



The Florida Green

Fall 2005



Number 4
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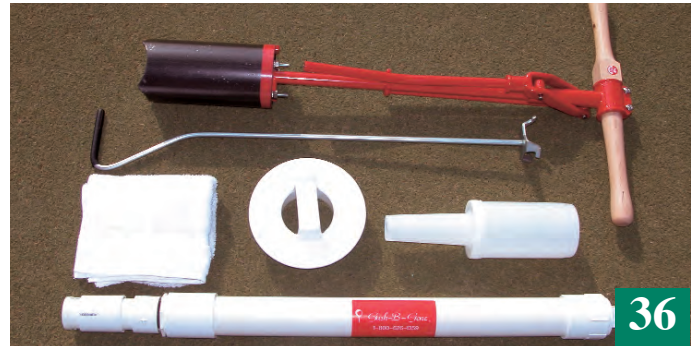
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SPOTLIGHT: HIGH HONORS

Installation of new FGCSA officers and directors, and presentation of three Presidents Awards highlighted the summer season. Mike Mongoven, Mike Swinson and Bob Klitz were honored for lifetime service, respectively, by the Calusa, Seven Rivers and South Florida chapters.

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COVER STORY: LAKE NONA GOLF CLUB

How do you maintain and constantly improve the golf course that's home to many of the world's greatest golfers? Quite simple: You simply exceed everyone's expectations every minute of every day.

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HANDS ON: BUNKERS AND CUPS

Architect Chip Powell offers suggestions for dealing with gratuitous "eye candy" that owners have forced on architects who know that golf holes that photograph well do not always play well. Michael Hoffman, service manager at Isleworth, offers a master class in cutting and painting cups.

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INDUSTRY NEWS: GCSAA REORGANIZATION

GCSAA CEO Steve Mona has filled the vacant post of chief operating officer with a team of four managing directors who will oversee member programs, marketing, development, and finance.

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STEWARDSHIP: EDUCATION

Shelly Foy, Florida coordinator of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System, offers several ways to educate golfers on the environmental benefits of their golf courses. Some are head-slappingly simple and others will take a little effort with commensurately larger dividends.

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The Florida Green

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EDITORIAL: All inquiries should be directed to the editor, Joel Jackson, CGCS. Unsolicited manuscripts and photographs cannot be returned.

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...

Winter 2006 - **The role of the Second Assistant Superintendent**

Spring 2006 - **Tree Management**

Summer 2006 - **Managing Vertebrate Pests: Alligators to Moles**

Fall 2006 - **GPS: Bell, Whistle or Tool?**

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.

Digital photos must be a minimum of 5 inches wide at 300 dpi for publication-quality reproduction.

Conventional Photos: 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.

Contact Joel D. Jackson, editor for more information. Mail: 6780 Tamarind Circle, Orlando, FL 32819. Phone or fax: 407-248-1971. E-mail: flgm@aol.com.

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Introduction

Have you ever been driving down a road and wonder, "How did I end up here?" You know, you're deep in thought and all of a sudden you are aware of where you are without recalling the driving part. Well I find myself in that position today... but not down a road in the middle of nowhere, but rather in the position as president of the

FGCSA. I say it, and I still can't believe it.

One reason is because when I look at the past presidents of the association, I consider them the elite of the elite of

golf course superintendents. These are the people that I look up to and aspire to be like. Heck, it even took me years to be able to call them because they intimidated me. Whether it was because the job they held at a particular facility, or their involvement in the association, they intimidated me.

I'm sure at least a few people out there can understand where I am coming from. In other words, I just wanted to say that I am truly honored to be in this position today.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Craig Weyandt
FGCSA President

I want to give a quick thank you to Joe Pantaleo for all the hard work and leadership over the past year. Joe did a fantastic job even after four hurricanes slammed into the state.

Just five months after the storms, the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association was also host to the first "Golf Industry Show" in Orlando. Joe and the rest of the board of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association set the bar high for being a host.

I always look forward to attending the conference and show but as the writing of this message, it is unclear where or when our next show will be. GCSAA is working diligently to line up an alternative site. Houston has been mentioned as a possibility since the GCSAA Golf Championship is already scheduled to take place there at the Woodlands. I can only hope that New Orleans and all other affected by hurricane Katrina can recover from the Hurricane as well as Florida was able to.

On a happier note, the summer

At the present time, the alternatives to methyl bromide are not economically feasible or environmentally acceptable for golf courses in Florida.

board meeting of the FGCSA was held at Isleworth GC. Wow, what a facility! Thanks go out to Kurt Kuebler, CCM, Steve Keller, superintendent, and the members of Isleworth for allowing us to use the facility for our meeting.

