured Collier's Reserve from six different schools and a Boy Scout troop. Collier's would like to thank Bill Gamble and Bill Gordon from Club Car of Florida, who donated four transporters to help get the students around the golf course this year. Bill Davidson and/or Pepper would be happy to give you the scoop on how they organize these school tours, so just give them a call.

### Replacing bermuda roughs

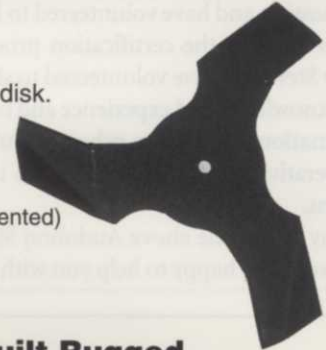
Matt Taylor and I talked about Audubon

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related projects at Royal Poinciana. Just in the past year, they have taken out over 15 acres of non-play bermuda and have planted over 27,000 native grasses, including cordgrass, fakahatchee grass and muhly grass. They are working on a longrange drainage plan, and have donated a pair of bluebirds for the Everglades project talked about in the Winter 2001 issue of the *Florida Green*. McBath also did a bird count for Matt, and on May 14, there were a total of 348 birds and 41 different species counted.

#### Audubon Steward Network

Audubon International has developed an Audubon Steward Network made up of people that have taken a property through certification and have volunteered to help others through the certification process. These Stewards have volunteered to share their knowledge and experience and be an information source for other Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary members in their regions.

Any one of the above Audubon Stewards would be happy to help you with any

questions you might have about the ACSP. If you have taken a property through certification and are interested in being an Audubon Steward, call Joellen Zeh, staff ecologist for Audubon International at 518-767-9051 ext. 14, or e-mail her at [jzeh@audubonintl.org](mailto:jzeh@audubonintl.org).

#### Birdwatching Open Results

For the fourth year in a row, Audubon International has invited members of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program to participate in the North American Birdwatching Open. It was held on International Migratory Bird Day, May 12. Interested members were given forms and asked to identify by sight or sound, all bird species on their property within a 24-hour period. The purpose of the event is to gather data on specific bird species that use managed lands and to demonstrate publicly that many land managers are committed to responsible environmental stewardship.

There are more Florida golf courses than are on this list that have birds on

property, right? Joellen will be making changes to the Birdwatching Open for 2002, and I sincerely hope that more of you will participate. We currently have 231 ACSP registered properties in Florida. I know we can do better than 16 participants. (I'm hoping that a little guilt will work wonders)

#### Meadowbrook Birdwatching Cooperative

Lyne Page, Meadowbrook/IGM Environmental Compliance Coordinator reported that they had five courses in close proximity work together to participate in the Birdwatching Open. Three of those courses are managed by IGM. The Majors, Indian River Club, IGM at Habitat, IGM at Spessard Holland and IGM at Aquarina had 12 volunteers spread out across the area counting, and everyone was pleased with the results (*see results above*).

Lyne was also particularly pleased with some recent naturalization projects at Spessard Holland. The golf course only has 65 acres, and they have still been able to

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## Audubon Stewards in Florida

**Buddy Keene**, Gainesville Golf & Country Club, Gainesville

**Bob Karnes**, Disney's Osprey Ridge, Lake Buena Vista

**Matt Taylor**, Royal Poinciana, Naples

**Jeff Klontz**, Country Club of Florida, Village of Golf

**Ron Hill**, Amelia Island Plantation, Amelia Island

**Lyne Page**, Meadowbrook/IGM, Lakeland

**Don Merritt**, Hobe Sound Elementary School, Hobe Sound

**Shelly Foy**, USGA, Hobe Sound

**Todd Lowe**, USGA, Englewood

naturalize over 10 acres. They primarily used saw palmetto, muhly grass and sea oats. The golf course also has a 3-acre butterfly garden planted with coontie, beach sunflower, and galardia. The butter-

fly garden was planted last summer and Lyne reports that it is just beautiful!

