



# The Florida Green

Summer 2004



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### SPOTLIGHT: SOUTH FLORIDA EXPO ANOTHER HIT

What do you get when you mix a beautiful day, 500 people, the best turfgrass researchers, 46 vendors, a magnificent barbecue lunch, and excellent educational sessions? The 17th Annual SFGCSA Turf Exposition, of course.

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Conveniently located just a few miles west of Interstate 75 and only 5-6 miles northwest of the Ft. Myers Southwest International Airport, Heritage Palms, golf community is rapidly approaching sellout.

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A pesticide mix/load facility at Camp Creek GC in Panama City prevents potential pesticide mix/load rinse water from contaminating the groundwater or adjacent wetland... and makes an excellent ACSP project.

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Over the years, FGCSA's local chapters have made connections with NBC Sports and helped to provide spotters and scorers to assist in the televising of the four men's Tour events in Florida.

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# The Florida Green

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## CALL FOR ARTICLES

**Hands on Topics:** Share your best practices and tips for these upcoming topics. Photographs or slides are encouraged. Digital images that are 5 inches wide at 300 dpi or greater accepted.

Fall 2004 - Traffic Control Programs and Strategies

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**Please submit articles via email if possible.** Attached articles should be saved in Microsoft Word or, if you use another word processor save it as a Text file before attaching or you may just copy and paste it into the email text box. Try to limit articles to 1500 words or less. The Florida Green pays \$100 per page and \$50 for 1-3 pictures.

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Do not write on the back of prints. Attach a Post-it note with ID information. All slides and photographs should include identification of persons in the picture and the name of the photographer.

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## A Privilege to Serve

This past year has flown by and has arrived much quicker than I expected. I am sitting at my desk writing my last President's Message for the *Florida Green*. The prospect of writing these articles four times over a period of a year loomed as the most daunting task that I could foresee in becoming president of the Association. I always find myself struggling to write an article that someone (other than my Mom), would find interesting and useful. So away we go!

The board has had a very busy year and has worked diligently to do the right thing for the association. The directors stepped up to the plate and embraced the initiatives that were set forth one year ago. The committees were actual committees with members who jointly worked

together towards their goals. A so-called committee in the past often consisted of one person who communicated only with the board. Hopefully, this trend will be continued and we will expand the input that the board receives on all issues.

Thank you to each and everyone on the board and the committee members. We would not have been able to accomplish our goals that we completed without your diligent efforts.

Joe Pantaleo and Craig (Bulldog) Weyandt were always at the ready for suggestions. They each did their homework on issues and were always very prepared to take on any task that was presented to them. Thank you for all of your help and support.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Greg Pheneger*

Unfortunately, David Court will be leaving the board. Those of you that do not know David cannot begin to fathom the steady influence that he has had on the board. David always had a very controlled, well-thought-out voice of wisdom. The voice of wisdom is not a new phenomenon for him. I first met him many years ago well before the lines on my face appeared and my hair started turning gray and after my first conversation, I knew this was someone that I was going to respect. Now, at least I have had the privilege of working with him and on behalf of the entire board, thank you for allowing us to gain by your being involved.

Joel and Marie, (sounds like the title of a love song from John Mellencamp), are the lifeboat of this organization. They both have been there to correct my mistakes and make me look good. I thank you both for your guidance, patience and especially their understanding during the past year. Each and every member needs to thank Marie and Joel daily for their contributions.

During the course of the past year, for those of you who read these articles, I have mentioned the idea of learning from the past to improve the future. When I look back to see who shaped my involvement in superintendent matters, first in the Treasure Coast Chapter and then the state, I look to two past presidents having the greatest influence.

First was Mark Jarrell who took the time to make me feel a part of the gang on a softball team years and years and years ago. I was new to Florida and knew only one person on the team of estab-

lished superintendents. Mark took the time to introduce himself and actually showed some interest in me.

As the years went on, I asked Mark questions concerning the association and I gained a whole new respect for his passion and listened to him talk about the need for involvement from others, I decided to get involved on the local level with no immediate intentions of becoming this involved, but I am thankful and have gained from my involvement. Mark writes a column for each and every *Florida Green* called "Mark My Words". His articles are a must read in every issue and his continued involvement is a great asset to the Board.

*The board has had a very busy year and has worked diligently to do the right thing for the association. The directors stepped up to the plate and embraced the initiatives that were set forth one year ago. The committees were actual committees with members who jointly worked together towards their goals. A so-called committee in the past often consisted of one person who communicated only with the board. Hopefully, this trend will be continued and we will expand the input that the board receives on all issues.*

The second past president was Paul Crawford. "Crawdaddy" prodded and poked at me to get more involved years ago but with the tournament schedule at my previous job, it was nearly impossible. Now I realize that I had the time if I just had the wisdom and maturity to manage my time better. They both had different methods but they both left a lasting impression on me and I thank them for all of the guidance that they provided over the years.

At the 2004 Past President's Dinner, I had the privilege of presenting the Distinguished Service Award to Darren Davis. Darren has become a very good friend and it was a wonderful experience to present such a prestigious award, but to also give it to someone that I respect so much was the icing on the cake. Darren served on the board for many years and also spent two years as immediate past president. He continues to serve the FGCSA on the national level through his involvement as a committee member. Congratulations Darren, on a well-deserved honor.

I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to represent the FGCSA at several functions over the past year. My club has benefited from my involvement through contacts that I have made during the past year. It was an extreme honor and privilege to serve as President and I thank you for allowing me to do so.



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**Calusa**

We are proud to announce that our new Web site, [www.calusagc-sa.com](http://www.calusagc-sa.com), is in the final stages of con-



On behalf of the Palm Beach GCSA, Chapter President Peter Powell (left) presented Greg Pheneger with a donation of \$5,000 to be used by the FGCSA for Government Relations and other operating expenses of the FGCSA. Photo by Joel Jackson.

struction and will be fully operational very soon. We will also be publishing our first chapter membership directory.



Congratulations to chapter president Greg Kriesch and his Heritage Palms G.C. for being the summer cover story in the *Florida Green*.

**Central Florida**

We had a mid-term change of officers as President Brian Lentz moved to Bradenton to take the

chapter members will be anxious to test out Buck Buckner's Mini Verde greens at the new Eagle Creek golf course. This is the first use of Mini Verde in Florida that we know of. We will host another GCSAA Regional Sept. 30 with Michigan State's turf pathologist, Dr. Joe Vargas.

Congratulations to the team



On behalf of the Jeff Hayden Envirotron Classic, Seven Rivers GCSA's Glenn Oberlander and Buddy Keene (left and right) accept the Golf Ventures, Helena and Jacobsen Championship Donor's check of \$25,000 from David Cheeseman, Don Delaney and Walt McMahon. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Lakewood Ranch G&CC job. Vice President Scott Jamros, CGCS, Hawks Landing GC has become president. We wish Brian and his family all the best and thanks for the years of service to the chapter.

There was a big turnout for the GCSAA Regional Seminar on Bermudagrass Management with Drs. John Cisar and Dave Kopec at the Crown Plaza Resort in Orlando. In June

of Chris Barfield, Joel Brownsberger, Tommy Land and Glenn Thompson for capturing the first Chapter Challenge Cup in a three-way match among the Central Florida, Ridge and West Coast chapters. Thanks to Diamond Players Club for hosting this inaugural event and Superintendent Kevin Baldwin for organizing it.

**Everglades**

Congratulations to Darren

Davis on being named 2004 FGCSA Distinguished Service Award winner at the Past Presidents Dinner on May 13 and also to Kenyon Kyle of the Shadow Wood C.C. in Bonita Springs on becoming a Certified Golf Course Superintendent. We aren't slowing down just because the Poa Annua Classic is over. In June we are hosting a



Paul Crawford (left) outbid all comers to win the Bayer Power Pak auctioned off by Brian MacCarrach at the Blue Pearl at Loblolly Pines. The proceeds are donated back to the chapter. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Vendor Appreciation Day to thank all those affiliate members for their generous sponsorship of our chapter events and education seminars. We will be holding a superintendent/affiliate team event at the Imperial Golf Club with no charge to the affiliate members.

By all accounts the 2004

*continued on page 6 ...*

Teams playing in the National Minority Golf Championships are introduced as they march into the Opening Session at the PGA Club in St. Lucie. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Thank you to our 2004 POA Sponsors for presenting

# The 29th Annual Poa Annua Classic

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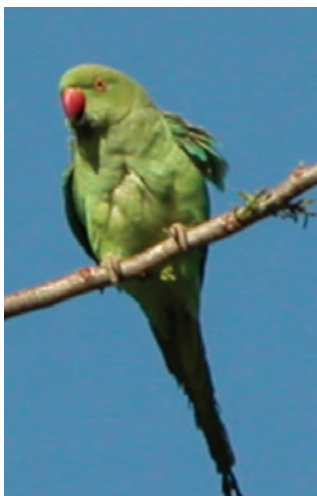




# Poa Classic



**FUNDamentally Speaking** Dr. Patt Schwab, president of **FUNDamentally Speaking**, believes in taking humor seriously as her seminars are packed with humor, insight and practical tips for working with people. Her topic, *Dealing with Jerks*, resonated with the superintendent audience at the seminar in Naples. Photo by Joel Jackson.



One of the attractions of playing in the Poa Classic is not all the birdies are on the greens. The Rose-ringed Parakeet is a common sight on the Naples Beach Club G.C. Photo by Joel Jackson.



The 2004 G.C. Horn Endowment Tournament was held at the beautiful and challenging Estuary G.C. at Grey Oaks in Naples. Photos by Joel Jackson.



**Marie and Her Boys** Ten presidents gather around Association Manager Marie Roberts. She made us all look good when we had the gavel. From left: Paul Crawford ('93), David Court ('02), Don Delaney ('83), Joel Jackson ('89), Marie Roberts (since '84), Darren Davis ('99), Dale Kuehner ('96), Tim Hiers ('78 – the first), Greg Pheneger ('03), Scott Bell ('94) and Kevin Downing ('82). Photo by Casey Harris



Seth Strickland defended his 2003 Poa Annuia Classic title by duplicating his score of 69 from last year. Strickland lost no time in celebrating and chilling out beachside with friend Resa Teproff. Photo by Joel Jackson.



**Distinguished Service** At the Past Presidents Dinner in conjunction with the Poa Annuia in Naples, FGCSA President Greg Pheneger had the honor of presenting the 2004 FGCSA Distinguished Service Award to Darren Davis for his continuous service to the Everglades and Florida GCSA chapters and the GCSAA. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Poa players gather on the putting green to meet and greet before the shotgun start. The tournament was sold out early this year. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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... continued from page 4

Poa Annuu Classic weekend was a smashing success. The Florida GCSA held its spring board meeting on Thursday afternoon. The Friday morning seminar, "Dealing with Jerks," had one of the largest attendances ever. Presenter Dr. Patt Schwab believes in putting the "Fun" before the "damental" in the learning process. After the seminar, the companion but separate, G.C. Horn Tournament moved down the street to The Estuary Club at Grey Oaks and gave players a look at a



Treasure Coast's Ralph Dain, External Vice President (left) presented Greg Pheneger with a research donation check of \$5,000. Photo by Joel Jackson.

beautiful and challenging course. The Low Gross winners in the three-man scramble team event were Mark Brazinski, Jason DeMartino and Kevin Wasilewski.

The 34th annual Poa tournament was an early sellout leaving some procrastinators miffed at missing the cutoff. Sorry folks — first come, first served. The golf tournament results were announced during the luau and South Florida GCSA member Seth Strickland took home his second consecutive Poa Annuu Classic title by repeating his 69 from last year. The rest of the field could only muster a 74 in response as Joe Pantaleo, Jim Torba, Roy MacDonald and Mark Henderson chased Strickland in vain. The host Everglades Chapter had a large pool of net golfers (sandbaggers) to draw from and easily won the Chapter Team Event with Jay Smith, Gary Higgins, Scott Hamm and Terry Wood shooting the low-net rounds.

If there was one dark cloud over the event it was a brief rain shower that visited the luau Saturday night just as the buffet lines opened. Fifteen to twenty minutes later, everyone re-grouped and the food was served. You can tell the attendees are getting older, most of the dancers enjoying the band were younger children of superintendents and vendors. This event remains the biggest event for superintendents and their families held in the state, thanks to the great location at the Naples Beach Club Hotel.



From left: John Katterheinrich, Hal Hicks, Chris Miller and Chris Deariso took first place in the Blue Pearl Tournament. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Chris Ansley, left, external vice president of the West Coast GCSA presented a check for \$7,000 to Greg Pheneger for the FGCSA Research Account. The annual Bud Quandt Fundraising Tournament generated the turf research funding. Photo by Joel Jackson.

**North Florida**

Congratulations to Andy MacGuire, chapter president for obtaining his CGCS certification. Our Research Tournament hosted by Glen Klauk at the Pablo Creek Club raised \$2,000. We will sponsor a North Florida team to play in the FGCSA

Golf Championship at Southern Dunes in September. The five low gross super-intendent scores from our April, May, June and July meetings will make up the team. Rip Phillips hosted our May meeting at the Windsor Parke G.C. The education session was about the proper interpretation of soil reports presented by Bill Bowen of Floratine.

**Palm Beach**

At the FGCSA spring board meeting in Naples, President Peter Powell made a \$5,000 donation to the FGCSA operating account to

**Seven Rivers**

The 12th Annual Jeff Hayden Envirotron Classic was another great day for golf and turf research. Tournament Chairman Glenn Oberlander and his teammates John Cunningham, David Hoggard and Cary Lewis shot a 56 to take low gross honors on the Pine Barrens G.C. Meanwhile, the Suncoast Chapter team of Chip Copeman, Robbie Robertson, John Roxburgh and Bill Tyde also shot a 56 on Rolling Oaks to take first place gross.

**Championship Sponsors**



From left: The team of Mark Brazinski, Kevin Wasilewski and Jason DeMartino and won the 2004 G.C. Horn Endowment Tournament played at the Estuary Golf Club. Photo by Joel Jackson.



The Central Florida team of, from left, Chris Barfield, Joel Brownsberger, Tommy Land and Glenn Thompson captured the first Chapter Challenge Cup against teams from the Ridge and West Coast Chapters.

help offset Government Relations and Public Relations expenses as the state association represents superintendents on economic and environmental issues. Steve Pearson, CGCS hosted the 24th Annual Future of Golf Tournament at The Falls C.C. in Lake Worth June 5. The team of Mark Henderson, Jeff Klontz, Karl Schmidt and Peter Brooks shot a 58 to win the event. On June 19, we will hold our Third Annual Fishing Tournament.

Golf Ventures, Helena Turf Products and Jacobsen presented a check for \$25,000 to help the cause of turf research. We are extremely grateful to the 46 sponsors who helped support this event, which netted \$40,000 after expenses.

**South Florida**

Thanks to all the sponsors and attendees of the 2004 SFGCSA

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**12th Annual Seven Rivers Jeff Hayden Envirotron Classic**

# Thank you to all our sponsors that made the 2004 event possible

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*On behalf of the Jeff Hayden Envirotron Classic, Seven Rivers GCSA's Glenn Oberlander and Buddy Keene (left and right) accept the Golf Ventures, Helena and Jacobsen Championship Donors' check of \$25,000 from David Cheeseman, Don Delaney and Walt McMahon. Photo by Joel Jackson*

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2004 SFGCSA Turf Expo

# Trials, Demos, Seminar Set Stage for Lunch

By Jim Walker

What do you get when you mix a beautiful day, 500 people, the best turfgrass researchers, 46 vendors, a magnificent barbecue lunch, and excellent educational sessions? The 17th Annual SFGCSA Turf Exposition, of course.

The Ft. Lauderdale research center was hopping early with turfgrass managers from golf courses, parks and athletic fields from all over South Florida. Susi and I arrived at 7:00 a.m. to help Marie Roberts with registration.

## Field Trials

About 8:25 a.m. Dr. John Cisar came to the front area donning his "pith helmet" and I knew it was time for the field trials to begin. Doc had good news regarding "disease-like" symptoms for the folks managing ultradwarf grasses.

I walked across a bermudagrass test plot with thin spots and spurge, and knew entomologist-nematologist Dr. Robin Giblin-Davis could not be far away. He had more good news for even better control of nematodes in the future. Out with Nematicur and in with parasites!

Next was an interesting trial by Dr. Lawrence Datnoff on fun-

gicide management of bermudagrass greens overseeded with *Poa trivialis*.