At this board meeting the directors unanimously voted to file for a Critical Use Exemption (CUE) with the EPA for the continued use of methyl bromide on golf courses in the state of Florida. This decision was not made hastily or without seeking the expert advice of Dr. Bryan Unruh, University of Florida who researched potential alternative products. At the present time, the alternatives to methyl bromide are not economically feasible or environmentally acceptable for golf courses in Florida.

Steve Godbehere of the Hendrix and Dail Company also discussed the Montreal Accord and the rights and procedures of commodities to apply for critical-use status, and some other facts about naturally occurring methyl bromide. If a commodity is not granted critical-use status, then those groups do have access to pre-existing stockpiles of material. How long those stockpiles will last of course is one of the critical issues considered in submitting this application.

As for the future of the FGCSA, plans are to continue the hard work that Joe and last year's board started. The committees are in place and specific task groups are being formed to implement the goal of our strategic planning session earlier this year.

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**Chapter Round Up
Presidents' Awards,
Golf, Hurricanes
Highlight Summer**

CALUSA – At our annual meeting at Cypress Lake CC in June, Mike Mongoven was presented the 2005 President's Award for Lifetime Service (See Box below). Greg Laufer, CGCS



Nancy Miller, immediate past president of the Calusa GCSA presents Lance Allan with the Vendor's trophy at the Calusa Golf Championship.

from the Country Club of Naples won the Superintendents Trophy and Lance Allan of South Florida Pine Straw took the Vendor Trophy in the chapter golf championship. Many thanks to Superintendent Jeff Doyle for hosting the event.

Our new board consists of President Terry Stoyer, Shell Point; Vice President Ryan Willis CGCS, Kings Way; External VP Greg Kriesch, Heritage Palms CC; Sec/Treasurer Jeff Doyal, Cypress Lake CC

Upcoming Events: Su-Pro-Lier on Sept. 28 at Verandah GC. Oct. 19 at Palmetto Pine CC, our speaker will be Lee Berndt, head of the Golf Operations Program from Edison College.

Samantha Kriesch



Greg Laufer (left) won the Superintendent's Trophy at the Calusa Golf Championship held at the Cypress Lake CC.

CENTRAL FLORIDA –

Pat Murphy, superintendent at the North Shore GC in Orlando, won the BASF

People vs. the Pros qualifier at the Harmony Golf Preserve. Murphy will join other qualifiers from around the country

to vie for a spot to go head-to-head with Justin Leonard and Ben Crenshaw in a national event in Austin, Tex.

Mongoven Presented with Presidents Award

The Calusa Chapter honored one of its own at its 2005 annual meeting in June at the Cypress Lake CC in Ft. Myers, when the chapter presented one of their founding members, Mike Mongoven, CGCS with the FGCSA Presidents Award for Lifetime Service.

Mongoven, has been the director of golf and grounds for Shell Point Retirement Community since June of 2000, and has been actively involved in the golf industry since 1984.

He received his BA in history from Colorado University in May, 1981. He then attended Lake City Community College, graduating with an Associate of Science degree in Golf Course Management in June 1984.

He was hired as assistant golf course superintendent at Wildcat Run in July, 1984 and was promoted to superin-

tendent in December, 1986. He held that position until leaving to accept the position of superintendent /assistant director of golf for the Fort Myers Country Club and the Eastwood Golf Course owned by the City of Fort Myers in December, 1990. He remained in that position until accepting the director of golf job at Shell Point in June of 2000.

Mike became a certified golf course superintendent in April of 1992. He served as the president of the Everglades GCSA in 1998. Prior to that he served as the external vice President and sat on the FGCSA Board of Directors as well as all offices in the Everglades GCSA. He was instrumental in the formation of the Calusa GCSA and served as it's external vice president in 1999.

Mike married Louise (Camme) Patterson in December, 1985. Their oldest daughter, Kelly, 18, will be attending Florida State University this fall. They also have two



Mike Mongoven, left, accepts FGCSA Presidents Award from incoming Calusa GCSA President Terry Stoyer.

boys, Jacob, 15, and Joshua, 14. In Mike's spare time in the fall, he serves as an official for NCAA football games.

Samantha Kriesch



Pat Murphy won the BASF People vs. the Pros regional qualifying tournament at The Harmony Preserve GC in June. Murphy played in a national qualifier in Austin, Tex. for a spot to play against Justin Leonard or Ben Crenshaw on ESPN. Photo by Joel Jackson.

to be televised on ESPN.