A personal comment on the Meadowbrook/IGM golf courses. There are currently over 40 of them in Florida, and each one is a member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. Currently, six are fully certified, and most of them are enroute towards full certification. I'd personally like to give a pat on the back to Scott Zakany and Greg Plotner for seeing the importance in having all of these golf courses participate in the ACSP. Kudos to you both.

### Everglades Bluebird Project

Here's the quick update on the golf course bluebird translocations and their current status from Gary Slater (*see article in Winter 2001 issue*). We moved a pair of bluebirds before they began breeding from each of three golf courses: Royal Poinciana, Foxfire, and Grey Oaks. All except one of these birds, the female from Foxfire, have been found nesting in Everglades National Park.

The Grey Oaks pair nested, but an

American crow depredated their nest. We expect them to renest. Birds from Royal Poinciana and Foxfire nested together in the unlikely location of a hole in a Ted Shed, but just fledged three juveniles. Finally, the second bird from Royal Poinciana is nesting with a Big Cypress bluebird that was also translocated this year. Their nest is still active, but should fledge soon.

At two golf courses, The Glades and Eagle Creek, we moved a pair and their nestlings. All the nestlings fledged in their aviary fine. Unfortunately, a snake made a meal of the two fledglings from the Glades. The Glades birds were radio-tagged and released and one has been located on a couple occasions. The pair from Eagle Creek split up after release, but we found the female with one surviving juvenile. The male has been flying all over Everglades National Park and we locate it regularly.

Gary will give us a full update on the Bluebird project in the next issue of the Florida Green.

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Often unnoticed in fairways and roughs, torpedograss really gets noticed when it reaches greens and tees

BY PHILIP BUSEY, PH.D.

**T**orpedograss, *Panicum repens*, is a persistent weed on many golf courses. Now that we have a chemical product, Drive 75DF®, that selectively controls it, can we use the chemical to eradicate torpedograss from areas of the golf course?

My opinion is that it will be possible to permanently remove torpedograss from bermudagrass turf, if multiple small applications of Drive 75DF® are used in multiple successive years on the same infested areas. The label restricts the number of applications to two or three per year using no more than 2 pounds of product per acre in one year.

On golf courses, torpedograss starts from rhizomes and tubers that are carried and unintentionally planted, for the most part during construction. Seeds have not been reported in Florida. The rhizomes and tubers withstand burial and remain hidden, to later sprout new shoots through one or more feet of soil.

Torpedograss was introduced to

Florida, probably in the late 1800s, with the intention that it might be a good forage plant. It did not make a good forage, but it did become widely established.

I have seen torpedograss establish from the root balls of trees in a new landscape, and I have seen it puncture up through asphalt paths. Golfers pay little attention to torpedograss. When they ask me what I am doing at one of my herbicide trials on the golf course, I show them the torpedograss in the rough and I say, "I am trying to find the best way to kill torpedograss."

Their usual response to me is, "Oh, okay. I thought that was part of the rough."

Once torpedograss is on the golf course, it spreads underneath fairways and roughs, eventually reaching greens and tees. When it reaches mitigated wetland areas, it generally overwhelms the native plants and looks unsightly around lake margins.

Trying to pull it out of the ground is useless, as the shoot will break off from the buried rhizome. In fact, almost any mechanical treatment such as disking only serves to spread torpedograss.

Modern, well-designed golf courses often have the worst problems from torpedograss, either because they were built from dredged lake bottoms, or be-

cause they were built in former pastures. Older golf courses, which have had limited movement of soil, are often relatively clean.

In 1991, University of Florida researcher Dr. Bert McCarty began to discover control or suppression of torpedograss with quinclorac. (Dr. McCarty has since moved to Clemson University, and has authored several books, such as the *Color Atlas of Turfgrass Weeds*.)

In research published in 1993, McCarty found little or no injury from quinclorac to bermudagrass turf. Considering how tough torpedograss is, and the failure of past herbicides to give selective control, Dr. McCarty's work was a major breakthrough.