We also heard from Dr. Bill Howard about an aphid that is damaging seashore paspalum. Those dirty pests have learned quickly how to damage our hope for a new golf course turf. Because they have been identified early and are easily controlled with sod webworm insecticides, these aphids should only be a minor nuisance.

Other field trials included Dr. Phil Busey with an herbicide update on St. Augustine and bermudagrasses; Dr. George Snyder discussing sodium management; Dr. Bill Kern giving us great tips on capturing all the nuisance critters we find on our golf courses and parks; Dr. Kim Moore showing us beautiful flowering plants in her trial garden; Dr. Ted Carter informing us on evaluating new bio-control agents; Dara Park reporting on the environmental implications of fertilizing St. Augustinegrass; and Dr. Billy Crow discussing which alternative nematocides work on bermudagrass. There were more doctors than you see on General Hospital, and every one was as informative as could be.

## Demos and Exhibits

At 10 a.m. the air was



Onlookers check out the newest aerifier from Toro during the equipment demonstrations at the South Florida Expo. Photo by Dara Park

thick with muffled sounds of gas and diesel engines and, at the turn of a key, the equipment demonstrations featuring shiny new machines were under way. There were all types, shapes, sizes and applications. I'm with Tim the Tool Man – More Power (vaaaarrrroom)! At the same time the doors opened for 40 booth displays under the big top tent. Every facet of the turfgrass industry was on display: fertilizers, chemicals, irrigation supplies, and rental equipment.

## Lunch

At high noon everyone including Gary Cooper died and went to heaven thanks to Environmental Turf. For the seventh consecutive year, they served up barbecued ribs, green beans, yellow rice and killer cookies. What a treat. There were two lines, no waiting, and Dr. Cisar resplendent in a green apron helping to spoon out the beans. After a little snooze, it was time to trundle off to the auditorium for the seashore paspalum seminar, while mechanics and spray and irrigation technicians had their own concurrent sessions.

## Paspalum Seminar

John Foy filled in for Todd Lowe, who had a family emergency, and began a discussion of this new hope for the future of golf course turfgrass. He was joined by Dr. Phil Busey, who served as moderator of the panel consisting of Tim Hiers, CGCS from the Old Collier Club; Mark Henderson, CGCS from Gulfstream Country Club; and Jim Torba from the

Miami Beach Golf Club, all of whom are managing paspalum on their courses. Although Foy is not as keen on paspalum as others, there appear to be some big plusses for this grass. It seems to require less fertilizer, provide an excellent playing surface, can be irrigated with reclaimed or brackish water and its divot recovery seems to be quicker than bermudagrass.

## Thanks to All

After the educational sessions ended, refreshments were served at the gazebo and folks picked up their continuing education forms.

The South Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association would like to thank the following people for a wonderful and very successful day: Dr. John Cisar and all the staff at the UF/IFAS Research Center; FGCSA Association Manager Marie Roberts; John Foy from the USGA Green Section; Bob Harper and Kelly Cragin from the South Florida GCSA board of directors; major sponsors Hector Turf, Kilpatrick Turf, Environmental Turf, Disbrow Enterprises and Nucrane Machinery. Special thanks also go to our 40 booth suppliers and, most of all, to everyone who attended the event. Without all of you there wouldn't be an Expo.

We are glad you came, hope it was informative and enlightening and most importantly, we hope to see you again next year with a friend under each arm.



Field trial plot tours at the South Florida Expo covered everything from biocontrol to weeds. Photo by Dara Park

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## SPOTLIGHT

... continued from page 8

Turf Expo for making it another big success. See Jim Walker's report elsewhere in this section.

### Suncoast

President Bob Gwodz hosted our 2004 Annual Meeting at the Sara Bay C.C. in May, and we are looking forward to our annual Pro-Superintendent Tournament at the Mission Valley C.C., and the always well-attended Grounds Management Seminar at the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens.

### Treasure Coast

The Johns Island Club hosted a USGA Green Section Program in April that discussed golf course maintenance issues including aerification and shade. Jim Snow, John Foy and Todd Lowe gave the audience of general managers, green chairmen, and other club officials along with superintendents the whys and wherefores of turf maintenance. Most dramatic were the slides showing the effects of shade on turfgrass and how much the turf improved when sunlight was allowed to shine on the grass.

External Vice President Ralph Dain presented the FGCSA with \$5,000 Research Fund donation at the spring board meeting in Naples. Cody Butte, superintendent of the Loblolly Pines Golf Club, had the course in beautiful shape for the 11th Annual Blue Pearl Tournament, which raised around \$20,000. This annual charity event benefits our area schools and their commitment to environmental awareness.

Nobody scored an ace in the hole-in-one contest on the No. 2 hole to take home the \$10,000 cash prize, but the team of Hal Hicks, Chris Deariso, John Katterheinrich and Chris Miller took first place in the four-man scramble. Thanks to Joel Jackson, FGCSA director of communications, for coming down and being our spotter on the contest hole. Contestants got a look at the

Florida Golf Environmental and Economic Impact display board that we use to educate legislators, regulators and the media about the golf industry in Florida. Brian MacCurrach from Bayer Environmental Sciences auctioned off a Bayer Power Pack for \$2,000 to Paul Crawford who picked up nice savings on Chipco Choice, Revolver, Signature, Delta Guard and Finale. Proceeds of the auction are donated back to the chapter.

### West Coast

External Vice President Chris Ansley proudly presented a \$7,000 Research Donation check to FGCSA President Greg Pheneager at the spring board meeting in Naples. The funds were the result of our annual Bud Quandt Tournament held this year at the Tampa Palms G.C.

### Florida GCSA

Joel Jackson, FGCSA DOC, participated in National Minority Golf Foundation's Career Expo, which was held in conjunction with its annual Minority College National Golf Championship May 6-9. It is the 18th year for this event and the seventh year it has been held at the PGA Club in St. Lucie. One hundred twenty-five players from 21 Division I & II colleges and universities participated. In a follow-up event, Andy MacGuire, president of the North Florida GCSA, participated in a panel discussion for an NMGF Interns Orientation program held at TPC Headquarters in Ponte Vedra Beach. This weekend event was to familiarize minority college interns who would be working in various aspects of the golf industry during the upcoming summer.

Joel joined golf course architect Ron Garl on a cable TV show hosted by Ron Heller. The show was taped on June 7 and aired the following Tuesday and Friday on the BrightHouse Network at 9 p.m. The topic was the positive benefits of golf courses to the community and environment.

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*12th Hole Royal Golf Course Photo by Daniel Zelazek*



Heritage Palms Golf Club

# A Tale of Two Palms

*By Joel Jackson*

The name Heritage Palms intrigued me from the very first time I set foot on the property in November of 1998, but I didn't do any investigative reporting at the time to inquire what the name signified. It wasn't until I became immersed in doing this cover story that it finally dawned on me, and only because of the names of the two 18-hole golf courses, Royal and Sabal.

If you know anything about Ft. Myers at all, you know that the road from downtown to Thomas Edison's home and museum is lined with royal palms. I even remember that from trips we took down from our home in Tampa. That was back when you took a ferry to Sanibel

Island. And the sabal palm is the state tree of Florida. I'd say there's a lot of heritage in those two palms. Six years later the courses are maturing and this golf community is building its own heritage for the history books.

Conveniently located just a few miles west of Interstate 75 and only 5-6 miles northwest of the Ft. Myers Southwest International Airport, the U.S. Homes and Lennar Homes single-family home and condominium golf community is rapidly approaching sellout. A testament to its prime location and amenities is that most of the developer's corporate executives have homes there.

Superintendent Greg Kriesch has been at Heritage Palms since February 1998,

eight months before it opened. It was his first grow-in experience and one that he enjoyed for the full satisfaction of helping to create a fully functioning and attractive golf course from out of the wilderness southeast of downtown Ft. Myers.

Says Kriesch, "I give S&S Management a lot of credit for the ability we have to manage the course conditions and keep the course open even during our rainy season. They believe in drainage. Lots of well-designed courses have catch basins to collect surface runoff, but S&S had us installing extra fingers leading to all the basins to get the water into the basins and off the course as quickly as possible. I can honestly say we have never been closed due to a heavy rainstorm. Sure, we may be on cart

## Heritage Palms Golf & Country Club



**Location:** Fort Myers

**Ownership:** U.S. Homes/Lennar

**Playing policy:** Semi-Private

**Number of holes:** 36 holes. Royal Course: 6,756 yards. Par 72. Course Rating 72.8/Slope 134; Sabal Course: 6837 yards. Par 72. Course rating 73.4/139.  
**Designed by:** Gordon Lewis. Opened 18 holes October 1998, 27 holes by December 1998, 36 holes as of October 2000.

**Management:** Club Manager Davis Negip; Project Manager Steve Benson; Head Golf Professional Bob Kelly; Food & Beverage Director Don Martin; Director of Tennis Mike Lawver; Fitness and Activities Director Venus Beck; Ladies Golf Association President Gloria Collins; Men's Golf Association President Frank Gilbert and Golf Course Superintendent Greg Kriesch.

**Major renovations:** None. On-going program of adding additional drainage to enhance playability and modification to original course landscaping beds.

**Total acreage under maintenance:** 207 acres for 36 holes and common grounds areas.

**Greens:** TifDwarf. Avg. Size, 6,878 sq.ft. Total 6

acres. HOC .150 in. summer; .10 in. winter.

**Overseeding:** Winterplay Poa Trivialis @ 10 lbs/1,000 sq.ft. Green speed goals: 8.0 summer, 9.0 winter.

**Tees:** Tifway 419 bermudagrass, 8.0 acres (GN1 on Royal No. 3, Sabal No. 14 and driving range tee). HOC .435 in. Overseeding: Champion GQ perennial ryegrass @ 650 lbs/A.

**Fairways:** Turf, Tifway 419 bermudagrass; Royal 27 acres, Sabal 32 acres. HOC .500 in. No overseeding.

**Roughs:** Turf Tifway 419 bermudagrass; Royal 63 acres, Sabal 60 acres. No overseeding.

**Bunkers:** Royal 88, Sabal 76. Machine raked with Cushman Groom Master.

**Native/waste areas:** 10 acres of coquina waste areas/cart paths). 181 acres of wetlands and preserve areas.

**Waterways/Lakes:** 43 lakes/ponds, 143 acres. Aquatic weed control done by Aquatic Systems, Inc.

**Irrigation:** Source: Surface water with 3 recharge wells. Soon to connect to reclaimed water. Flotronex PSI pump station. 8-75hp vertical turbines @ 6,000 gpm. We also supply irrigation water to residential

areas. Controls: Toro Network LTC Site Pro. Toro 750/780 heads on 70-ft triangular spacing.

**Fertigation:** Neptune two-head pump @ 160 gph. Two 1,500-gallon tanks. One 500-gallon wetting-agent tank.

**Watering restrictions/Conservation:** Percentage reduction using computer control system. We also do lots of hand watering, monitor head adjustments closely, use soil probes to check soil moisture levels. Increased use of wetting agents and amendments. We can only recharge lakes from wells on a 1:1 ratio to our use, so we conserve.

**Total staff including superintendent:** 53 full time which includes landscape crew. No budgeted overtime.

**Leadership:** Assistant Superintendent Royal Course Brandon Parker; Assistant Superintendent Kevin Bush; Landscape Manager Jeff Kinsey; Equipment Manager Robert Finch; pest control technicians Jared Shanks, Zeb Hall and Israel Chavez. irrigation technicians Colin Foster, Evan Touchette and Andrew Snyder.

**Communications:** Weekly staff meetings of all department heads, general manager and project manager. Monthly meetings with Men's Golf Association. Assistants hold biweekly safety/operational meetings with respective crews.

**Cultural Programs:** Aggressive aerification, top dressing, verticutting, grooming program. See cover story.

**Management Challenges:** Traffic control and compaction – 95,000 rounds per year not including walkers. Common bermudagrass contamination.

**Wildlife Inventory:** Bald eagles (2 adults, 2 fledglings), turkey, osprey, hawks, wood storks, herons, ibis, anhinga, woodpeckers, alligators, snakes, turtles, and other small song and perching birds.



*This crushed coquina waste area serves as a connector that must cross the fairway between the paved sections of concrete path at the green and tee. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

paths only, but the only time we have any significant standing water is when we have so much rain that all the retention ponds are so full that the water just can't move anywhere."

Besides the teamwork during the construction and grow-in Kriesch couldn't say enough about the entire management team that oversees the development and golf operations. Key players in this team approach are General Manager David Negip and Head Golf Professional Bobby Kelly. Kriesch said, "David has helped me become a better manager by setting a good example as a leader who is considerate, listens, asks questions, remains calm and is fair and consistent."

"Besides being a fellow department head and colleague, Bobby is a good friend. He understands my need for time to get maintenance done on the course and I understand his need to get people out on the golf course. We work together on schedules and timing to make it happen for the ultimate satisfaction of our members and customers."

The 36-hole complex hosted 95,000 rounds of golf last year and Kriesch says continuous additional drainage projects and traffic control are two ongoing projects to keep the effects of all that traffic from detracting from the playing conditions.

He said, "It takes two guys over an hour a day to go through the course and set up and move our temporary ropes and stakes to divert traffic from wearing-out areas around the course. It is a constant job because they get knocked down or moved by the golfers in the course of the day."

Another tool in the arsenal for combating compaction from all that traffic is Kriesch's aeration program. It is an almost nonstop assault to provide the best root zone possible all year long to give the greens a fighting chance and a good playing surface, but Kriesch is also a realist:

"We don't punish the golfers, but we try to take care of the turf too. We concentrate our more

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*Cordgrass beds like this one on Royal No. 4 offers a visual contrast to the expanse of bermudagrass, offers wildlife cover and is a wise alternative to trying to grow healthy turf in the shade of a tree. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.*

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## Fun Facts



*Greg had a little fun with a member who wanted to know how hard it was to maintain the turf on all those floating greens. He later confessed they were artificial turf. Photo by Joel Jackson*

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

1. **Car:** 2002 Honda Odyssey
2. **The last good movie I saw:** Seabiscuit
3. **I stay home to watch:** Hockey, NASCAR racing,

Golf

4. **The book I've been reading:** Trade magazines
5. **Favorite meal:** Any seafood
6. **Favorite performer:** Tom Hanks
7. **Prized possessions:** Photo of me with Michael

Jordan and his NBA rookie card

8. **Personal Heroes:** My dad. He is always remains calm no how bad the situation. The emergency personnel involved in 9/11.

9. **Nobody knows that I:** Am a great cook

10. **I'm better than anyone else when it comes to:** Shoring

11. **If I could do it over:** I would have never started smoking

12. **I'd give anything to meet:** Selma Hayek

13. **My fantasy is:** Own my own golf course and restaurant with Selma tending bar.

14. **The one thing I can't stand:** People who think they are better than anyone else. Stuck up, snobby people.

15. **If I could change one thing about myself:** I would have more hair

16. **My most irrational act:** Ducking for a sprinkler while riding a bike and busting my two front teeth on the handlebars.

17. **My most humbling experience:** Cutting the umbilical cord at the birth of my first son.

18. **The words that best describe me:** Laid back



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aggressive coring during the hotter times of the year when there are fewer players. We have a new machine and we keep it rotating back and forth between the courses. As soon as we're done on one it's time to do the other.

"We religiously core-aerify the greens four times during the summer, twice with 1/2-inch tines and twice with 5/8-inch tines. We will add another six to eight solid-tine aerifications with 5/16-inch by 12-inch tines going 6 to 10 inches deep. I'd love to get a Hydroject (a high pressure water-jet aerifier) that we could use in play during the winter since it doesn't disrupt the surface very much at all."

As a companion procedure to the aerifying and providing smoothness and thatch control on the greens, Kriesch topdresses lightly every other week from November to April. Verticutting is done six to eight times during the warm season.

Fairways and roughs are aerified four times with a pull-behind unit with 3/4-inch closed spoons. Known high-traffic areas are aerified six to eight more times during the summer to give them a chance to get healthy and ready for the increased traffic in the fall and winter.

Just as high-traffic areas are identified



Long morning shadows highlight the par-4, 12th hole on the Sable Course. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

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Landscape Manager Jeff Kinsey oversees a 20-person crew taking care of more than 40 acres of common grounds areas and landscaped areas on the golf courses. Photo by Joel Jackson.

and mapped for special treatment in the off season, so are slow-draining, heavy-soil areas and pest infestations of weeds and insects. Kreisich says that scouting and mapping have been essential tools for efficient management of pesticide use, saving budget dollars for labor and purchases.