At the 2005 Crowfoot Open, Butch Singo of Harrell's Fertilizer was presented the Larry Kamphaus Award. Singo is a former superintendent and president of the Central Florida Chapter.

In the golf competition Steve Bernard shot 3-under-par 69 to take low gross honors. Andy Neiswander won low net superintendent; The Central Florida team of Craig Dale, John Kopak, Stu Leventhal and Scott Zakany took the team trophy. In the supplier division, Dean Refram won low gross with a fine score of 66. John Swaner of GASH took low net.

COASTAL PLAINS –

We've been dodging hurricanes.

EVERGLADES –

Many thanks to Corey McDonough and Kensington G& CC for hosting our annu-

al meeting and chapter golf championship in July. We wish Alan Bakos a fond farewell as he leaves The Moorings Club in Naples to take a new position on the island of Nevis in the West Indies. Good luck, Alan. Nat Hubbard of the International Sports Turf Research Center was our guest speaker at our August meeting at the Hammock Bay Golf Club. We hosted two half-day GCSAA Regional Seminars with Dr. Keith Karnok of the University of Georgia on Sept 7: Managing Turfgrass Root Systems and Understanding Bio-stimulants.

NORTH FLORIDA –

Our June meeting was at Palakta GC. About 25 members came to Palakta and enjoyed a great talk from Dr. Billy Crowe on pest identification and control techniques. After lunch the members enjoyed a great Donald Ross golf course. Unfortunately the rains



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dampened the round but everybody enjoyed what was played. Thanks to host Lynn Davis and his staff.

The July meeting was at the newly renovated Deerwood CC. The agenda for the meeting was a roundtable discussion about future goals and objectives for the NFGCSA. Once the roundtable was done the group enjoyed the heat and the golf course. Glen Klauk and Dana Anderson both shot 76 to lead the pack of great golfers. Thanks to Dave Amirault and his staff for hosting a great event.

Future meetings will be Sept. 29 at Timuquana CC and Oct. 27 at Panther Creek GC. The NFGCSA congratulates board member Butch Singo for being presented the Larry Kamphaus Award.

Butch has contributed a lot of time and effort to help make our chapter great.

Chris Neff

PALM BEACH – The

Fourth Annual Palm Beach GCSA Fishing Tournament was a big success. Thanks to committee members Ed Miller, Tom DeYoung, Mike McDaniels, Alex Kagnus and Andy Arena for their hard work on this event. The best (luckiest) anglers were Kent Turner with the largest dolphin; Tom DeYoung took the largest kingfish with a 44 pounder; second- and third-place kingfish went to Winston Shutt and Billy Cevaal. Tom DeYoung also took the "Total of Five" prize with a total of 98 pounds.

The chapter award-

ed three \$750 Dependent Scholarships to Paris Henderson, Casey Wright and Kelli Crawford at the annual meeting on July 19.

Due to Hurricane Katrina, the FGCSA Assistant Superintendent Seminar scheduled for Aug. 25 at the Quail Ridge CC had to be cancelled and rescheduled.

SEVEN RIVERS –

Congratulations to Mike Swinson, who was presented with a 2005 FGCSA Presidents Award for Lifetime Service at our annual meeting at host Bob Marrino's Silverthorn GC. Although we had to weather a thunderstorm delay at our August meeting at Meadow Oaks G&CC, playing a shorter course on a very hot day was

quite refreshing. Our upcoming meetings and events include Spruce Creek GC in September, annual fishing trip on Oct. 13, Hernando Oaks GC on Nov. 17 and we will wrap up the year at the Brooksville CC on Dec. 15.

Mark Kann

SOUTH FLORIDA –

Our annual meeting was held at the Riviera CC in Coral Gables and was hosted by Bryan Singleton. Bob Klitz was presented with a 2005 Presidents Award for his dedicated service to the chapter and the golf industry. Bob scored a hat trick on that day. In addition to the Presidents Award, it was his birthday and he won the President's Trophy for the golf championship. Mike Bonetti of



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Kelly Cragin, left, presents Orangebrook GC General Manager Bob Klitz, CGCS with the 2005 President's Award for Lifetime Service at the South Florida GCSA annual meeting at the Riviera CC in Coral Gables. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Past President Bryan Singleton, left, helps Kelly Cragin into his green jacket, symbolic of the presidency of the South Florida GCSA, during the annual meeting at Singleton's Riviera CC. Photo by Joel Jackson.



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On his birthday Bob Klitz, left, receives the FGCSA Presidents Award and wins the South Florida GCSA Golf Championship. Mike Bonetti of Fertigation Specialists, Inc. won the Vendor Division in the championship. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Fertigation Specialists, Inc. took the Vice Presidents trophy for winning the Vendor Division. FGCSA Director of Communications Joel Jackson gave an update on issues facing our profession with emphasis on the new mandatory BMPs.