Following the 1998 EPA registration, BASF Corporation published its first label for Drive 75DF® (75% quinclorac), for control or suppression of torpedograss in bermudagrass turf. Other weeds are listed, but none as notable for Florida superintendents as torpedograss.

There are a number of restrictions and application requirements on the Drive 75DF label. For example, it may not be applied to golf course greens or collars. The Florida registration was issued July 1, 1999. For the next year and a half, Drive 75DF was marketed by

### Key Points

- Torpedograss is a persistent perennial weed that spreads by rhizomes and tubers.
- It can be transported mechanically in sod, tree root balls and during construction.
- Drive 75DF® marketed by BASF is an effective herbicide for the control of torpedograss in bermudagrass.
- There is an application limit of 2.0 pounds of active ingredient per acre of Drive 75DF® per year, split over a maximum of three applications.
- It appears that three years of diligent applications will be needed to eradicate torpedograss from areas on the golf course.

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*Torpedograss cup-cutter plug showing extensive tuber and rhizome mass. Most of the plant is below the ground.*

TopPro Specialties, but following corporate reorganization, it is currently handled by BASF.

The biggest issues with Drive 75DF® are the low application rates on the label, and regrowth of torpedograss. While Dr. McCarty showed that the active ingredient quinclorac was effective in controlling torpedograss — up to 89% control through the tenth week after initial treatment — he observed only 53% control through the 19th week after initial treatment. That degree of control was at a rate of application twice the subsequently labeled rate.

According to the Drive 75DF® label, no more than two pounds of product may be applied per acre per year, and the 1998 label recommended two applications of 1 pound per acre per application. Using this 1 + 1 protocol, McCarty observed only 16% control of torpedograss, 19 weeks after initial treatment.

In my initial research on Drive 75DF®, in 1998 and 1999, tank mixtures of Drive 75DF® with Illoxan seemed to show some initial improvement of torpedograss con-

trol in replicated plots, but in the second successive year of treatments to the same plots, I observed no improvement in torpedograss control.

The Drive 75DF® label recommends that “to achieve consistent weed control, a crop oil concentrate or methylated seed oil is recommended.” However, in my evaluation of six different adjuvants including MSO (methylated seed oil), I observed no improvement in torpedograss control by the use of any adjuvant, compared with no adjuvant, or even compared with watering in the Drive 75DF® after application.

Kyle Miller, BASF technical representative, has confirmed that the MSO adjuvant may be more appropriate for annual species including crabgrasses, which are also controlled with Drive 75DF®, and MSO may not be necessary for torpedograss. Miller also said that in the case of torpedograss, “root uptake is the major factor.”

Considering the lack of improvement from tank mixtures or adjuvants, my next recourse was to split the annual 2 pounds of Drive 75DF® into more than two applications, with applications three weeks apart.

Theoretically, the longer that torpedograss stays suppressed, the less opportunity it will have to photosynthesize and restore its reserves. I had seen plots by BASF’s Joe Mitchell, tended by golf course superintendent Arthur Kurtz, of Broken Sound West in Boca Raton. In those plots, the three-way splits looked almost clean of torpedograss.

Based on work that I started in 1999 at Palm Aire Golf Course courtesy of Fred Granger, CGCS, four applications of 0.5 pounds Drive 75DF®, at three-week intervals provided better control than three applications of 0.67 pounds, which were better than two applications of 1 pound.

In plots evaluated before treatment, and in water controls, torpedograss density was 75 to 85%. There was progressively less torpedograss in successive years of Drive 75DF® treatment, but the most dramatic improvement was in the four-way split of 0.5 pounds Drive 75DF® per

acre per application, where I observed 10% torpedograss canopy.