“We generally budget for about 30 acres worth of treatment for mole-cricket control each year. We always do all the tees because they are one of the focal points on each hole and under constant stress from traffic. We don’t need extra damage from mole crickets to deal with. With the rest of the course, we rely on our scouting and mapping of known active areas to direct where we apply the products. We know the crickets generally reappear in the same places each year, so if you map those areas you can go right to them and treat and move on. There is no justification for blanket treatment of a fairway or rough that doesn’t need it.”

In fact Kreisich says that 90 percent of all spraying and treatments at Heritage Palms is done on a “spot treatment as needed” basis. The only exceptions being pre-emergent herbicide applications to non-overseeded areas in the fall for *Poa annua* and volunteer ryegrass control and all other areas in the spring for the germination of warm-sea-



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## Greg Kriesch



*Greg Kriesch, left, and General Manager David Negip. Photo by Joel Jackson*

**Originally from:** Shelby Township, Mich.

**Family:** Wife Samantha; sons Kevin, Ryan and Jeremy

**Education:** Lake City Community College, A.S. in golf course operations, 1990.

**Employment history:** 1985-87 Irrigation and IPM technician, Del Tura C.C., North Ft. Myers ; 1988 Lake City OJT internship, Burnt Store Marina G.C., Punta Gorda ; 1989 Lake City OJT internship, Long Cove Club, Hilton Head, SC ; 1990-91 assistant superintendent, Cape Coral Golf & Tennis Resort, Cape Coral; 1991-95 assistant superintendent, Imperial G.C., Naples; 1995-98 superintendent Palmetto Pines C.C., Cape Coral; 1998-present superintendent Heritage Palms G&CC, Fort Myers.

**Professional affiliations and awards:** Member of GCSAA since 1987; Everglades GCSA 1991-96; Calusa GCSA 1996-present. Calusa board member since 2001 and chapter president for 2003-04.

**Mentors/Career Influence:** My mother and father for instilling the moral that whatever you do, make sure you are happy; money is not everything. Above all be honest. I'm indebted to everyone I have worked for in this wonderful industry: Bob Yates who brought me into the golf business; Bob Sanderson for influencing me to attend college; Kent Stier, Scott Hamm, Roy Bates, Jerry Redden, Dave Smith and Joe Fenner and many others I have worked with; all have in some way helped me along the way.

**Goals:** Become certified as a CGCS and our course in the ACSF. Be the best father and husband I can be for my family. Get my bachelors degree, probably in business administration. When I retire some day, I would like to purchase a motor home and travel the U.S. and Canada.

**Accomplishments:** College degree; became a Class A superintendent; completed a new course grow-in, a very rewarding experience; just being happy in what I do and enjoying the people I meet in this profession. Once in a great while when things aren't going my way, I wonder what else I would do. I haven't come up with anything yet.

**Work philosophy:** Be honest. Work hard. Always

leave work at work and put your family first. Don't be afraid to make mistakes. The only people who don't make mistakes are those who don't try anything. Don't be hesitant to ask for help when faced with issues you are unsure of. You can ask a co-worker or another superintendent or other industry professional. There are hundreds of people out there who are more than happy to help.

**Memorable/humorous moments:** The birth of my two sons and cutting the umbilical cords. I was the one crying like a baby. Meeting Michael Jordan while I was interning at Long Cove on Hilton Head Island, SC.

On my honeymoon in Colorado with Samantha, my wonderful Florida cracker wife, who had never seen snow before we stopped to take a photo of a field of unblemished snow. I told her to take a running head start and jump out into the snow so no footprints could be seen. The snow was waist deep and she ended up face first, which I sort of knew might happen to a rookie.

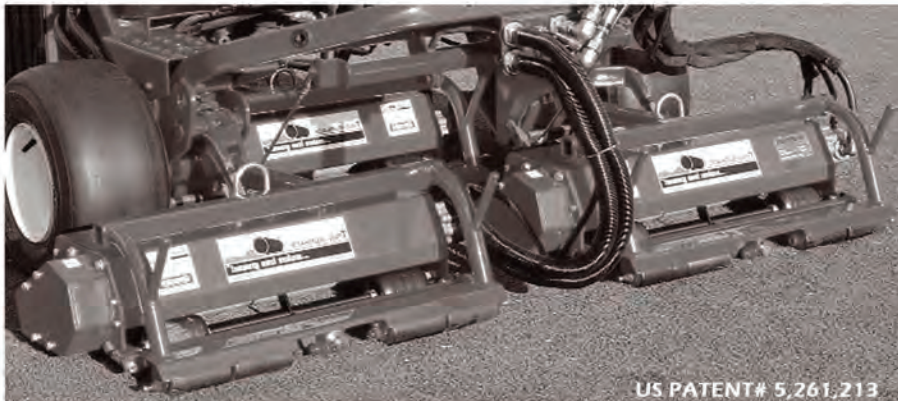
**Hobbies/Interests:** Assistant coach San Carlos Scorpions Soccer League since 2002 and assistant coach San Carlos Little League since 2003. Ice hockey (I am from Michigan) – season ticket holder of the Florida Everblades. Doing yard work. Playing cribbage with Samantha on weekends. Spending time with family and friends. Fishing when I can find the time.



*The immaculately manicured entrance next to the 6th green on the Royal Course. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.*

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A large serpentine bunker complex guards the 4th hole on the Sabal Course. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.



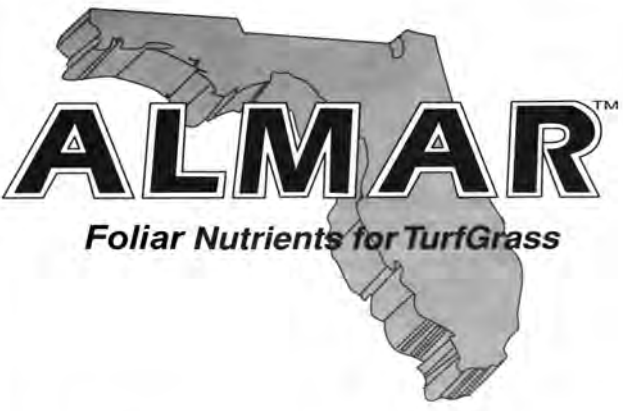
Replacing seasonal annuals in the tee beds with flowering native perennial plants like these Crown of Thorns, Firecracker and Fire bush plants saves money in labor and materials and doesn't sacrifice color and appeal. Photo by Joel Jackson.

son weeds like crabgrass and goosegrass.

"We are making three applications a year," Kriesch said. "We used to do only two, but we found that in January and February the fall application was wearing off and unsightly *Poa Annua* and ryegrass clumps were popping up. Now we treat in

the fall, after the first of the year and in the spring using Barricade. For post-emergent applications to control these winter grasses in bermudagrass, we have experimented with the new products like TransXit, Revolver and Monument, and Monument seems to work best for us."

Speaking of overseeding, Kriesch has been contemplating some possible changes to the



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## Manager Becomes First Lady



Samantha Kriesch, association manager, Calusa GCSA

Five years after assuming the role as the association manager in 1999, Samantha Kriesch also finds herself the First Lady of the Calusa chapter thanks to hubby Greg's current presidency. She says that combination has its pros and cons.

"Well as Association Manager it's pretty easy to get a hold of the Chapter president when I need him," she says, "but as husband and wife, we have to sometimes work at keeping association business and family time balanced."

With an AS degree in administrative sciences and computers and her two sons in school, Samantha was looking for work she could do at home. When the chapter began to get very active and pursue GCSAA affiliation, it became clear that busy superintendents in a very golf-competitive region could use some help with the administrative paperwork that comes with being

an active and progressive chapter. It has been a good fit.

Her primary duties are putting together the chapter newsletter, handling member applications, keeping the association checkbook in order and serving as administrative liaison between the FGCSA and GCSAA when member rosters and paperwork is due. Currently she is organizing the first directory for the 160-member chapter and proudly announced that the chapter's new Web site, [www.calusagcsa.com](http://www.calusagcsa.com), is making its debut.

The best part of the job says Samantha is meeting a lot of wonderful people, "Now I have a face to go with a name when members call with questions." The best part for the Calusa chapter is that the members have a dedicated person like Samantha to help with the administrative workload that comes with a volunteer association.

program.

"Currently we do the greens, collars and approaches, the par-3 tees and the driving-range tee.

Next year we will likely add all the rest of the tee tops to give us a good growing surface all winter. My dilemma is the greens; whether to overseed or

not. It's a case of battling possible transition problems in the spring when we do oversee versus the possible damage from all that traffic if we don't

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overseed. I'm concerned about the survival of the turf if we have any long severe cold snaps in the fall and winter.

"The reason for the dilemma is that in the late spring we start to have what is known as reciprocal play and our members can go play some of the private clubs in the area that are not accessible during the season. Many of these courses with lower rounds and less traffic have elected not to overseed anymore. When our members go play them and come back they don't always understand that we are dealing with transition issues while those courses aren't. All they see are greens with thin spots. It isn't fair to compare apples and oranges, but it happens. I just don't know how our greens would react to our 95,000 rounds of golf if we didn't have that overseeding insurance. If someone can guarantee me a mild winter in writing next year maybe we could try it."

One turf management challenge that came with the property is patches of common bermudagrass in the fairways. Kriesch, like other superintendents, doesn't have any easy solutions.

"Even superintendents who have gone through painstaking eradication efforts are finding common bermudagrass coming back. The members don't really pay much attention to these patch-

es except in the spring when the prolific seed heads get their attention. I might try spraying these locations without overspraying the surrounding 419 and if we can weaken it enough maybe the 419 will take over. The main thing is I don't want to create a big eyesore."

*EDITOR'S NOTE: I can sympathize with Kriesch. No matter what you decide to do, it's going to be noticeable. If you spray common bermudagrass with Round Up, it will turn yellow and die (after repeated applications), so you will have yellow and brown spots all over your fairways and roughs. When you think you have it killed off then you cut it out and re-sod it and you have that obvious patch until it blends in. Be warned: sometimes the sod never blends in even though it's also supposedly the same variety. This is one issue that needs member understanding before it's undertaken. Do a test area and show them what they will be dealing with before you go whole hog on this project.*

One project looming on the horizon that Kriesch is looking forward to is making Heritage Palms a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. He said, "I have done the site assessment and I hope this summer we can really get rolling on it. I put an

## *...making sure that heritage of Heritage Palms is well founded for the residents and golfers*

article in the club newsletter and the member response for volunteers was phenomenal from doing wildlife inventories to installing nest boxes and feeders. Their enthusiasm is heartening. I know a lot of superintendents might like to get involved in the ACSF, but they think all the work will fall on them. By simply asking I found out I already had a group ready and willing to help. I guess I shouldn't be too surprised. The last two years we have done what I call a Woody Walk, where we tour the golf course and I point out the difference species of plants and animals on the course. Those tours are always well received."

Kriesch has other projects waiting in the wings like becoming a certified golf course superintendent and working on his bachelor's degree, but for now he's content in making sure that the heritage of Heritage Palms is well founded for the residents and golfers who venture past those signature palm trees at the entrance.



Assistant superintendents Kevin Bush (left), Sabal Course, and Brandon Parker, Royal Course, take on extra responsibility as more and more calls and meetings take up more of the superintendent's daily routine. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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# A Few Keys to Longevity

By Monroe S. Miller

*(Editor's note: Besides being a fellow superintendent, Monroe Miller is the editor of The Grass Roots magazine, the Wisconsin GCSA's official publication. Monroe received the 2004 USGA Green Section's Distinguished Service Award in San Diego. Monroe has tremendous personal and professional integrity and credibility. When he speaks, people pay attention. I hope you will too.)*

Joe Kunze, president of the Badger Turf and Grounds Club, invited me to campus on a spring evening to talk to the members of the club at their monthly meeting. I am always glad for such an invitation, maybe subconsciously pleased that someone is interested in what I might have to say.

Which, obviously is the first dilemma - what to talk about. Since Joe didn't give me much lead time, I decided the easiest topic to prepare for would be to share with them a few things I have learned on the golf course over my 30-plus-year career.

There are entire sections in bookstores dedicated to this general subject matter. Many of them are full of clichés and tend to be very trite. And I could be assured that a group of college men didn't want to hear the likes of "It's easier said than done," or "A fool and his money are soon parted," or "Water always runs downhill."

But you have to learn something when you are on the job as long as I have been, and mostly it is good advice, albeit obvious in some cases.

I would love to see a similar list from guys like Tom Harrison, Wayne Otto, Danny Quast, Randy Smith, Carl Grassl and a dozen others in that age range. Maybe they'll take a hint and send me such a list.

Missing from the list will be the obvious — agronomic advice. My starting point in this is that if you are a golf course superintendent you had better have plant and soil issues already in hand. For most of us, solving cultural problems is the most fun part of the profession.

Anyway, here's the advice I gave that class of future golf course superintendents, in no particular order:

- Use commonsense. It seems so simple, but too

often people over think problems. When you have a farm background like I do, learning commonsense was part of growing up.

- Work hard, all the time and every day at the golf course. Players/employers will notice and respect you for it.
- A complement to working hard is working smart. This sounds like a cliché, but it isn't. You can work hard at planting a tree, for example, but if it is in the wrong place you'll get to do it twice.
- Do what you are told to do when you are told to do it. Don't be offended; remember everyone has a boss.
- Be honest to the extreme with everyone you deal with: employers, employees, the DNR, col leagues, everyone. I once witnessed a golf course superintendent's attempt to blow smoke in the green chairman's ear. It didn't work and was a big mistake. Honesty pays big dividends.
- Set high standards and goals. Overreach. Strive for excellence. If you don't at least aim high, you be assured you won't get there.
- Listen. Being a good listener is essential if you are going to turn out the kind of conditions expected of you. You must listen to complaints and criticisms, but it doesn't hurt to listen to compliments, either.
- Do no harm. Sometimes doing nothing is better than doing something that could have a negative impact. The job is tough enough without shooting yourself in the foot.
- Function with enthusiasm. Nothing great was ever accomplished without it. And you will find it is contagious to those around you.
- Practice neatness in everything: the shop, your equipment, your golf course. It sets a good example for the staff, and if you are sloppy, chances are the staff will be too. Neatness presents a good first impression. Neatness can carry you through tough periods due to weather or other conditions out of your control.
- Look forward, not back. The great things you may have done last year or ten years ago don't matter much. Today and tomorrow is what count.
- Fix small problems before they become big ones. Procrastination is a terrible disease and it can really hurt you.
- Although it goes without saying, it commonly isn't done; cultivate a good relationship with your colleagues at your course — golf pro and club house manager. They see the customer first and

last and can be a help to you. It may not always be easy, but it is the smart thing to do.

- Realize early on in your career that learning never stops. Continuing education should be a top priority of yours until you retire. You have to always try to get better; it is more than just a matter of keeping up.
- Support the land grant institution in the state where you work, even it isn't your alma mater. Science is the solution to many of the problems we face, and agricultural research goes on at our land grant colleges. You can still root for the football team fielded by the college you attended, but local problems are solved locally.
- Give something back to your profession. Be an officer holder, serve on a committee, host a meeting, attend the phosphorus ban hearing and participate in some way. Don't always let the other person do it.
- Don't ever forget this; your security depends on the turf product you turn out each day, not on diplomas, CGCS awards, golf scores or anything else.
- Communicate on all levels within your organization. This is not the same as socializing.
- Fiscal responsibility is paramount. Not many of us work where a budget doesn't matter. In fact, the superintendents I respect the most are those turning out a quality golf course with a modest amount of money. They get the maximum for the money they have because they must.
- Be a good representative of your organization. Make them proud of you.
- Understand golf and its rules. This, of course, does not mean you have to play golf, just understand it. Many of us do not appreciate a busman's holiday and shouldn't have to suffer such because someone thinks we should.
- In all things and all matters at work — sincerity. It is easy to spot a disingenuous person.
- Do your part in helping train the next generation of golf course superintendents. Provide the practical and vocational training they need and the mentoring that can be so important. As professor James R. Love always said, this is the best way to repay those you helped you along the way.

It took an invitation from some college guys to precipitate my thoughts about longevity. Maybe this list will be a catalyst for you to do the same. If so, let me know. We can share advice with others, demonstrating that to some extent golf course superintendents are all fairway philosophers.

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# Aquatic Management: From Vegetation to Water Quality

By Joel Jackson, CGCS

In doing cover stories on golf courses for the *Florida Green* for more than 14 years, I seldom come across a superintendent who does his own lake or waterway maintenance. It is little wonder I suppose because I also seldom hear about aquatic management in the agronomic curriculum of our major turf schools.

However in today's world, superintendents still must consider how they can impact the water bodies with their turf maintenance programs, and they must be knowledgeable about the basics of aquatic systems so they can enhance their appearance and quality.

