



To comply with restrictions on withdrawing brackish water from the surficial aquifer during drought conditions, The Everglades Club installed a well into the deeper saline Floridan aquifer to provide water for its reverse osmosis plant to irrigate the golf course.

dry season) would equal a monthly cost savings of \$89,620. Likewise, to irrigate with 0.10 inches per acre per night (cool, wet season) the monthly cost savings would be \$44,814.

Summary

The Everglades Club was paying \$3.15 per 1,000 gallons of potable water used for irrigation. The Everglades Club then built an RO plant and constructed its own well field into the surficial aquifer system. Regional drought conditions caused the Everglades Club to adhere to mandatory water restrictions and once again rely on potable water treated by the City of West Palm Beach. The Everglades Club then installed a Floridan aquifer well, currently an unrestricted water supply source.

The water treatment plant at the Everglades Club now produces water at a cost of \$0.40 per 1,000 gallons. The benefits of switching to the Floridan aquifer during drought conditions are that potable water or surficial aquifer water prone to salt water intrusion is not used and the Everglades Club can irrigate during drought conditions.

To date, the Everglades Club has investigated and used all potential water supply sources currently available. The use of each source has evolved as the requirements and costs of irrigation have changed. The Everglades Club has successfully withdrawn and treated surficial aquifer ground water by skimming a brackish water lens on a barrier island. This was

accomplished through proper well field design, installation, monitoring, and management. Through the use of the newly completed Floridan aquifer well, the Everglades Club will be able to keep its greens alive during drought conditions and will have lessened the impact to the surficial aquifers of the state.

The Suncoast Scramble Began Research Fundraising in 1982

On March 19th, Joel Jackson and I attended the Suncoast Scramble at Misty Creek Golf Club. A check for \$2,500 was presented to me for the

BENHAM'S BEAT



Don Benham

FTGA's Research Foundation. Another check was also presented specially for the Florida Golf Economic Impact Study (see page 40) initiated by WCI Communities through the FTGA.

When I learned that this was the 20th annual Suncoast Scramble, I went to James Svabek, superintendent of Bradenton Country Club to see what information I could find on

the history of this event. Boy! Did I go to the right source. Jim had a complete folder on the scramble.

It was started in 1982 to provide funds for research and scholarship for the betterment of golf. Allen Hanchey, was president of the chapter golf program at Sarasota Jr. College. This teaching program was receiving national recognition for its outstanding program of teaching golf to the students. The Suncoast chapter also wanted to be involved with research funding to the FTGA. This certainly was forward thinking for a local chapter in 1982.

Since I live at the Palm Aire Country Club in Sarasota, I was surprised to learn that the first Suncoast Scramble was held there. Checks were presented to Sarasota Jr. College and the FTGA. Jim Lerner was superintendent of Palm Aire and the tournament stayed here through 1988.

The Scramble moved to River Wilderness in 1989 with Mike Miles as host superintendent; then in 1990 to the River Club with George Cook superintendent and in 1991 to Bent Tree with Tom Biggy as host. The Venice G&CC and Troy Smith, GCS played host from 1992 to 1994. The past seven years (1995 - 2002), the event has been at the Misty Creek CC with Tom Crawford as the host superintendent.

Each year the Suncoast Scramble research tournament has grown till it now fills the playing field to capacity. The last few years they have had to turn away some entries. The format has stayed about the same with a golf superintendent, golf professional, general manager, or board member and a supplier making up each team.

In the mid-90s they decided to add some entertainment to the pre-lunch program. One year they perpetuated a giant hoax on the audience by announcing a speaker from the "Penn State Institute of Turfgrass Development" who proceeded to tell the audience they were releasing a new grass that only needed to be mowed once a week even on greens.

The new grass was immune to disease and completely resistant to all pests including mole crickets. The speaker then proceeded to tell the golf superintendents they should probably start to look for a new profession because even a high school student could take care of the golf course.

Jim Svabek told me he watched jaws drop open and eyes widen as the speaker continued. Jim said it was all he could do to not fall off his chair laughing. Of course by the end of the talk most people realized that they had been bamboozled. From 1996 until now, McCurdy's Comedy Club has provided the entertainment.

What a success story for the Suncoast Chapter. Twenty years of the membership working together to successfully have this tournament each year. Their original purpose has not changed. It is still to support research and the betterment of golf in Florida.

P.S. Congratulations to Greg Richardson (from Hibiscus Golf Club) for a hole in one on the 12th hole at Misty Creek in this year's event.

Editor's note: This column was written on March 30, before Tom Crawford's death in May. The column celebrates the success and history of the Suncoast Chapter of which Tom will forever be a part.