To think of these observations in terms of relative control (reduction compared with the water treatments), the standard two applications of 1 pound per acre gave 47% reduction of torpedograss, three applications of 0.67 pounds gave 71% reduction, and four applications of 0.50 pounds gave 89% reduction. Other experimental plots at TPC at Eagle Trace, managed by Jim Moore, also showed an advantage for the three-way split, 0.67 pounds Drive 75DF® per acre per application, compared with two applications of 1 pound of Drive 75DF®.

To find out what was going on below ground, a cup cutter was used to remove two plugs from each plot, and the plugs were carefully washed and the contents separated and weighed. In the case of the water controls, 64% of the torpedograss plant dry weight was contained in the tubers, only 24% in the rhizomes and roots, and 12% in the leaf. Relative control or reduction of torpedograss leaf, rhizome, and tuber biomass was consistent with visual observations, except visual estimates slightly overestimated biomass reduction.

When evaluating torpedograss, there is eight times as much material below the surface as above the surface. Long-term torpedograss control is a long-term proposition.

The bottom line is that torpedograss consistently regrows under all conditions, but that the control from multiple small-rate applications is sufficient that there is an accumulated benefit from a year-to-year program. It appears that at least three years of diligent applications will be necessary to eradicate torpedograss from areas of the golf course. How to accomplish that will require careful record keeping and possibly some kind of GPS mapping.

*Philip Busey, Ph.D., is associate professor of turfgrass science at the University of Florida/IFAS Research and Education Center in Fort Lauderdale. He may be reached at 954-577-6337; fax 954-577-6337; e-mail turf@ufl.edu*



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## 2001 Florida Green Photo Contest



Category 1 — Wildlife on the Course. Bobcat in the bushes. Willoughby G.C., Stuart, FL. Photo by Bob Smith.

**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.

### Prizes

- 1 st Place (\$100) and 2 nd Place (\$50) in each category.
- Editor's Choice-Best Overall Photo - \$100.
- All winning entries published in the Fall 2001 issue.

### Easy Rules

1. Color prints or slides. Prefer prints. 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, course and photographer. **DO NOT WRITE DIRECTLY ON THE BACK OF THE PRINT.** Each photo shall be attached to an 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper. 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, 2001.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Winter Issue Draws Kudos from Ohio Transplant

Dear Joel,

I just finished reading the Winter issue of the Florida Green. What an interesting and informative issue!

The slick cover photo and others in the issue has given the magazine a real professional look. More importantly, the articles are well written and full of information on Florida golf.

I especially enjoyed the article on Olde Hickory: Sharing Space With Old Florida. The personal touch by the superintendent, etc. to preserve the natural areas and highlight the environmental beauty was well illustrated. I plan to visit this course soon.

Being retired from Ohio to Deltona, I especially enjoy visiting with Florida superintendents. Recently, I have agreed to work with Chris Cartin, superintendent at Deltona Hills CC as greens and grounds chairman.

MIKE KOVAL

Retired owner/Class A superintendent  
Sugar Bush Golf, Inc  
Garrettsville, Ohio

Mr. Koval,

*This issue was very well received in general and earned some very positive feedback from superintendents and other golf club members like yourself. Stories like Olde Hickory's are fun and easy to tell when you have a superintendent like John Stach passionate about what he does. Thank you for taking the time to write a personal note.*

JOEL JACKSON

*This issue was very well received in general and earned some very positive feedback from superintendents and other golf club members like yourself.*

## Call for Articles

This is a call for articles for the 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 2001 - Computers as Management Tools
- 2002 - Calling for topic ideas from all chapters.

**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!

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**W**hat's up with all these new "turfgrass" or "sports turf" management programs popping up all over the state?

By my count we have four community colleges and three universities offering some type of turfgrass management program, plus there are several others where short courses and/or related technical training is available.

Combine these with the hundred or so other programs around the country and you might have as many as 3,000 graduates each year looking for jobs in golf course management.

If you do the math, you have to conclude that this is not good for the recent graduate looking to secure a job, nor for the veteran superintendent trying to hold onto one in a tight economy. The 400-plus new

golf courses opening up each year in this country, combined with the small number of retiring superintendents, does not come close to the number trying to enter the profession.