Consequently I turned to articles in *Golf Course Management*, IFAS publications and to Mike Martin, president of Lake Masters for information for this issue, since no superintendents jumped all over

this topic and bombarded me with articles. Here's what I found out.

The bad news is that there are many factors at work in your lakes and ponds that are in some cases beyond your control, but still fall under your watch. So the trick is to learn how to mitigate and/or correct those factors to minimize negative outcomes. Don't try this unless you're a trained professional. In fact just go ahead and budget for a professional aquatic management service like you do for any of the other contract services for your course maintenance.

Golf course waterways are like any other part of the golf course; they need to be on a regular maintenance program to prevent algae, weeds, bottom sludge, odors, poor water clarity, and the dreaded fish kill. These problems are often related and can stem from the following factors:

## Key Points

- Algae, aquatic weeds, fish kills, and odors are all caused by build-up of debris and lack of oxygen.
  - Reduce organic matter suspended in the water adjust pH of water to favor chemical breakdown and improve oxygen content to maintain lake's appearance.
  - Make sure lakes are designed and constructed properly to prevent problems.
  - Protect against nutrient loading by maintenance practices
  - Lakes are worth the investment in maintenance by a knowledgeable professional.
- Nutrient overload – natural organics and runoff
  - Water Temperature – a function of lake depth, sun light and circulation
  - Water Depth – affects light penetration and plant growth and temperature
  - Dissolved oxygen – aerobic digestion of nutrients is critical

### Nutrient Overload

Obviously when the nutrient influx outpaces aerobic bacteria's ability to digest organic nutrients, the lake can become out of balance, and unwanted



Course employee harvests unwanted weeds. Poor lake design and construction means unwanted emergent vegetation and algae in this shallow lake will be a constant maintenance burden to keep it looking good. Photo by Joel Jackson.

ed weeds, algae, etc can thrive. Sources of these nutrients can often be organic soil layers exposed when the lakes were dug during construction, dead organic matter, animal waste, effluent water and fertilizers applied to the golf course.

Superintendents can control the fertilizer applications and observe "No Fertilizer Zones" around water bodies and monitor part-circle heads along shorelines that might deliver fertigation. The other factors must be dealt with by increasing the aeration of the lake. We'll touch on that later. Sealing a lake bottom with a poly vinyl liner or clay can help prevent nutrients from natural organic and muck layers exposed on lake bottoms.

#### Water Temperature

It gets hot in Florida and warm water can't hold a lot of dissolved oxygen (DO). According to Mike Martin of Lake Masters, low DO levels are currently a big problem as we are going through a "droughty" spring period right now. Low water levels contribute to the elevated temperatures. Experts say generally no basin should be designed less than 6 feet deep and those 8 feet deep are inherently easier to manage than shallow basins. Depth is a practical way to control temperature and light penetration. Obviously with mandated littoral shelves around lakes there will be shallow areas that have to be monitored. That's where aquascaping can be a positive management tool.

#### Water Depth

The key here of course is to build it right up front. If a shallow marsh is the intended result, expect to spend a lot of time and money to keep it cleaned up or make sure it's OK to let it go "natural." Deeper ponds prevent light from penetrating to provide growing conditions for bottom algae and submerged weeds. Sometimes blue dyes are used to shade the sunlight from shallow areas and to enhance lake color.

Deeper lakes also provide cooler temperature zones to hold dissolved oxygen for fish to survive hot spells and aerobic bacteria to digest organic nutrient bottom debris. If a lake or pond is too shallow and continues to be a chronic problem it may have to have some extra excavation to provide a solution. As I said, make sure it's done right up front. It will be cheaper in the long run.


#### Dissolved Oxygen

Dissolved oxygen is the savior of a golf course lake. There are several ways to provide aeration to a lake: surface sprays, horizontal aspirators and bottom diffusers. Bottom diffusers are the best provider for raising overall DO in the water column.

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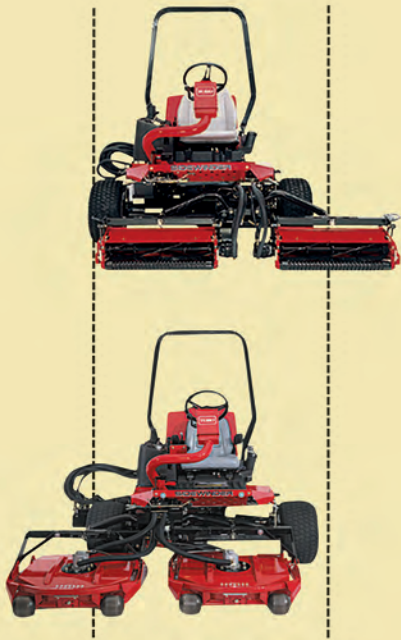
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*Shallow water/shoreline plantings need to have at least a 12"-16" gap along the shoreline so lake management companies can control any encroaching vegetation without harming the desirable plants. Photo by Joel Jackson.*



*Fountains are attractive, but they have limited value for aeration of lake water (Note duckweed and floating algae). Bottom diffusers and air injectors are more effective and providing needed oxygen to the water column. Photo by Joel Jackson.*



*Aquatic vegetation does an excellent job of filtering runoff from the turf and extracting nutrients from the water. If you can't border the entire lake then leave open spaces only in key landing areas. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

Martin said, "We had a course in south-west Florida that would periodically have 30- to 40-foot algae blooms. After installation of a diffuser which treated 800,000 gallons of water per 24 hours, the blooms were reduced to 5-6 feet if and when they occurred."

Fountains in lakes might make for lovely dancing waters and provide eye candy to the observer but they only affect a certain amount of surface water volume and don't affect the total water column. According to Charlie Barebo, CEO of Otterbine Barebo, Inc. in his March 2000 article, "Cleaning Troubled Waters," horizontal aspirators have a directional flow and are good for narrow lakes and canals, and bottom diffusers are not really too effective in lakes less than eight feet deep and shouldn't be used in less than 5 feet of water. Barebo also mentions ozone systems for severely troubled lakes, but says they are

definitely more costly than aeration systems.

### Aquascaping

One of the best investments a course can make is to install desirable aquatic plants. They can occupy the shallow water areas to prevent weed growth, they can filter and metabolize nutrients in the lake water and they provide food, habitat, and cover for wildlife.

Martin said, "We like to use aquatic plants in the waterways that we manage. Some folks like that groomed shoreline look so we plant clumps of vegetation along the homeowner side of the lake or along the landing area of a golf hole, but we try to fill in the off-side shoreline as much as possible. The more plants the better for the water quality.

"However, if a course wants to add plants they should leave a 12- to 16-inch space between the

shoreline and the plantings so the shoreline can be sprayed easily without harming the aquatic plants. That's also why clump plantings are easier to maintain. When we have sections planted on 1- to 2-foot centers we have to use back pack sprayers and make spot applications among the beneficial plants."

Martin says the top-performing aquatic plants for shoreline zone planting are arrowhead, giant bulrush, pickerelweed and spike rush.

"As long as the soil stays moist, these plants will thrive even during low water levels. They may brown back in a severe cold snap, but they are good seed producers and will replenish themselves in the spring. Cannas lilies are a great color accent plant. Some of the best applications I've seen in central Florida are at the new Eagle Creek G.C. in Orlando and the Interlachen C.C. in Winter Park"

I asked Martin about the current major



*Lake maintenance is just like turf maintenance; it needs to be on a regular schedule. This torpedograss was left untreated too long. Now the spraying for control creates an obvious and unsightly burn ring around the lake. Photo by Joel Jackson.*



Surface algae blooms can be prevented with better lake aeration systems. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Mike Martin of Lake Masters, Inc. says duckweed can be controlled by the proper use of Sonar. Photo by Joel Jackson.

problems in lake management from his perspective. He said, "Right now some low DO levels in lakes are due to low water levels and warm temperatures. The lakes can get so unstable so fast after a rainstorm and a flush of nutrients and stormwater runoff from roadways that lakes "turnover" or "flip" and the DO levels are too low and we can get fish kills pretty easily. Low dissolved oxygen levels are the primary and over-

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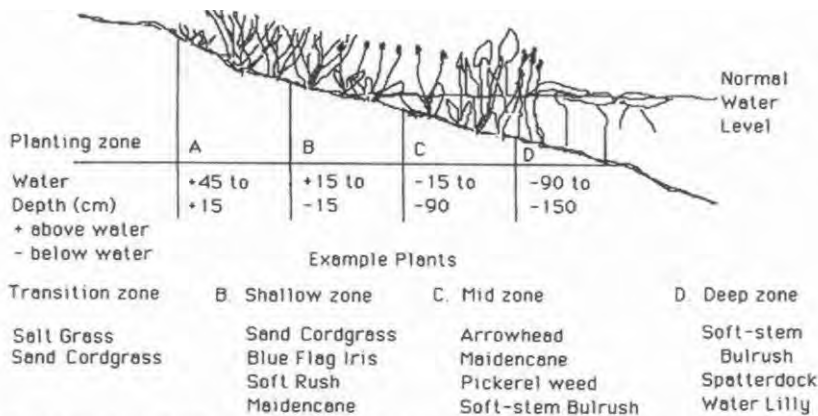


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2. The four planting zones for a typical marsh shoreline planting: transition, shallow, mid-, and deep zones.

The four planting zones for a typical marsh shoreline planting with suggested plant material: transition, shallow, mid-, and deep zones. Illustration from WEC-4, *An Introduction to Aquascaping* by Frank J. Mazzoti; <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.

whelming cause of fish kills, not pesticide or herbicide applications. The only pesticide-related incident I can think of happened more than 10 years ago when a torrential rain hit a golf course soon after applying Nemacur. That was unfortunate.”

Bottom algae and duckweed are two other problems that can be hard to control. Martin

says the triploid grass carp and tilapia in contained lakes can be helpful controls and the carp will also eat other submerged weeds. Duckweed grows exponentially and can overtake a lake quickly. Martin says that Sonar used properly can control duckweed even in an irrigation lake, but superintendents are leery of herbicides in their water source.

While copper sulfate remains a mainstay in the arsenal of lake managers and products like Sonar and Reward are also used Martin said, “As we lose more products we have to turn to natural methods to maintain the lakes. There are some biological products that are very promising, but they are also very costly for the average golf course budget. Even though I own a lake-management company, I can foresee that 10-15 years down the road, we may have developed good enough natural methods that I may be out of business, and oddly enough that may be better for all of us.”

## References

- *Cleaning Troubled Waters* by Charlie Barebo from *Golf Course Management*, March 2000
- *An Introduction to Aquascaping (WEC-4)* by Frank J. Mazzoti, Ph.D., associate professor, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation department, University of Florida, Everglades REC, Belle Glade, FL, Florida 33430, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.

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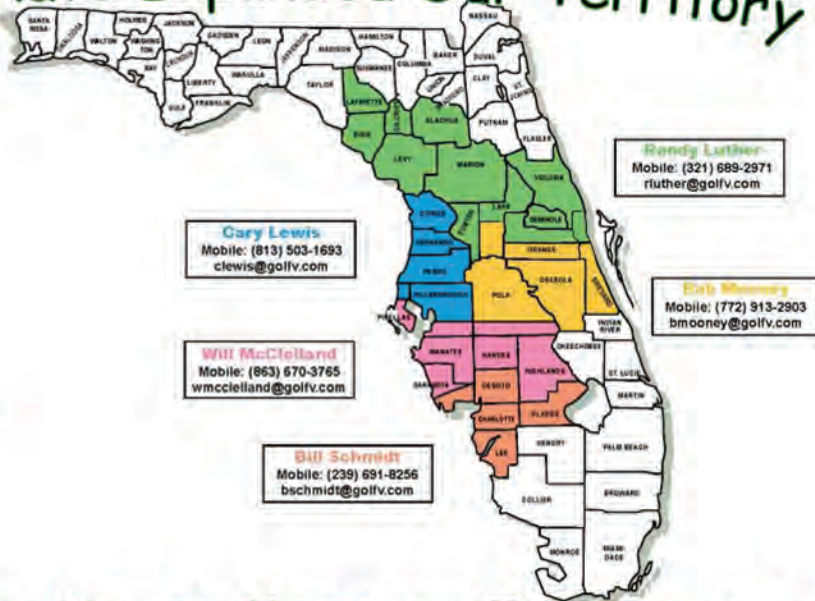
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## And Would Like You to Meet our Equipment Division

### Don DeLaney-Vice President of Equipment Sales

Don joined **Golf Ventures** in 1995 and has over 31 years of experience in the golf course industry. Don's progressive leadership and continued focus on customer service within the equipment sales division, has established **Golf Ventures** as one of the most successful Jacobsen dealerships in the country. Don is past president of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association.

### Mel Hallack-Equipment Sales Manager

Mel started with **Golf Ventures** in 1993 as a Territory Manager for Equipment and T & O Sales. Mel was recently promoted to Equipment Sales Manager because of his leadership ability, knowledge of the Jacobsen line and his dedication to customers. Mel has 16 years experience in the Golf Course Equipment Industry and is a board member of the Suncoast Chapter of the Superintendents Association.

### Cary Lewis-Equipment Territory Manager

*Territory-Citrus, Hernando, Northern Hillsborough, Pasco and Northern Pinellas Counties*

Cary started with **Golf Ventures** in 2001 as Territory Manager for Equipment and Turf & Ornamental Sales. Cary has 27 years experience in the golf course industry and is a former superintendent and past president of the FGCSA, Florida West Coast GCSA, Everglades GCSA and a USGA Green Selections advisor for 10 years.

### Will McClelland-Equipment Territory Manager

*Territory-Hardee, Highlands, Southern Hillsboro, Manatee, Northern Sarasota, Southern Pinellas, Southern Polk Counties*

Will started with **Golf Ventures** in the service department in 1997 and was the first Customer Service Specialist for Golf Ventures. Will has been promoted to Equipment Territory Manager and is a member of the Suncoast Chapter of the Superintendents Association. Will is also a member of the Steta Mechanics Association.

### Randy Luther-Equipment Territory Manager

*Territory-Alachua, Northern Brevard, Dixie, Gilchrist, Lafayette, Northern Lake, Levy, Northern Orange, Marion, Seminole, Suwannee and Volusia Counties*

Randy has joined **Golf Ventures** as Equipment Territory Manager for North Florida. Randy comes to **Golf Ventures** with previous Jacobsen experience and has 7 years experience in golf course equipment sales. Randy's experience makes him a great addition to the **Golf Ventures** Team of professionals.

### Bill Schmidt-Equipment Territory Manager

*Territory-Charlotte, Desoto, Glades, Lee and Southern Sarasota Counties*

Bill brings to **Golf Ventures** over 30+ years experience in the golf industry. Bill started his career in Pittsburgh, PA as an Equipment/Chemical Salesman. He was previously General Manager with Tresca and is now Equipment Territory Manager. Bill is President and Chairman of the Board for the O.J. Noer Turf Grass Research Foundation and a Charter Member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association.

### Bob Mooney- Equipment Territory Manager

*Territory-Southern Brevard, Southern Lake, Southern Orange, Osceola, and Northern Polk Counties*

Bob Mooney joined the **Golf Ventures** family in January, 2004 as Equipment/Signature Irrigation Territory Manager. Bob brings 18 years experience in the golf course industry. Mooney's experience as a former superintendent, project manager of golf course construction and renovation is an asset to his position with **Golf Ventures**.



# Names and numbers for the new guys

By Darren J. Davis

I have always looked at turnover in my assistant superintendent position as a good thing; as long as the individual is advancing his or her career, usually by obtaining a golf course superintendent position. However, one problem we face when bringing new assistants on board is that they must play the “name game” of learning the names of the golf course operations staff. With a predominantly Hispanic crew, that assignment can be a challenge, especially if the individual is not familiar with the Hispanic culture.

To help new assistants learn the names of the crew, we place a picture of each crew member next to their name on the assignment board. I had read about this idea a few years back in a GCSAA online forum, and I was reminded of the tip once again when I visited a former assistant who used the idea at his new golf course.

The dry erase board we already used for daily assignments is magnetic, so all we needed were the pictures of the crew and self adhesive magnetic sheets to attach them to.

The magnetic sheets are available in multiple sizes from most office supply stores and come with a “peel and stick” side which makes attaching the pictures to the magnet a simple task. For the picture, I used my Canon 2.1 megapixel



Simple laminated hole drawings mounted at each satellite makes learning irrigation zones and problem areas easier. The black numbers are the controller station numbers and the red numbers indicate heads with yardage plates on them. Photo by Darren Davis.

camera. I had each crew member stand against a blank wall and I took individual head-and-shoulder photos. I downloaded the files to my computer and formatted them to print on Kodak photo paper, with each photo measuring 2 by 2 inches.

