

ing questions. The sharing of knowledge and hearing about other people's problems and solutions has been a wealth of information for me.

My years on the board were very satisfying and sometimes quite trying. We had a run of bad luck for a few years with new people coming on the board and then leaving for various reasons; sadly for some who had lost their job and happy for others who had gotten new and better jobs out of our chapter, and some who just could not follow through on their commitment.

I have made some wonderful friends I would otherwise not have made were it not for my involvement. I can honestly say that everyone with whom I served was a nice guy or gal and I would not have missed it for the world.

Do yourself a favor. Get on board. Make some new friends. Make other friendships grow even stronger. Learn and teach. Enjoy good food and good friends. You will not be sorry.

"ALL ABOARD!"

P.S. Getting to know and work with work with our association

manager, Marie Roberts was definitely a high point of my years on the board. What a wonderful and professional lady she is. Kudos to my special friend in Stuart. The other high point of my years on the board was getting to work with my wife Susi for several years. How many guys do you know whose wife is a superintendent? Baby, you're the greatest!

*For information about the author, see inside cover.*



#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Economic Study

For years our association and industry have done many good

things for the state in terms of providing quality recreation, positive economic impact and improved environmental management. Over ten years ago when I was on the board, we complained that we did all of that good but no one in the government knew what we were doing. Last year we finally got a great chance to tell our story.

Professors Alan Hodges, Ph.D. and John Haydu, Ph.D. authored the "Economic Impacts of the Florida Golf Course Industry." It was partially funded by the FGCSA as well as the FTGA, EGCSA, WCI, Taylor Woodrow, Bonita Bay Group and the Florida Golf Alliance. The report relied on input from all Florida golf courses. Sadly only 17 percent of the state's courses responded. That's 223 responses out of 1,334 golf courses that were contacted.

I know that we all receive too much junk mail and probably too many magazines but the envelopes were standard IFAS/U of F and I received at least two of them, probably three. Shame on all of you who blew off our best

chance ever to tell our story to the Legislature, the media and the public. If a thousand of us could have taken 20 minutes of our precious time to complete the survey, we would have had a more unified response and really show the Legislature that we are a serious and committed group.

*Scott Bell*

*Past President 1994-95*

*Golf Course Manager - Red Stick Golf Club*

*Scott, while I share your frustration at the apparent indifference of so many courses to participate in a meaningful exercise to show that unity factor, Dr. Haydu assures me that the data collected was detailed enough to achieve verifiable results.*

*Many will prosper because of the efforts of the few, but then that's nothing new in our industry.*

#### Containment Barrier

Over the past year we have discovered a problem with USGA & modified sand-based greens. The black plastic containment barrier in low and runoff areas



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in the front or sides of greens tends to promote excess water retention inside the barrier at 1 to 2 inch depths. Our research has shown the high water retention created by the containment barrier provides an ideal environment for algae and anaerobic soils (black layer) and significantly increases the risk for turf loss.

**Possible solutions:**

1. Remove approximately 6 to 8 inches of the containment barrier to a depth of 6 inches.
2. Remove the entire barrier in the front or side of the greens where runoff is evident.
3. Install a smile drain inside the green's cavity, cut a hole in the barrier and extend the pipe well outside the cavity.

*Matt Pulis, MS, International Sports Turf Research Conference Agronomist  
Nat Hubbard, Field Representative*

*Gentlemen, thank you for sharing your observations and remedies.*

# Birdies, Bogeys and a Couple of Pars

In GCSAA seminars, like "Managing Your Employees for Peak Performance" and "Team Building," we have learned the importance and necessity for recognition and reward for good performance and guidance

## GREEN SIDE UP



Joel Jackson, CGCS

and feedback for poor performance. So in that spirit, I give you my 2002 Birdie and Bogy awards to recognize the over and under achievers of the year. If the score

fits, write it down, figure your handicap and practice to do better next time.

**Par:**

EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman scores a par. She gets a

birdie for actually playing golf, but also a bogey for challenging golf to do better in non-point source pollution. Read the 20 years of research, Ms. Whitman, and quit listening to your staff who thinks EPA means Eliminate Pesticides ASAP.

**Birdies** to those staff members at FDOACS, FDEP, the water management districts and yes, even U.S. EPA, who are willing to listen and work with real-world data.

**Bogeys** to those at the same agencies who use assumptions, computer models and politics to make important decisions.

**Birdies** to the chemical and fertilizer manufacturers who diligently work on making safer more efficient products.

**Bogeys** to companies who make and market snake oil.

**Birdies** to superintendent associations and developers who work with government agencies for fair and reasonable rules and regulations on golf's behalf.

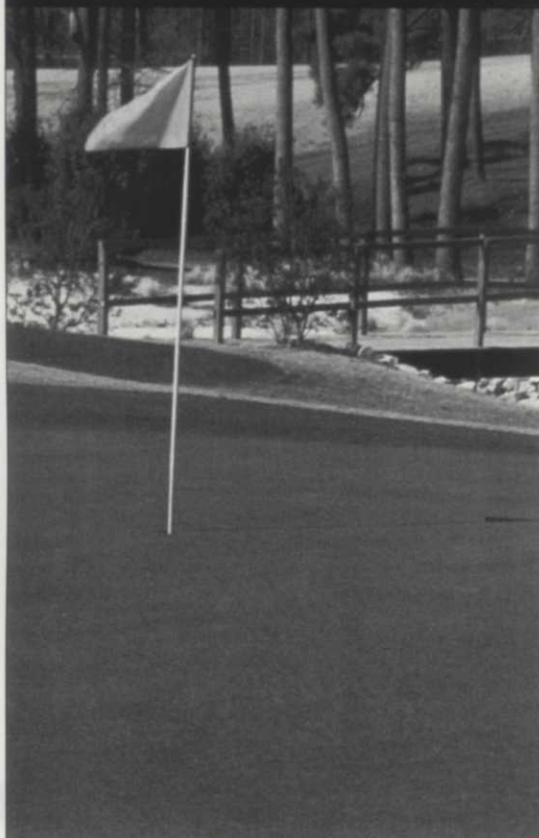
**Bogeys** to golf course owners and developers who take but never give. See below.

**Birdies** to the 270 courses who responded to the UF/IFAS survey on the Economic Impact of Florida's Golf Industry. Thanks to you we have quality data for making a case for funds and reasonable regulations.

**Triple Bogy** to the 1,000-plus golf courses who failed inexcusably to make a simple but profound impact and contribution to the industry that supports their very existence. Hang your heads in shame.

**Birdies:** To all the vendors and suppliers around the state who continue to support our associations. We love you man!

**Bogeys:** To the Florida Legislature for cutting the IFAS budget. Even North Carolina, with a turf-grass industry economic impact one-quarter of Florida's, budgets \$650,000 annually for turf research and education to NC State. Note to IFAS lobby-



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