While there really is nothing superintendents can do individually — or as an association — to stop this proliferation, we can act as advisors to these programs so they are serving the best interests of the community and our industry rather than their own needs to attract students and cash in on a popular field. The administrators of these programs should be held accountable if they are flooding the market with graduates who can't secure a job.

This isn't the first time this issue has surfaced. It started about 10 years ago when Lake City Community College, based on the success of its excellent golf course management program, announced plans for an expansion of the

program to try doubling the annual number of graduates. Past FGCSA president and good friend Kevin Downing led the charge then and was successful in persuading Lake City officials that the industry couldn't support such growth. Palm Beach Community College was also given guidance to modify its proposed program at about the same time. Kevin has continued his cautionary efforts, recently bringing the matter up with both the FGCSA and the GCSAA, and continuing to work with and advise Lake City C.C.

Many reading this are probably thinking, "What's the big deal? Isn't education a good thing for our industry?"

Well, yes, of course it is, as long as those running the programs are in tune with industry needs and are honest about the job market for those enrolled in their program. Few people who have the ability and determination to go to college are going to settle for jobs as career assistants, spray techs, or irrigation specialists, but that may be all that is available to them for many years following their graduation.

Every graduate expects to eventually become a superintendent. How long will that take, and how long will your career last when you eventually reach the top? Will your entire career as a superintendent span 20 years when you fully expected to do this for 40 or more years?

Will you never get that dream job because your application was just one of 200 the selection committee had to sort through? Don't you want to feel the security of being a unique and highly qualified professional, instead of a dime-a-dozen "maintenance" guy that an employer would feel no compunction about replacing, since there are so many others willing and able to take your job?

Irony — true irony — would be losing your job to that 20-something graduate from the college whose advisory board you sit on, and who attended on a scholarship given by the association in which you are an officer.

## How Many Turf Schools Is Enough?

### Mark My Words



Mark Jarrell, CGCS





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I would never attempt to equate honoring members of our profession to the purpose of our national Memorial Day, but it does strike me that we do often neglect to take a moment to recall and remember those individuals and groups who pioneered the way for the status we enjoy in today's golf industry.

As the faces of our ranks grow younger every year and participation in the various local associations is flat or declining, I wonder sometimes if the younger generation fully appreciates the time and effort made by their

predecessors, and I wonder what will be the fate of our profession if they fail to get engaged in their associations beyond earning a paycheck.

On this Memorial Day I want to remember those who went before me. Those who guided my early footsteps, provided inspiration and leadership, fought the battles, and sacrificed time and effort so I could enjoy working in a robust, respected and satisfying profession.

**South Florida GCSA** - It all began with them in 1939. They

were the first group of superintendents to organize and hold formal meetings. They held on through the depression and the war years and reorganized in the 1970's. They started the *South Florida Green* magazine in 1975, and unselfishly helped it transition to our statewide publication, the *Florida Green* in 1980.

**Dan Jones** - The first time I met Dan was in the late 1970s. He was the speaker at one of our Central Florida Chapter meetings. His topic was "Professionalism and Image!" See, image isn't just a current initiative. Superintendents have been fighting for respect for a long time. It's an ongoing initiative that takes your involvement. Dan and his wife Irene also wrote, edited and assembled the *Florida Green* magazine for 14 years. They turned their home into a publishing house long before desktop publishing was invented. Dan is our editor emeritus and will always hold a place in our magazine's masthead.

**William H. Dietsch, Jr.** - Bill was my first boss in the golf business. I was a high school senior working on the Robert Trent Jones-designed Apollo Beach Golf Course. I learned my first lessons in golf history, design and maintenance

from Bill. Later I would work with him as his field assistant when he started his own design company. From him I learned ethical business practices. We were life-long friends despite the 10-year age difference. Through Bill I also met Ralph White who worked for Southern Grassing. Ralph became my connection to the rest of the turfgrass industry.