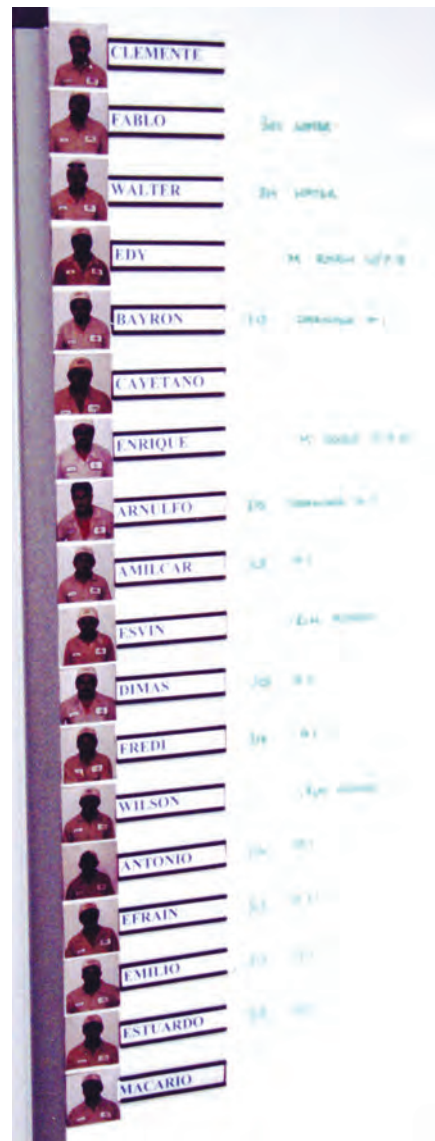
Using our paper cutter, the photos were cut and then affixed to the magnet. The photos were placed next to the employee names on the board. Since I already owned the digital camera and the dry-erase board, all that we needed were the magnetic sheets and two pieces of photo paper. The whole project cost less than \$10 and took no more than half an hour to complete.

After mastering the employee names, the new assistant learns to play the “numbers game” which is learning the station numbers for the more-than-a-thousand irrigation heads on the golf course. As any seasoned golf course manager and/or irrigation technician knows, having a thousand irrigation stations memorized can be a chore, but it is a huge benefit.

To make the process easier for new employees, or an existing employee who may not use the controllers very often, we installed maps on the underside of each lid of the irrigation satellite boxes. As with the employee pictures on the assignment board, this was something that I had either seen or heard about from someone in the industry. In fact, years ago when I originally installed the system I remember speaking with a company that would do the job, but at the time it was cost prohibitive.

The task of preparing the irrigation station maps was a little more time-consuming than the photos on the assignment board. I was fortunate to have copies of “hole sketches” provided by the golf course architect, Rees Jones. Copies of the sketches were made on our copy machine. Then one copy was taken to each controller where the heads were turned on — one by one — and drawn onto the sketch and labeled with the corresponding station number.

Next an employee rode the golf hole and inspected each head. If a yardage plate was installed on the head, the yardage number was added to the map location. When driving the golf course and coming across a trouble area one can look at the yardage plate and quickly match it up to the map at the controller. These field drawings were taken back



2x2-inch photos of crew members next to their names on the assignment board help new assistants and other new employees learn their teammate's names. Photo by Darren Davis.

to the golf course operations facility where a final copy was “beautified” and made legible prior to being laminated by the office manager.

Velcro tape was used to affix the laminated drawings to the irrigation satellite lid. The roll of 2-inch-wide tape was purchased at an office supply store and cut into 2-in. by 2-in. pieces. One piece of the peel-and-stick Velcro was affixed to the controller lid and the other piece was stuck on the back of the map, making removal and re-attachment easy. We already had a copy machine, a laminating machine and colored markers. The only cost, other than labor, was for a few pieces of white copy paper and a roll of the Velcro tape. This project also cost less than \$10.

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## USGA UPDATE

# Brown Turf is OK

By Todd Lowe

Chances are, many Florida golf courses have had some significant dry spots this past spring. Florida experiences a normal dry cycle each year at this time. It has also been very breezy this spring and we just had near-record-high temperatures for the Memorial Day weekend. Many golf courses have not had a “good” soaking rain for several months. Even with the most sophisticated irrigation system or water-savvy superintendent, the prolonged dry spell causes some degree of discoloration on golf courses. The relative humidity has been predictably low for this time of year and the dry weather is causing bermudagrass turf to turn yellow to brown on many golf courses throughout the region. For the most part, the brown areas occur as isolated patches throughout the golf course and are accentuated by one or more of the following stresses:

**Localized Dry Spots:** Sand particles become coated with organic substances and these coated particles repel water (hydrophobic) as they dry out. This causes the turf to become brown from drought stress. Rewetting localized dry spots is a difficult task and the most effective program is to apply wetting agents preventively every three to four weeks, usually through the irrigation (fertigation) system. Although a difficult task, the goal is to prevent the soil from becoming dry. Irrigation efficiency/uniformity is very important as areas that receive less irrigation are the first to exhibit localized dry spots.

**Nematodes:** Nematodes have been active since early spring and aboveground symptoms have been apparent on our visits over the past few weeks. There is no way to eradicate nematodes and the best nematicides suppress nematode populations, temporarily improving root growth. However, it is just as important to improve cultural practices in nematode-stressed areas to maintain turfgrass quality. In particular, irrigation and fertility frequency should be increased to compensate for the lack of roots. Also, cart traffic should be reduced as stress becomes apparent.

**Salt Accumulation:** With the lack of rain, salts have been accumulating in the upper rootzone, making it difficult for roots to extract water from the soil. In addition to routine gypsum/lime applications, occasional flushing (leaching) of the root zone is necessary at this time of year to move salts away from turfgrass roots.

**Concentrated Cart Traffic:** Golf carts are an integral part of the game of golf but it is necessary to restrict traffic to cart paths at certain times. Like most creatures, golfers follow the path of least resistance and often travel in similar patterns from hole to hole. Heavy traffic removes leaf tissue and eventually destroys turfgrass growing points (crowns). These areas become thin over time as the turfgrass dies out from constant leaf removal. Soil becomes very compacted and extreme measures of tilling, regrassing and/or amendments of crumb rubber to these areas must be taken

“Green is good, brown is bad” is the mentality of many golfers, thinking the golf course should never lose its lush, green color. Unless the stress is being caused by a major pest like an insect, disease or a misplaced tree, some brown turf is O.K. from time to time. After all, golf is a sport and good playing conditions occur less often on pretty, green golf courses. It



Poor irrigation coverage is accentuated on this overseeded fairway during the dry season. Photo by Todd Lowe

is also important for golfers to realize that cart traffic is an additional stress and if brown turf is not desired, then eliminating cart traffic in these areas hastens recovery.

The bright side for our region is that most of these stresses subside as we experience summer rains that begin in June. Routine rainfall leaches salts from soil and provides water to the turf, which improves overall turf health.

## GCSAA News

### Committee Operations Begin Under New Governance Structure

The 2004 Strategic Communications Committee is one of the first GCSAA committees to operate under a new structure that analyzes issues from a strategic rather than an operational orientation. GCSAA Secretary/Treasurer Sean Hoolahan, CGCS is the chairman of this committee. Flowing from the committee are task groups that will focus on operational issues. Non-directors are chairpersons for the Task Groups.

Task Groups under the Strategic Communications Committee:

- Media Information Task Group – Chairman Ken Magnum, CGCS
- Chapter/Member Media Tools Task Group – Chairman James R. Fitzroy, CGCS
- Technical Assistance Task Group – Chairman Rick Tegtmeier, CGCS
- Publications Use and Positioning Task Group – Chairman Joel Jackson, CGCS
- Messaging/Brand Strategies Task Group – Chairman Jonathan Jennings, CGCS
- Online Properties Use and Positioning Task Group – Chairman Richard Lavine, CGCS

At the April meeting of the Strategic Communications Committee, the following questions/topics were discussed. These outcomes from the meeting reflect the discussions and presentations.

### Professional Development Session

Dr. Max Utsler, professor of mass communications at the University of Kansas,

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engaged the committee in an exercise to develop communications strategies. His presentation focused on the concept of "Audience - Purpose - Message" in crafting effective communications. By analyzing who the target is (audience) and why it is being delivered (purpose), the communication (message) is more likely to achieve desired results.

### Facility-Directed Communication

A new model of communication flow and content was presented. Rather than directing all communication through to the superintendent, opening a direct communication channel to the entire team of facility decision-makers is proposed. This strategy will be more effective in positioning the superintendent as expert and in delivering solutions to help the golf facility achieve success.

Finally, all communication will accompany effective communication tools for the member superintendent, and will be sensitive to the actual employment relationship. Virtually all GCSAA committees and task groups will provide input in the development and execution of facility-directed solutions and communications that address the value drivers of the facility (what matters most to the facility as a business).

The discussion revealed several possible new key business drivers for facility success:

- Consider legacy – is it part of competitive advantage?
- Reputation and branding – knowledge of business and economic conditions
- Community image of golf club
- Conditioning

Not all golf facilities have the same drivers

### Key Messages

Following are the key messages GCSAA should communicate to facility decision makers:

GCSAA members:

- Use resources efficiently and effectively (no facility wants to waste money)
- Build strong relationships with peers to achieve goals
- Follow good hiring practices to achieve goals – especially critical in risk management
- Have a high level of integrity
- Understand future issues to protect assets
- Create the best experience on the course
- See the whole picture of facility management
- Gain and maintain customer loyalty
- Provide a solid return on investment

- Develop a national network of peers for problem solving
- Are professional, educated, good communicators, and astute businesspeople
- Collaborate with all golf allies
- Make the golf course more competitive
- Assume the responsibility for the most important asset

### Medium and Most Effective Methods

These are the most effective methods to reach facility decision makers:

- Email (superintendents [because of spam issues] will forward to key decision makers)
- Trade magazines – Golf Digest is the #1 golf magazine
- Engage highly recognizable golf spokesperson
- Use a strong campaign and tagline (ex. Got Milk? campaign)
- Leader Board, NewsWeekly – useful to communicate with management
- Actively seek third party validation (NGCOA and other golf organizations)
- Golf Industry Show
- Printed materials
- Half day seminar with owners

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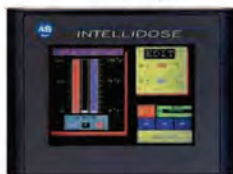
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## Evaluating a Name Change for GCSAA

Would we be more effective in achieving the association's goals and objectives with a different name?

The committee listened to a presentation on why organizations change their names and the internal and external influencers that may indicate an opportunity for GCSAA to advance a name change. The committee discussed the pros and cons of changing the association's name. They took a straw poll to determine the level of support from the committee on this initiative, which was 14 for it and two against it.

### Reasons why a name change makes sense

- Helps position members for management positions at facilities – broaden scope of our profession
- Current name hard to pronounce – hard to remember – too long
- Higher prestige, respect, status
- Easier to define job/tasks
- Means to market better
- Easy to transition to an international organization

- Adds value to the profession
- It's time because the job has changed
- Titles are moving away from association name
- Aligns closer with the magazine
- Current name is ambiguous /archaic
- Push from external audience (industry partners, for example) for change
- Timing - affiliation agreement

### Reasons why a name change doesn't make sense

- 50-year tradition
- Confusion of a name change
- Cost
- Lack of an alternative
- Timing (new governance, PDI, EIFG)
- Loss of momentum
- Inconsistency of chapters
- Lack of perceived need
- Brand equity issues
- Loss of association support (internal), member support
- Loss of support with allied associations
- Competitive association may form
- If it fails, the process and leadership is questioned

### Suggested names

- Golf Course Managers Association (8 votes) – pros included GCM fits better, is about people
- Golf Course Management Association (8 votes) – pros included no confusion with CMAA, aligns with the magazine, descriptive of what we do, more accommodating for multiple titles

### Outside perspective

- Need more explanation of why a well-established association would consider changing its name
- There is a lot of brand equity in the current name and it may be lost with a name change

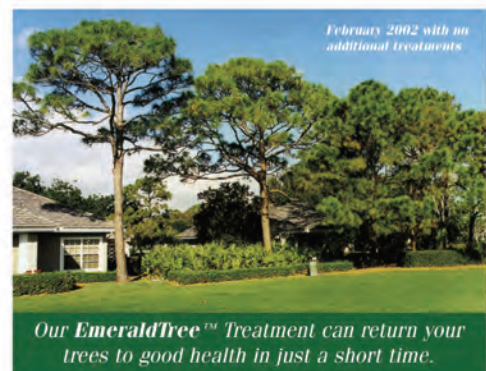
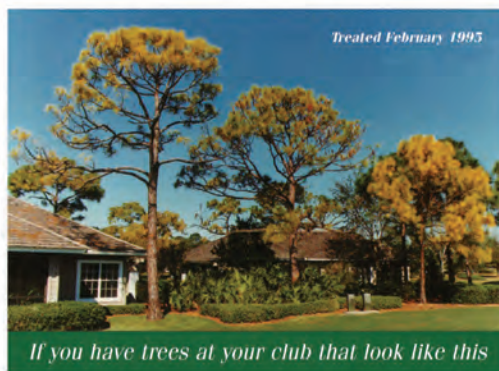
### Member perspective

- Keep the same logo to help with continuity and recognition
- Golf course manager is much easier for external audiences to understand the profession, unlike "superintendent"
- Members of the association will continue to carry titles that are comfortable to them, despite what the organization is called
- The membership will want to know why a name change is being considered

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**How do we engage our members to support a name change?**

- Provide a limited, clear choice (one new option or stay with the same name)
- Provide factual information so that members can make an informed choice
- Give it to the delegates with enough advance time to communicate back to others
- Give members solid reasons why we need a change
- Remind members that this is an ongoing process
- Our members already know that the association is considering a name change
- Keep it "in the news" so members don't feel blindsided
- In the end, members will have the final say through the voting process

**Chapter representatives' feedback**

Would a name change be an issue with chapters?

- It may not be an issue for those chapters that already have "managers" in their chapter name
- Requiring chapters to conform to the association's name would face much resistance
- Chapters may want to keep some individuality and independence.
- There are ways to be affiliated, but not lose all sense of independence
- Chapters may feel "strong enough" to survive alone without the national association
- Phase-in may be acceptable
- Must convince chapters the importance of aligning with the national association for branding, etc.
- If chapters want to change their names to match the national association, now is a good time because affiliation agreements are up for renewal within the next year

**Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG) Presentation**

GCSAA Director of Environmental Programs Greg Lyman and Director of Development Teri Harris shared the EIFG communications strategies in "fundraising" and "friendraising" activities. The concept of Audience-Purpose-Message was employed in crafting communications to reach targeted audiences. A graphic illustration of the communication plan will accompany the outcomes. As The Institute continues to deliver communications and implement programs, the Strategic Communications Committee will be engaged to provide guidance.

**Growth of the Game Initiative**

GCSAA is an active participant in the

golf industry's initiative commonly referred to as Golf 20/20. The objective of the venture is to increase participation and retention of golfers by the year 2020. GCSAA CEO Steve Mona sits on the Golf 20/20 executive board. He provided the committee an overview of the initiative and outlined GCSAA's contributions to date. The committee then engaged in a discussion to ascertain how members might be able to participate in growth of the game.

**What can the facility do to increase rounds played?**

- Infrastructure issues – waive business fees
- Cut fees or add value
- Free food incentives with rounds of golf played
- Coupons for discounted prices or free stuff
- Day care/camps for kids
- Leagues
- Business women focused – special deals – teaching game
- Free lessons and caddy instruction
- Beginner's clinic – adults & children
- Late evenings – beginners
- Club etiquette for kids – free with parents
- Club etiquette classes/seminars for everyone
- Establish caddy programs and training
- Offer late evening/afternoon hours of free golf to beginners
- Make course more playable for average/beginner golfers

**Feedback**

- Golf is too hard, too expensive
- Retrofitting is challenging and expensive
- There is pressure to have competitive fast greens, but these are not playable for beginners
- Having the best greens is a marketing edge for courses and superintendents are competing against each other
- Are we trying to grow the game at the high-end courses or the low-end courses? Each will need different strategies.

**How do GCSAA and its members play a role in Golf 20/20?**

- Communicate that members make courses more playable
- Develop BMPs for making the course beginner-friendly
- Assist facility leadership in adopting the BMPs
- Support regional efforts to grow the game
- Provide matching grants to retrofit school property
- Bring the game to schools – create a few small greens on grounds
- We must participate in this program

**Methyl Bromide Update**

**Golf Courses Allowed 'Critical Use' of MeBr**

*By T. J. Swaford*

*(Editor's Note: The headline-grabbing news of the phasing-out of methyl bromide by 2005 does not carefully report or explain how the mandated reduction in production will actually affect turf production or future soil fumigation uses for regrassing. This update from Hendrix & Dail should put all the rumors to rest.)*

Methyl bromide is and will be available for future use on golf courses and athletic fields. Regardless of the negative rumors regarding the availability and use restrictions, methyl bromide will be available to the golf industry well into the foreseeable future. The Montreal Protocol simply regulates the production of methyl bromide; it does not dictate the use!

Currently there are three exemptions to production allowed by the Montreal Protocol. They are emergency use, critical use, and quarantine and pre shipment (QPS). The GCSAA has filed a critical use exemption on behalf of golf courses throughout the United States. This will allow for production of exempted methyl bromide to be used on golf courses starting Jan. 1, 2005.

Methyl bromide that is used on turf farms within the guidelines of the QPS program qualifies as exempt usage. In other words clean planting stock grown on fumigated soil will be available to the golf course superintendent.

**Methyl Bromide Facts:**

- Methyl bromide is available for golf course use now and into the foreseeable future
- Montreal Protocol only limits the production of methyl bromide, not the use
- Methyl bromide use on golf courses is not banned either now or in the future
- GCSAA has filed a critical use exemption for golf courses
- Many turf farms are using QPS methyl bromide, thus assuring a clean supply of planting stock.
- There is no single alternative fumigant, chemical, or other technology that can readily substitute methyl bromide in efficacy, low cost, ease of use, wide availability, and worker safety.

Please visit [www.hendrixanddail.com](http://www.hendrixanddail.com) for current industry updates. For additional information regarding the availability, use, or status of methyl bromide please contact Hendrix and Dail, Inc. at 800-726-5215.



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2004 Legislative Session Recap

**Session Was Successful But Battles Never End**

By Mike Goldie

The 2004 Legislative Session was supposed to be a quiet session as are most election-year sessions. The great majority of election-year sessions are just that — full of promises, no taxes, no real controversial issues and no extended or special sessions — full of sound and thunder and not much substance.



However what was "supposed" to be, wasn't to be for one reason: Speaker John Byrd's campaign for the U.S. Senate. In search of an issue to separate him from a crowded primary field, the speaker decided to repeal the telecommunications rate re-balancing bill of 2003. The governor and the senate opposed the speaker's plan. The speaker was undeterred by their opposition, and with threats to block members' bills and their appropriations, he was successful in passing the repeal in the House. Members who voted against the repeal, were removed from committees, their bills were not heard in committees and their appropriation projects stripped from the appropriation bill.

The speaker's obsession with the repeal colored the two chambers' negotiations with all legislation including the budget. In the end, the budget was passed but a great deal of legislation failed because of the speaker's insistence on the repeal of the phone rate legislation.

On a more positive note, the association's legislative agenda was an overall success.

**Water**

The only major water bill that passed, HB 293, has been in the process for several years. Sen. Paula Dockery (R-15, Lakeland), per our meeting prior to the session, removed golf courses from several sections of the bill including requiring metering of reserve/reclaimed water and volume-based charges for reuse/reclaimed water. The bill does provide for local governments to include water use in their

***The great majority of election-year sessions are just that - full of promises, no taxes, no real controversial issues and no extended or special sessions - full of sound and thunder and not much substance.***

comprehensive plans and provides some incentives for the use of reuse/reclaimed water.

**Research Funding**

Overall university budgets received an increase from 2003 levels. Program components, such as IFAS, while not receiving enough funding to cover the shortfalls of the last few years, did hold the line for this year. Senator Ken Pruitt (R-28 Port St. Lucie) did, as he told us in our pre-session meeting, keep the IFAS budget intact for FY 2004-05. The governor did end up vetoing several IFAS add-on projects that were not incorporated into the budget.

**Property Taxes**

CS/SB2444 was the Department of Revenue's legislative package for 2004. The PGA of America amended the bill to provide that when development rights have been restricted or conservation restrictions have been covenanted for land used for an outdoor-recreation purpose (golf course), normal use and maintenance of the land shall not be restricted. Therefore if a public or semi-private course was granted a conservation easement, the normal operation of the golf course could not be restricted.

*Editor's note: Mike has lined up four key senators and representatives to champion and support legislative language in next year's IFAS budget that will seek to provide matching funds for all the money raised and donated by the FGCSA and others for turfgrass research. Mike is crafting the language over the summer so that it has statewide appeal and is not a "pet project" of a single legislator and seen as a pork barrel measure, which it isn't. At the same time, thanks to a contact of Vice President Joe Pantaleo, we are also pursuing federal grant money to support turfgrass research in Florida.*



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*Rick Wahl – Golf Course Superintendent  
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CASE STUDY

# Camp Creek Golf Club Pesticide Storage and Mix/Load Center

By Larry Livingston, CGCS

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project is a Pesticide Rinse Water Reuse System at the Camp Creek Golf Club in Panama City. The pesticide mix/load area is adjacent to a wetland. We wanted to eliminate the possibility of pesticide rinse water contaminating the wetland or the groundwater associated with it. We wanted a mix/load facility that was functional yet easy to maintain and use.

Before this system was constructed, the golf course did not exist. This system was built during construction of the course. After implementing the project, we had a mix/load area that was simple and easy to use, manage and maintain. Best of all, it pre-

vented potential pesticide mix/load rinse water from contaminating the groundwater or adjacent wetland.

## Goals

- Create a pesticide mix/load area that would accommodate two sprayers.
- Create safety factors that rinse water contamination would not occur if a part of the system was compromised.
- Be able to dispense an exact amount of make-up and/or rinse water.
- Position spray tank fill hoses so that they were convenient to use but out of the way when not used.
- Prevent sand, dirt, etc., from getting into the rinse water holding tank.

- Be able to easily monitor the sumps so that leakage could be observed.
- Prevent pesticide residual from absorbing into the concrete floor.
- Have safety equipment readily available and accessible.
- Be able to completely contain any pesticide spill that might occur in this system.
- Monitor for fire and theft.

## Implementation & Maintenance

The pesticide rinse water reuse system is designed to contain all the rinse water that is generated during a pesticide mix/load operation so that environmental contamination does not occur. It is designed to be efficient to operate, easy to maintain, and simple to monitor for leakage. I designed a similar system at another golf club a few years ago. I took the best from that design and incorporated improvements into the new design. Quality control during construction is essential to make sure the system is installed exactly as planned. The narrative below, along with the attached pictures, gives a complete description of the system operation.

The Pesticide Rinse Water Reuse Area is in a 30- by 30-foot roofed area consisting of an 8-foot-8-inch by 30-foot pesticide storage room and a 21- by 30-foot mix/load area. Two double chain-link lockable gates are used to secure the area. The floor is made of concrete with a 36-mil chemical-resistant liner underneath. The walls are concrete-filled concrete block. The floors in the mix/load area and the pesticide storage room are coated with a chemical-resistant and waterproof paint. The floor in the mix/load area is sloped so that water drains to a sump located in the middle of the area. The floor in the pesticide storage room is level with an 8-inch solid concrete lip around the floor that is sealed as well. This area will contain 1,158 gallons of liquid. There is no drain in the floor of the pesticide storage room. Safety signs are posted in a number of places in the area.

At the wall opposite the gates in the mix/load area are the controls for adding potable or reuse water to the spray tank, a hook for an apron, a sink, a stainless steel table, a stainless steel shelf above the table, a safety equipment storage cabinet, an emergency shower/eye wash station, and the door to the



*This is the main mix/load area. The concrete floor has a 36-mil chemical-resistant liner underneath and is sealed on top with chemical-resistant epoxy paint. The red grate covers the primary sump. A stainless steel mixing table, sink, eye wash and shower are some of the safety features. The recycled rinsate water is stored in a 500 gallon tank to the left. Photo by Larry Livingston, CGCS.*

*Inset: Timer and controls on the totalizer unit allows for adding recycled rinsate water and fresh water when mixing chemicals. Photo by Larry Livingston, CGCS.*

pesticide storage room. Between the table and the shelf is a clipboard for the Pesticide Application Sheet. At the wall to the right of the gates are two stainless steel shelves that are used for storage of smaller sprayers. The wall to the left of the gates consists of concrete block and chain-link fence.

The mix/load area can accommodate two sprayers. The sprayers are filled by connecting either a green hose (potable water) or a red hose (recycled rinse water) to the sprayer. An anti-siphon connector valve is mounted to the spray tank to prevent pesticide contamination of the potable water. On the ends of both the green and red hoses is a valve, which is in the off position when the hose is connected to the tank. The valve below the anti-siphon connector is opened. The appropriate totalizer located on the wall is set at zero. The water is turned on (a timer is used for the rinse water) and the valve at the end of the hose where it is connected to the sprayer tank is turned on. The totalizer is monitored as water is dispensed into the spray tank. Once the desired amount of water is dispensed, the valve at the end of the hose connected to the spray tank is turned off, the water is turned off, the valve below the anti-siphon connector is turned off and the hose is removed from the connector and hung up.

Rinse water that falls to the floor during the mix/load operation flows to a plastic grate located in the center of the floor. This is the primary sump. The function of this sump is to allow the heavy contaminants (soil, sand, etc.) to fall out of suspension. Rinse water moves from this sump to the secondary sump that is under an aluminum cover located next to the red grate.

The primary sump consists of a stainless steel liner that has been constructed and installed so that there is an air space between the bottom of the sump and the concrete floor of the sump. This air gap is monitored to check for water leaking past the stainless steel containment. The concrete portion of the sump has been sealed with a chemical-resistant material. Rinse water moves from the primary sump to the

secondary sump via gravity through a pipe connecting the two. The fitting at the primary sump has a 90-degree elbow oriented downward so that sand, dirt, etc., will not be able to get into the secondary sump.

Once the rinse water reaches the secondary sump it is stored in a plastic drum. An automatic submersible pump is used to pump the rinse water from the plastic drum to a 500-gallon holding tank. The concrete portion of the sump has been sealed with a chemical-resistant material. A leak from the plastic container can easily be seen by looking at the sealed concrete floor in the secondary sump.

Rinse water from the secondary sump is pumped through a filter and into a 500-gallon holding tank. The holding tank is located in a sealed containment area. The rinse water is held here until needed for future spray operations. When needed, the rinse water is pumped from the holding tank by a centrifugal pump. It is controlled by a timer located on the wall. A totalizer is used to meter the amount of rinse water dispensed. A water hose with potable water is used for washing down the floor, etc.

Pesticides are stored in the pesticide storage room. This room is adjacent to the mix/load area and has a metal door that locks automatically when closed. Inside the room are metal shelves used for pesticide storage. An exhaust fan and explosion-proof lights are located in this room. The pesticide storage room is monitored for fire and theft via a 24-hour security system.

The maintenance for this area consists of routine cleaning, inspecting the sumps for leakage, cleaning the filter at the 500-gallon storage tank, monitoring the level of rinse water in the storage tank, checking the operation of the emergency shower/eye wash, monitoring pesticide inventory.

### Results

We are very pleased with the results of this mix/load area. It has allowed us to easily and safely mix and apply the pesticides needed for the maintenance

of the course. We know that this systems allows us to protect the groundwater and nearby wetland from pesticide contamination.

### Golfer/Employee Response

The golfers and visitors that have toured the facility have been very impressed with the assertive efforts we have taken to protect our environment. We communicate through a display in the golf shop, through one-on-one discussions with members and golfers, tours of the facility, etc. We are also working on a link to our web site that will contain information on this.

### Perspective and Recommendations

**What, if anything, would you do differently if you were to do the project again? What would you recommend to others implementing this project?**

The rinse water hose is on the same side as the spray-rig exhaust pipe. It would be nice to have it on the other side. I would recommend to others to use quality products. Don't try to save money with cheap equipment, pumps, etc. Also, make sure the contractor installs everything the proper way.

### Economic Costs & Benefits

**How much did it cost to implement this project?**

\$10,700 for the supplies does not include construction labor and material costs.

**What are your anticipated or actual financial savings?**

This is hard to measure except to say that without having this facility our chances of having a potential soil, groundwater and wetland contamination problem are very likely and would be costly to correct. Besides being an insurance factor against pollution and contamination, it is just the right thing to do when handling pesticides responsibly.

For more information about this project contact Larry Livingston CGCS, 850-231-7610 or [larry\\_livingston@arvida.com](mailto:larry_livingston@arvida.com)

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STEWARDSHIP NOTES

# A Little Effort Goes a Long Way

By Shelly Foy

Hillary Clinton’s “It takes a Village” is certainly true about raising children. However, sometimes all it takes is one person becoming motivated to teach children that leads to the “village” concept.

One such person is golf course superintendent Larry Livingston, CGCS, at Camp Creek Golf Club in Panama City Beach. Camp Creek Golf Club recently received full certification in the ACSP for Golf Courses. As part of the course’s Outreach and Education segment, Larry and his staff elected to get involved with a local charter school, Seaside Neighborhood School.

Seaside has a mentoring program for grades 6, 7 and 8 that is designed to expose students to many different career choices. Some of the careers that students have explored so far are radio broadcasting, watercolor painting, sewing,



Shelly Foy

babysitting, culinary arts, web page design, video editing, architecture, photography, art, drama, youth leadership, glass painting, interior design, and — of course — golf course, turf and environmental management.

According to Seaside ESE and Technology teacher Cathy

Brubaker, “Our goals through the community-mentoring program are to give students the opportunity to be exposed to career possibilities and to build relationships with professionals in their community. Too often students are not exposed to career choices until they have to make a decision about a major field of study in college or training in a technical field. Here at Seaside Neighborhood School we want to try to expose students to choices at an earlier age so that when it comes time for them to decide, they will have a broader base of information on which to base their choices”.

Larry wanted to participate in the mentoring program and decided to tie in his participation in the ACSP. His description of the proposed mentoring program at Camp Creek:

Students will learn about:

- what is involved in maintaining a championship golf course. From mowing the turf to designing fertilization schedules, to irrigation management... students will find out what it is like on the inside. Learning how to protect the environ-



Larry Livingston, CGCS gives students from Seaside Neighborhood School a tour of his golf course as part of a career mentoring program.

- ment is our number-one priority.
- soil nutrition. Take soil samples, review the lab results, and plan a soil nutritional program.
- irrigation management. Get hands-on experience on how we use a computer for irrigation scheduling and management. Learn where the irrigation water comes from and how the pump stations pumps it through the pipes and onto the turf.
- using bats for mosquito control. Build and install bat houses to be used in a study on biological mosquito control.
- water quality. Collect water samples from lakes, review the results and determine what steps need to be taken to address any issues found. Help release plant-eating fish for biological aquatic weed control. Learn about the stormwater management system and how it functions. Learn what part wetlands play in the big picture.

In addition to all of that, students also discussed the IPM program and did soap flushes for insects and looked for diseases in the turf. After taking lake samples, they reviewed the results and released bluegill, catfish, gambusia and grass-eating carp into the lakes. They identified

native plant material on the golf course and installed identification signs next to them. Other environmental signs were also installed by students. They also designed and planted a butterfly garden near the golf shop.

Larry and his staff hosted 12 students last fall and six students this spring. Students were on-site at Camp Creek once every other week for three months each semester. Larry is very excited about Camp Creek’s involvement with the Seaside Neighborhood School. He has also encouraged the school to participate in the ACSP for Schools. He had previously attempted to get involved with a local school in Tampa and found it difficult; the school seemed to want to rely more on Larry and the golf course to do all the work. At Seaside, the enthusiasm for the ACSP is high and Larry is so optimistic that he is considering “adopting” another local school, Butler Elementary School.

It just goes to show you that with enthusiasm and a little determination, one person can set great things in motion. Here’s to you, Larry Livingston and Camp Creek Golf Club, I wish there were more people out there like you!

## ACSP Update

These Florida courses have earned Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary status:

- **Venice Golf & Country Club**, Venice - Jim Schell, General Manager
- **Camp Creek Golf Club**, Panama City Beach - Larry Livingston, CGCS

There are currently 2,455 properties registered in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Programs for existing facilities; 2,108 are golf courses registered in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses; and 481 golf courses, 32 businesses, 4 cemeteries, and 10 schools are designated as Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries.

# Working WITH Mother Nature

During the course of any day, the golf course superintendent can face many challenges. Some of these challenges can truly test our skills and our patience. One such challenge that I faced when coming to The Moorings Club was with the irrigation weather station.