**Dr. G. C. Horn** - University of Florida's Granville Horn put the Florida turfgrass industry on the map. Besides matriculating from the Southern Mill Creek Company's week-long turfgrass boot camp run by Dr. Horn, I got to ride with him on his consultation visits at Disney's Lake Buena Vista Club, when I was an assistant superintendent. My personal on-site, hands-on, turf tutor. What a helpful experience in my growth as a turf manager.

**Tim Hiers, CGCS** - Tim was the first president of the Florida GCSA. He leads by example. He walks the talk and became our leader for pro-activism on issues facing our profession. His advocacy for doing the right thing whether it's environmental stewardship, maintenance-building design or cutting-edge cultural practices always inspired me to do better.

For the retired superintendents out there, thank you for carrying the torch for the rest of us back in the days when you had to enter the clubhouse through the back door.

To my contemporaries, thanks for making the journey with me to this point. Throughout our careers we have probably witnessed the most sweeping changes in golf course management. We have tried to honor the traditions established by the pioneers, while advancing our profession into the new millennium.

To the next generation of superintendents - As you fill the ranks replacing those who went before, you are inheriting more than a job title and a salary. The history of the profession is now your history and your bloodlines run all the way back to Scotland and Old Tom Morris.

Your status is the product of decades of evolution of the profession. You are the descendants of a special breed of person who works with their hands, but has elevated the position of superintendent from journeyman to professional. You have stepped into very big shoes that have walked long hard miles to bring you to this place. Honor their journey and make your own contributions to the future through service to your associations.

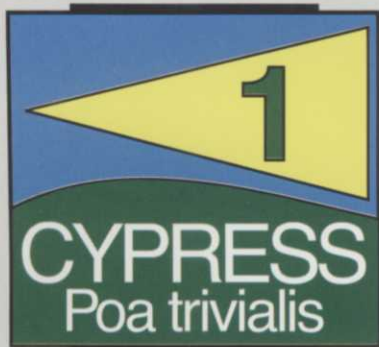
# Memorial Day

## Green Side Up



Joel Jackson, CGCS  
Editor

It's hard to  
beat the  
performance  
of Stardust  
and Cypress  
Poa trivialis!



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**"Best average weekly ground cover"**

estimates of all Poa trivs in test-University of Fla, Gainesville 1997-98 putting green trials highest seed count of all Poa trivs - University of Florida. - 1997-98.

Stardust

**"Highest density"**

1995-96 overseeded greens University of Arizona

**"Highest percent ground cover"**

University of Florida. 1995

**"Highest mean ball speed scores"**

1994-95 overseeded Bermuda greens--University of Arizona.

**"Best monthly/seasonal turf color"**

of all Poa trivs overseeded on tifway Bermuda--University of Fla. 1994-95.

**"Highest seasonal average"**

of all Poa trivs"--putting greens evaluation--1997-98 Mississippi State University.

Cypress

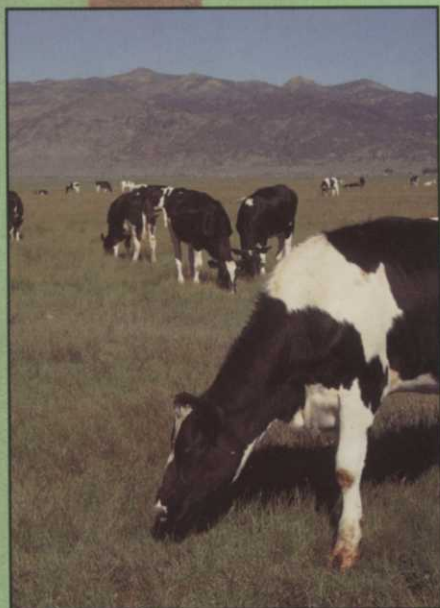
**"Highest mean for turf color"**

1996-97 putting green overseeding trial, Clemson University.

**"Highest quality rating"**

of all entries in the 1996 Bermuda Triangle Research Center, Palm Springs, California.

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