Our rain gauge on the weather station never seemed to work properly because it had to be constantly cleaned out. I remember writing a schedule on the calendar to clean the station on a regular basis, like every other week. The problem was that Loggerhead Shrikes (a perching bird slightly smaller than a mockingbird and similar in color) in the area would use the weather station rain bucket for a toilet.

I figured what we had here was a failure to communicate. So I tried my best at communication with my little feathered friends.

Plan A was to just talk with them and let them know what I expected. I told the little birds that I did not mind them sitting on the rain bucket but could they please put their tail feathers to the outside rather than in the bucket. I'm not sure if the birds understood the instructions and just chose to ignore them but the rain bucket continued to be filled.

Plan B called for me to write them a lit-



tle note complete with a diagram on where to place their tail feathers.

You know, I don't think they even looked at the note or with apathy setting in.... just didn't care.

After some more brainstorming with the crew, we decided to silicone some nail spikes around the rain bucket which we were sure would keep them from landing on it. After all, if they can't land on it they can't use it as a toilet; another good idea gone to crap (literally). The spikes didn't work.

The shrikes would just sit between the spikes and even straddle them. Once I think I saw a shrike using the spikes to preen his feathers with which only added to my frustration. Ok, so telling

him didn't do it, writing pictures didn't keep him off, nail spikes around the bucket didn't do it. I got it. Let's tie some fishing line between the nail spikes so he has nothing to land on.

Well you guessed it, I just made the little birds a new swing set. It was quite humorous actually to watch these little birds swing on the fishing line all-the-while still pointing his tail feathers the wrong way filling my rain bucket with, well let's just say bird stuff.

We had had it at this point and thought we had exhausted all of our ideas. Then it dawned on me that if I can't keep him from landing on the rain bucket by placing things on it, what if I provided a better place to sit. Would he go for it?

Yep, that was the ticket. We made a quick bird perch by placing a wooden dowel through a stick and tie-strapped the whole thing to the weather station away from the rain bucket. Since installing this makeshift perch, the shrikes have not landed anywhere else.

The moral of the story here is don't work against Mother Nature because you're going to lose. If you work with nature everyone can be happy!

Craig Weyandt

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# Alternatives to Nematicur

By W.T. Crow, Ph.D.

*(Editor's Note: This report to the FGCSA Research Committee is a brief summary of the field trials that Dr. Crow has been conducting the past two years in an effort to study the efficacy of alternative products since Nematicur is being phased out.*

A recent field survey of golf courses in Florida found damaging levels of plant-parasitic nematodes on 87 percent of them. Fenamiphos, the active ingredient in Nematicur, has been the most commonly used nematode management product used by golf courses since the late 1970s. However, the manufacturer of Nematicur (Bayer) has agreed to a phase-out of all Nematicur products. The phase-out is a result of the recent review of organophosphate pesticides as mandated by the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996. This has created a great need for alternative nematode-management options. While there are a number of nematode products out there, the efficacy of many is questionable at best. We are planning on evaluating a number of commercially available and soon-to-be available products for nematode management. We hope to be able to offer turf managers a reasonable idea of what to expect when these products are used.

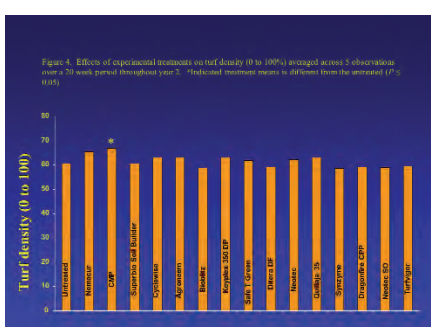
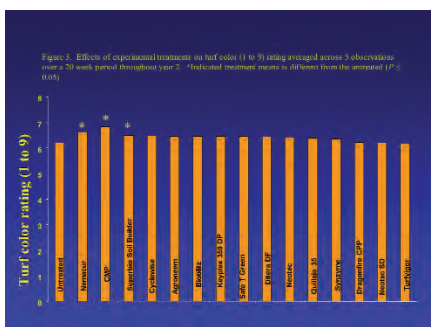
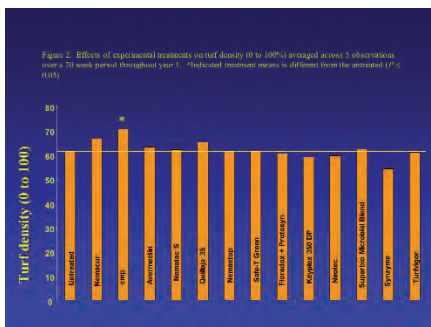
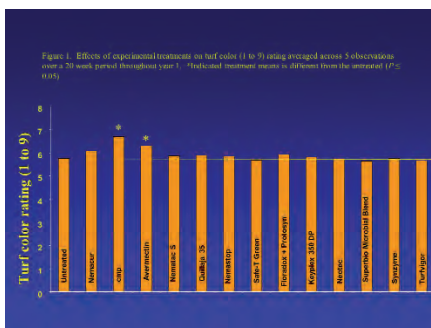
## Materials and methods Year 1:

In 2002 we evaluated a number of products on Floradwarf bermudagrass for ability to cause decreases in nematode populations, decreases in nematode damage, or increases in tolerance to lance (*Hoplolaimus galeatus*) and stubby-root (*Trichodorus proximus*) nematodes.

The products tested were avermectin (a miticide with nematicidal properties), Neotec (a plant-based product that claims to be nematode suppressive), Nemastop (a plant-based product that claims to be nematode suppressive) combined with Bac Pac Plus (a root biostimulant), Nematac S (a beneficial nematode), Quillaja 35 (a plant-based product that claims to be nematode suppressive), Safe T Green (a product that claims to be nematode suppressive), Floradox (a product that claims to stimulate plants' natural defenses) combined with Protosyne (a root stimulant), KeyPlex 350 DP (a product that claims to stimulate plants natural defenses), Superbio Microbial Blend (a root biostimulant), Synzyme (a root biostimulant), TurfVigor (a root stimulant), and CMP (a mus-

tard bran product that may be a natural nematicide/fungicide applied at 12lb./1000 sq. ft.).

Each product was applied at the maxi-



imum labeled rate every four weeks. Turf was evaluated visually and nematode samples were collected 4 weeks after each treatment. The first treatments were applied April 23, 2002, and the final evaluations were made Aug. 27, 2002.

Turf was evaluated visually using several

parameters. Turf color was measured on a scale of 1 to 9 with 9 being brilliant green and 1 being brown. Turf density was a measurement of the percentage of the ground covered by turf foliage. Population densities of lance and stubby-root nematodes were measured, as well as a total of both species. Nine 3/4-inch-diameter cores were taken 3 to 4 inches deep from each plot for nematode analysis. Nematodes were extracted from a 100 cc subsample of soil and counted.

Fourteen weeks after the initial treatment, two 1.5-inch-diameter cores were taken 6 inches deep for root analysis. Roots were extracted from the cores, stained, and scanned on a modified desktop scanner. The root lengths were measured from the digital images using GSRroot software package.

Nematode population densities and visual ratings for each treatment were compared to the untreated using the Contrast Procedure at each sampling date. For the visual parameters, the data for all sampling dates also were combined for season-long comparisons.

## Materials and methods year 2

In 2003 a Tifway 419 bermudagrass site infested with damaging populations of sting nematode (*Belonolaimus longicaudatus*) was used. The site was located at The Villages, about an hour and a half South of Gainesville. Most of the protocols were identical to those in 2002, except some of the products were different and application frequency varied for some of the products.

In 2003 we evaluated many of the same products as in 2002: Neotec, Safe-T Green, Keyplex 350DP, TurVigor LN, Synzyme, Quillaja 35, and CMP. New entries in 2003 were NeoTec S.O., a plant-based product sold as a natural nematode treatment; Bioblitz, a plant-based product being developed as a natural nematode treatment; Dragonfire CPP, a plant-based product sold as a natural nematode treatment; Cyclewise Nema, a fungus product sold as a biological nematode treatment; AgroNeem, a plant-based product sold as a natural nematode treatment; Superbio Soil Builder, a biostimulant (replacing Superbio Microbial Blend used in 2002); and Ditera DF, a killed-microbial product sold as a nematicide.

Some of the products evaluated in 2002 were not included in 2003 because other sources of funding became available to do more intensive testing with those products. In 2003 most of the products were applied every four weeks except for Synzyme that was applied every two weeks, and Ditera DF that was applied weekly. The CMP used in 2003 was an improved formulation from that used in 2002 and was applied at a lower rate (10 lb./1000 sq. ft.).

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**Results year 1**

While some treatments had nematode population densities that were higher or lower than the untreated at one sampling date, there were no overall trends in nematode-population reduction. No treatments had significantly greater root lengths than the untreated controls.

Out of five individual observation dates, CMP improved ( $P < 0.05$ ) turf color compared to untreated plots three times, avermectin two times, and NemaCur, Superbio Microbial Blend and Synzyme once each.

Out of five individual sampling dates, CMP improved ( $P < 0.05$ ) turf density compared to untreated two times, Quillija 35 one time, and Synzyme improved density one time and decreased density two times. No other treatment had any observable effect on turf color or density at individual observation dates.

Average turf color throughout the 18 weeks was improved by CMP and avermectin (Figure 1). Average turf density throughout the study was improved only by CMP (Figure 2).

**Results year 2**

While some treatments had nematode

population densities that were higher or lower than the untreated at one sampling date, there were no overall trends in nematode population reduction. Only NemaCur had greater root lengths ( $P < 0.05$ ) than the untreated controls.

Out of the five individual observation dates, CMP improved turf color three times, and AgroNeem, Bioblitz, Cyclewise, Keyplex 350 DP, NemaCur, Neotec, Quillija 35, SafeTGreen, Neotec S.O., Superbio Soil Builder, and Synzyme improved turf color once each. Ditera DF had a negative affect on turf color once.

Out of the five individual observation dates, turf density was improved by AgroNeem, CMP, Cyclewise, Keyplex 350 DP, NemaCur, Neotec, Quillija 35, SafeTGreen, and Neotec S. O. once each. Bioblitz and Synzyme each had a positive effect at one observation and a negative effect on one observation. Average turf color throughout the study was improved by CMP, Superbio Soil Builder, and NemaCur (Figure 3).

Average turf density throughout the study was only improved by CMP (Figure 4).

**Discussion**

The results of this experiment are representative only of the conditions present at the test locations

and the formulations and rates of materials used. With other conditions, improved formulations, or different application technologies or rates the results might be different from those reported here. In both years the high-performer was the mustard bran material.

This material is currently pending registration by EPA as a biopesticide. Upon contact with water, the mustard bran begins to release the nematocide allyl isothiocyanate (AITC). The AITC is then moved into the soil with irrigation water. The rates of mustard bran used in these experiments were below optimum for nematode control; this may be why nematode reductions were not observed. In other experiments using rates of 15 to 20 lb/1000 sq. ft., we have shown reductions in all three nematode species tested here (sting, lance, and stubby-root nematode). This material also contains about 5% nitrogen and has some fertilizer effects that may have contributed to the visual improvement.

However, in our other experiments with this material, we provide equivalent fertility rates to the untreated plots to account for this and still get treatment improvement compared to untreated. Our studies show that formulated mustard bran may be a useful tool on turfgrass with nematode infestations.

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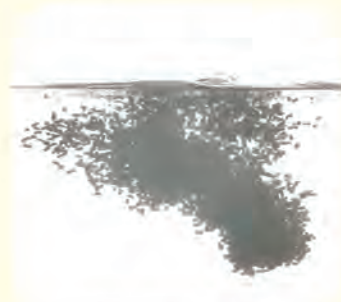
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# Inside the Ropes



NBC technicians check out radios to Central Florida spotters at Bay Hill. Photo by Joel Jackson.



By being inside the ropes I got a close-up of Arnold Palmer (right center) as he shared a moment with Chad and Amy Campbell before the official presentation. Photo by Joel Jackson.

By Joel Jackson chapter for turf research.

Every March, the PGA Tour makes its swing through Florida from Miami to Jacksonville with stops in Palm Beach and Orlando in between. Over the years, FGCSA's local chapters have made connections with NBC Sports and helped to provide spotters and scorers to assist in the televising of the four golf tournaments. We each earn about \$40 per day for our effort and that money goes to our

Tour caddies who don't have a bag to tote that particular week are also recruited to provide yardages with leader groups and club selections on par-3 tees, but the TV producers also want eyes and ears with each group to keep track of shots, the order of play and up-to-date score reporting. The networks want people who are golf savvy and observant. That's where the local superintendent chapters come in.

The TV production people who decide how to present the tournament must make split-second decisions on which camera on which hole to use to tell the story. While these folks hunker down in high-tech trailers watching a dozen monitors, there are two to three dozen spotters and scorers walking the fairways and on call to provide the current status of a player. These spotters and scorers enable the director to show the next action shot having the most impact on the tournament.

It is organized chaos and not for the thin skinned as the pressure builds in the cooker.

Members of the South Florida, Palm Beach, Central Florida and North Florida chapters generally serve on the Scoring Line and the Who's Away Line.

The Scoring Line is slightly more organized since the primary job is to call in the cumulative scores of the players after they complete a hole. The players have a group number, say No. 37. The order the players appear on the Pairings Sheet for that day is the order the scores are given all

day. Brevity is critical, so no names are used.

Using the Bay Hill Invitational as an example, Group 37 was Stuart Appleby and Chad Campbell in that order since Appleby was the leader at the first tee. If Appleby was minus 16 and Campbell minus 12 when they started, and they both birdied the first hole, the scorer would say, "Group 37 reporting." The producer responds, "Go ahead." The scorer reports, "Through number 1: minus 17, minus 13." No names are used after each hole. The producer may call and verify scores if they change dramatically.

The Who's Away Line can be a little more frenetic as the director bounces around looking for that interesting shot, usually by the top five or six players in contention. Spotters are usually assigned to the top 12 groups.

If your group isn't scoring well, you don't get too many calls. It can make for a quiet day, but you must pay attention and always be ready to respond to questions like, "Who's away on 15 and what's he

putting for?" or "How many putts left on No. 9?" Your group may be holding up John Daly and they want to know when to switch back to Big John.

While we are sometimes chastised for adding too much commentary to a shot or situation, they always want to know when a player hits a shot into trouble that will likely cost him a shot and alter the chase for the lead. So you have to be on top of any penalties and drops that occur.

Gallery watching can be tempting sometimes, but when you're wearing that radio headset you're on the clock and responsible for helping to put on a good show. I mentioned earlier about not being thin-skinned while doing this gig. The director watching all the monitors and trying to show the next best shot will shout out questions and half the times not listen to the answers as someone else is feeding

him information, so he impatiently repeats the question two or three times, and you get frustrated that they aren't listening to your stellar sports reporting. It's not personal; it's just business. It's also exercise. I averaged 6.8 miles a day according to my digital pedometer.

I fudged a little on the rules. I did take my camera with me, but I kept it in my fanny pack which also housed bottled water and snacks to fortify me during the daily treks. Since my group finished just ahead of winner Chad Campbell, I hung around the 18th green and snapped a shot of Arnold Palmer congratulating Chad just before the formal ceremony.

I heartily recommend FGCSA members to put in their bid at their chapters to help out during these telecasts. It's fun, educational and helps to raise research funds. Not a bad way to participate in your association.

## The Importance and Value of Networking and Participation

By Bruce Williams, CGCS.

*(Editors Note: The following president's message and article shared by former GCSAA President Bruce Williams are testimony to the advantages and benefits of being active in your local chapter.)*

I received a call from a former employee a few weeks ago. I had not heard from him in over 20 years. He had relocated to Ohio and had been a golf course superintendent for 15 years at a nice private country club. Unfortunately, he was told that he was fired and did not know where to turn. That is why he called me with hopes that I could help him find a job.

I asked this fellow a few questions and it went something like this. "Are you a member of your local

chapter?" He said "No." "Are you a member of GCSAA and are you familiar with the Employment Referral Service?" He said "No". "Do you utilize the USGA and their agronomists?" He said "No". "How about your local university....do you have any contacts there?" He said "No."



Bruce Williams, CGCS, MG

This poor fellow was a hard-working guy who kept to himself and never developed a network of people who could help him. While I was happy to hear from him after all those years. I really was not in a position to help him. He had painted himself into a corner. While this is an extreme case, I know that there are a number of our

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# 2003 Photo Contest Results

This is the final category of presenting the winners of the 2003 photo contest. **Category 4 – Scenic Holes**



**First Place.** "No. 15 on the Quarry Course" by John Cunningham, Black Diamond Ranch, Lecanto



**Second Place.** "No. 2 on the North Course" by Trevor Brinkmeyer, Shadow Wood C. C., Bonita Springs

## 2004 Photo Contest Rules

### Category 1 – Wildlife on the course:

includes any critter on the course that walks, flies, swims, slithers or crawls.

**Category 2 – Formal Landscaping:** includes annuals and ornamental shrubs and trees planted in formal beds on the course or club entrance.

**Category 3 – Native Areas:** includes beds of native plants including trees, shrubs and grasses used in naturalized areas to reduce turf inputs and aquatic vegetation plantings used to create habitat and protect water quality.

**Category 4 – Scenic Hole:** includes any view of a golf hole (panoramic or close up) that demonstrates the scenic beauty of a golf course.

### Easy Rules

1. Color prints or slides. Prefer prints. Only one entry per category. Digital images: Digital image entries must be taken at a resolution setting of 300 dpi or higher and saved as Jpeg or Tif format images. Images taken, saved and sent at lower resolutions will not qualify for the contest. If you're not sure. Send a print instead.
  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 on 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 print shall be attached to an 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper using a loop of masking tape on the back of the print. Slides should be in plastic sleeves for easy access for viewing. Digital images must be accompanied by the same information in an email or document on a CD.
  4. A caption identifying the category, course and photographer should be typed or printed on the sheet of paper below the mounted print.
  5. Judging will be done by a panel of FGCSA members not participating in the contest.
- Mail entries in a bend proof package marked "PHOTOS DO NOT BEND" to Joel Jackson, 6780 Tamarind Circle, Orlando, 32819. Entries postmarked after August 1, 2004 will be automatically entered in the 2005 Photo Contest.



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peers who aren't far away from that same situation.

I challenge each person who reads this to sit down and make a list of people who can help you find a job. If you run out of names in a minute or two, then you probably need to work harder at networking. There is no better way to network than to get involved and attend monthly chapter meetings.

As some of you may know, I moved to California in 1997. The North Course was in a grow-in phase and construction was ready to begin on the South Course. That first year was a very busy time. With a change in climate, a multiple course facility, and many new challenges, it was important for me to gain as much local knowledge as possible.

There was no better way than to join the local chapter and take advantage of the opportunities that the chapter had to offer. Joining is good, but participating is better. I tried to attend most meetings. I met many superintendents and a lot of commercial members. I always tried to play golf with three new people each month. It provided me with a quicker learning curve for so many people in the industry.

I would like to encourage everyone to take advantage of what your chapter has to offer. It is a wonderful way to network. Meeting people, building relationships, solving mutual problems, etc. will help you throughout your career. You never know when you may need assistance at your job or in a finding a new one. Learn from the example that I have cited and develop

your network today and throughout your career. Don't wait until it is too late! (See *Networking sidebar*).

Now that you have a list of potential network opportunities, it is time to develop a strategy to build and cultivate relationships with as many people as you can. I will try to provide a few tips that I have learned, over the years, to help you cast a wider net in developing relationships.

#### Business Cards

Be certain to have professional business cards with you at all times. Keep your information current. The greatest value is not in handing out your business cards but in exchanging them to develop new contacts. The exchange of business cards alone will not ensure the memory of your encounter. Follow up with an e-mail or a note to set you apart from the crowd.

#### Working the Room

Set a goal of making a certain number of contacts at any meeting or function you attend. If there are 100 people at a meeting, it is reasonable to assume that you might walk away with 5-10 new contacts depending on the type of function. Target people who are leaders or influential in the industry. Most people are not interested in talking to you for half an hour, but surely will give you three to five minutes of their time.

#### The Elevator Speech

A long time ago, I had a mentor who taught me about the "elevator speech." He indicated that if you got on an elevator and were going up five floors, what would you say in that short time frame to sell yourself to someone?

We should all have a speech prepared in advance that would allow us to make a connection with anyone. When someone says hello and asks what you do for a living, you should have a quick reply that would be interesting and memorable.

Although I call this an elevator speech, it is more applicable at social functions, out on the golf course, in the locker room, etc. When introduced to members or guests, at my golf course, I like to reply "Hi, my name is Bruce Williams, the golf course superintendent here, and I hope I make your game more enjoyable with the conditions that you see today." This usually leads to further conversation. The goal is to make a lasting impression.

#### Six Degrees of Separation

In *The Tipping Point*, Malcolm Gladwell talks about the origin of this phenomenon. He describes how a large group of people ultimately became connected to one another by just a few surprisingly connected individuals who provided common links. Gladwell talks about how there are pivotal people in any network of connected individuals who know a lot of other people. Connect with those who are connected.

When I meet people I try to find out what we have in common. It is amazing that I rarely find someone that I have nothing in common with. Usually we are familiar with a certain golf course, a city, an individual, a hobby or something else. Without probing you can ask a few questions to find common ground and expand into those areas of mutual interest.

#### Points to Consider

- Don't wait until you've lost your job to start networking.
- If you are clueless in the field of networking then get a mentor.
- Be prepared and consider every day an opportunity to meet and connect with new people.
- Don't get caught without it...business cards that is.
- Don't use a silly sounding e-mail name like "MachoMan" or "TimeforHemp" as it will gain attention but not in a positive manner.
- Don't be arrogant and listen as much as you talk.
- Don't monopolize someone's time. Five minutes is a good limit at an initial introduction and there is a difference between following up and becoming a pen pal.
- Dress to impress and look as good as or better than everyone else in the room or at the meeting.
- Without saying a word you are sending a message by your attire when meeting someone.
- Don't be shy. It may not be easy for some but, with practice, you



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## Networking

As we develop our careers it is increasingly important to manage a set of contacts that become a part of your network. Remember that for job seekers it is often not just what you know but whom you know as well. Taking that a step further it can also be not only whom you know but whom they know as well.

Let's make a list of all the people that can help you in your career. It is not necessary to use names but for this exercise we will use positions to indicate areas to develop contacts.

- Fellow superintendents
- Former employers
- General Managers
- Golf Professionals
- Golf Association staff
- Local distributors
- Manufacturer's representatives
- Educators
- Researchers
- USGA agronomists
- Media
- Golfers
- Neighbors
- Relatives
- Former classmates
- Alumni from your school
- Seminar instructors
- Golf Course Architects
- Consultants
- Headhunters
- Regional Agronomists for Management Companies
- GCSAA staff

make yourself known to others.

- Always be truthful and never embellish your qualifications. Overstating yourself will end up giving you a tag of being dishonest.
- Serious relationships develop over time. They endure because you work at it. Most people have little use for a person that uses you for what they want and then drops you like a hot potato.
- Remember to repay the favor of those that have helped you. Take time to help the newcomers and

youth of the industry. Extend your hand to them and be sincere.

In closing, it is easy to see why networking is so complex. There is a lot to be considered. Nobody grows up with a networking gene in his or her DNA. It is a learned skill. By following some of the tips I have provided you too can get connected. While I have never thought of making new contacts as merely a lead for a job search, I can tell you that it has been the most enjoyable part of my career. I am one of those individuals who truly feels that the most important thing to me, over the last 35 years, is not what I have accomplished but the people that I have met along the way!

## As It Lies Things I Love About Our Game

By Jim Walker



**The subtle clatter** my

irons make as they nuzzle against one another driving down a cart path. Steel-shafted irons make a slightly more metallic

sound than graphite. But either is terrific.

**Watching my father-in-law** knock in a 20-footer for par or birdie. His smile lights up the whole golf course.

**Hitting one** of these new drivers whose head is the size of a two-slice toaster right in the middle of the club face. I didn't think I would ever get used to that sound, but I have.

**Watching my wife** hit a driver flush. Great sound. Beautiful trajectory. Striped, right down the middle.

**Hitting a five-iron** dead solid perfect into a 20-mile-per-hour

wind. The ball never moves one foot right or left.

**Holing a bunker** shot from 40 or 50 feet that would not have gone six inches beyond the hole had it not gone in.

**Rolling in** a slippery downhill snake for all the cookies in a skins game.

**Watching any tour pro** hit driver on a par four or five with a wide landing area. Bombs away!!

**The eight-iron** I holed for eagle on the par five 5th hole when Joe Pantaleo was the superintendent at Eagle Trace. That one cost him a few pesos.

**The two-iron** Joe Pantaleo hit from the left fairway bunker on the fourth hole at Crandon Golf Course (then The Links at Key Biscayne), when he was the superintendent there. That one cost me a few pesos.

**Looking at** any nice golf course under the low light intensity of early morning or late afternoon.

**Watching a row** of heads performing at optimum pressure and gallons per minute. I love the "fog effect" you get looking down the line from the first head to the last.

**A perfect green** stimping 10-plus.

**Standing on the seventh** tee at Pebble Beach, or the seventeenth at the TPC Stadium Course.

**The whispering whir** a reel makes as it spins and kisses the bedknife ever so gently.

**Watching any spinner** top dresser dusting sand on a putting green.

**Bunkers** which are perfectly raked and edged with exactly the correct amount of sand.

**Watching a green** come to life from stripping the sod to fumigation, sprigging, growing in and opening day.

**Going to the West** Coast of Florida for a few days to play golf with my brother-in-law or up to Winter Haven each year to play with our friend Jim "Cornfed" Kusters, a Master PGA Golf Professional who has worn out two sets of Ping Eye Two irons in the 20-odd years I have known him.

**Making a hole in one**, particularly my second which I saw land on the green and go in the hole.

Watching someone else make a hole in one and buying me drinks with a smile on their face.

**New golf equipment.**

Drivers, putters, wedges, irons bags, gloves, balls. Any and all of it.

**Meeting other people**

who really, really, really, love golf.

Mark My Words

## Fuzzy Math Just Doesn't Calculate

By Mark Jarrell, CGCS

From where I'm sitting, the chickens have started coming home to roost on the issue of too many turf schools turning out too many graduates seeking jobs as golf course superintendents. Some may not see it as cause and effect, but here's what I see happening.

I've had several conversations with longtime superintendents who are ready to just pack it in from the demands and pressures of the job – pressures more frequent and intense than they've ever felt before. As a matter of fact,



one friend did just that, last week tossing his keys on the desk and quitting on the spot. Another friend still

reports to work each day, hanging in limbo while his greens committee searches for his replacement.

While the underlying reason may be the sluggish economy, you'll never convince me that dedicated professionals would normally be treated this way if there weren't 500 guys ready to step in and take their place. The spe-

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cial camaraderie and cooperation superintendents have always shared with one another may be the next casualty.

Other good evidence, in my opinion, is the length of time a typical graduate spends as an assistant or in other secondary positions before finally getting the chance as a superintendent, if he gets one at all. While I haven't seen statistics, it seems that graduates often spend 8 – 10 years before they land their first superintendent job, and those of us over 50 wonder if our current job will be our last. I don't think it farfetched to say that today's typical grad will be lucky if he or she manages 20 years in a superintendent capacity.

As for management companies, I do see them as being a cause and effect of the economy, sometimes creating opportunities and sometimes taking them away. Anything that smacks of protectionism goes against a core American value of free trade and competition in the marketplace, so I can see why the issue never came to a head a few years back when pressure could have been exerted to stem the tide.

Your gut instinct – my gut instinct – is to sneer presidential-like and snarl. "Bring 'em on!" when competition appears, but this is not sandlot baseball or playground basketball. It is your career, your earning potential, your children's education, the quality of your life, and your retirement security.

It is you, on the golf course at age 72, either mowing fairways to make ends meet or teeing it up with your buddies.

Helping to steer all these bright, recent turf grads now lining up to take your job into biotechnologies or computer engineering a few years back would not have been unethical or un-American.

When the issue first surfaced in the early 1990s, many of us recommended a conservative approach, but this view was not supported by those organizations that could have influenced or regulated the proliferation of new programs or the expansion of existing ones. I suppose it was the unbridled optimism of the potential limitless growth of golf projected by some

organizations and individual "experts" when we were churning out 400 – 500 new golf courses in this country each year. If there were just enough golf courses, then everyone would sell their bass boats and bowling balls and head over to the local links, right?

Optimism is one thing, but the math always looked fuzzy for those of us who learned to calculate the size of our fairways.

## The Trouble with Turfgrass

### GREEN SIDE UP



Joel Jackson, CGCS

The trouble with turfgrass as most of us know it is that it's an artificial environment that we impose on a local ecological system. Of course regional malls and housing developments that now sit on old orange groves and pastureland are also artificial environments. Thank God for turfgrass to help buffer and filter the runoff and other environmental impacts from such sites and other urban development and sprawl.

And then there are those thousands of miles of turfgrass that border our roads and highways. By keeping a clear field of vision they help with traffic safety.

The trouble with turfgrass of course is that it does need mowing from time to time and some nutrients help keep it thriving during stressful growing conditions.

Native grasses are great out on the prairies and as accents in

landscape and golf course settings; tough for the kids and rover to play in a yard 3 feet deep. Manicuring a yard requires maintenance and regular maintenance is artificial manipulation of the ecology of grass. If you have ever seen a photo of a grass plant in a botany book, it is a gangly looking thing with a seed-head stalk sticking up; not your average suburban homeowners association covenants and restrictions type of thing.

Recently at the Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association conference in Seattle, the

speaker from the Washington County DEP said he could tolerate golf course fairways and roughs, but because the greens were such an artificial surface requiring so much chemical and fertilizer attention, the golf industry should sincerely consider using new and improved artificial turf to avoid the "toxic" inputs.

And when it comes to recent trends in county governments' attempts to conserve water, the best solution they can come up with is to limit the amount of turfgrass on a newly developed lot. Fifty percent seems to be the number in favor right now. Landscape irrigation designs for residential and commercial landscapes seem to be lagging behind golf courses. It would be real interesting to see how they cover little ribbons of turf winding through the ground cover and mulched shrubbery beds.

Using turfgrass limitations as a water-conservation measure violates private property rights as far as I'm concerned. The real waste and overuse as we all know are the irrigation systems that are not managed properly or at all. Golf courses generally get an A-plus on this score because it is such a critical playability factor that we adjust our system settings daily or turn them off when it is raining.

It is certainly no strain for me to flip the Auto/off switch on my home controller out in the garage when

it is raining, but this seems to be too technical for the average homeowner with an automatic system. And we have all seen the commercial and municipal systems running during rainstorms. Those systems are managed by landscape crews that might visit the site once a week. So the trouble really isn't turfgrass, but it gets the blame.

And for that official in Seattle who thinks golf greens are ruining the environment because of their "high maintenance" requirements, the general public still doesn't get it that we are talking about three to four acres of turfgrass scattered over 150 acres in 5,000-square-foot chunks. And while they harbor visions of barrels of pesticides being poured down a funnel into the aquifers or streams, they ignore the scientific evidence that has said and continues to say over and over again that properly applied pesticides and fertilizers just don't cause environmental problems.

The caveat for our industry is that products be properly applied according to the label. I don't think that's too much to ask. Those who don't abide by best management practices and the label don't deserve to be in the business and that goes for those who own the facilities as well. This is no time to be playing fast and loose with the products that have been approved by the EPA. They are too expensive and hard to come by without violating the rules for using them.

Mankind needs turfgrasses a lot more than turfgrass needs mankind. We have learned to manipulate turfgrasses to fit into our lifestyles and recreational past times, and thanks to science and technology, we can maintain those "artificial" turf environments safely when done properly. People with a zero-tolerance policy for pesticides will always oppose these artificial environments, while ignoring their dependence on other chemicals in their lives because they don't appreciate turfgrass like we do.

Grass is the Rodney Dangerfield of plant life; it gets no respect and that's the trouble with turfgrass.

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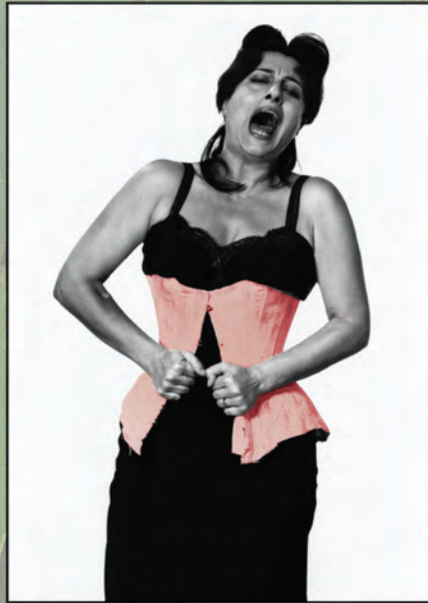
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