SUNCOAST – The USGA held a regional meet-

ing of golf course officials, interested members and superintendents on Aug. 12 at the University Park GC. Common issues discussed were overseeding, putting greens (speed, consistency and cultural practices), the impact of trees on golf courses: shade and shot values. Bill Tyde will be hosting our annual Pro/Superintendent

Tournament at the Mission Valley CC on Sept. 21.

TREASURE COAST – The Johns Island Club will host a “golf only” outing of the chapter on Aug. 30. We will not have a September meeting as our members are urged to attend the FTGA Conference and Show Sept. 11-14 in Bonita Springs. In

October we will have a joint meeting with the Palm Beach GCSA and contest our annual challenge golf tournament at the Jupiter Island Club.

WEST COAST –

Congratulations to Jeffrey Huelsman, CGCS, from the Sandpiper GC at the Sun City Center for becoming certified. Bill Moore will host our September meeting and Gary Grigg of Grigg Bros. Fertilizer will present a program titled, “Understanding Foliar Fertilizer. Our big chapter fundraising event will be the annual Bud Quandt Tournament on Oct. 3. Winners of our 2005 Pro/Superintendent tournament were Dave Bishop and Gary Newcomb first place gross and Matt Auen and Adam Wright first place net. Thanks to Duane Van Etten and the staff at Cypress Run for hosting the tournament.

FLORIDA GCSA –

The Isleworth G&CC was the site of our annual meeting where we elected a new slate of officers, ratified the operating budget for the new fiscal year and voted to submit a Critical Use Exemption (CUE) application to EPA for the use of Methyl Bromide under the



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production reduction and phase-out conditions of the Montreal Protocol. New President Craig Weyandt has been busy not only confirming committee chairman assignments but also rebuilding his clubhouse that was destroyed by hurricanes Frances and Jeanne.

Congratulations to the following Florida equipment managers and technicians who were nominated for the Superintendent News Technician of the Year Award: Howard Horne, Black Diamond Ranch G&CC; Rick Reed, Mission Inn and Albert Sizemore, Bay Hill Club. Sizemore was selected as one of the four finalists from the 22 nationwide nominees for the Golden Wrench Award.



FGCSA Officers for 2005-2006, from left: Immediate Past President Joe Pantaleo, President Craig Weyandt, Vice President Matt Taylor, CGCS, and Secretary/Treasurer Greg Kriesch. Directors are pictured on the following page. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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FGCSA directors representing the local chapters for 2005-2006: Front row from left: Greg Kriesch, Calusa; John Curran, Treasure Coast; Peter Powell, Palm Beach and Chris Neff, North Florida. Back row: Bill Kistler, West Coast; Shane Bass, Coastal Plains; Matt Kann, Seven Rivers, Jim Walker, South Florida and Mike Bellino, Central Florida. Vice President Matt Taylor also serves as the external vice president for the Everglades chapter. Photo by Joel Jackson

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Dwight "Butch" Singo was the pleasantly surprised recipient of the 2005 Larry Kamphaus Award at the Crowfoot Reception. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Central Florida GCSA hosts 29th Annual Larry Kamphaus Crowfoot Open

The New Course at Grand Cypress was the 2005 host for the 29th Larry Kamphaus Crowfoot Open. The course is modeled after The Old Course in St. Andrews, Scotland. Complete with huge double green, fairway pot bunkers and diabolical mounding, the Jack Nicklaus-designed layout proved to be a challenge for all who played. Meeting that challenge most effectively was Steve Bernard, superintendent of the Adios CC in Coconut Creek. Bernard carded a sweet score of 3-under-par 69 to take low gross Individual honors and earn a berth on the FGCSA Golf Team to com-

scored well in the tournament.

Resorting to a loose interpretation of the Ridge Rules section on eligibility, the Chapter Team Division was captured by the Central Florida GCSA quartet of Craig Dale, John Kopak, Stuart Leventhal and Scott Zakany. Each member of the team scored at least plus-8 points in the Stableford competition. Zakany, who has a traveling membership in several chapters, was selected as the wild card member of the four-some.

During the annual Crowfoot Reception held at the Grand Cypress clubhouse, Butch Singo of Harrell's was named the 2005 recipient of the Larry Kamphaus Award. Kamphaus, who served as chairman of the Crowfoot Open for 13 years, was a manager of golf course maintenance at Disney World for nearly 30 years. The award was initiated to recognize golf industry notables who exemplify the principles that Larry

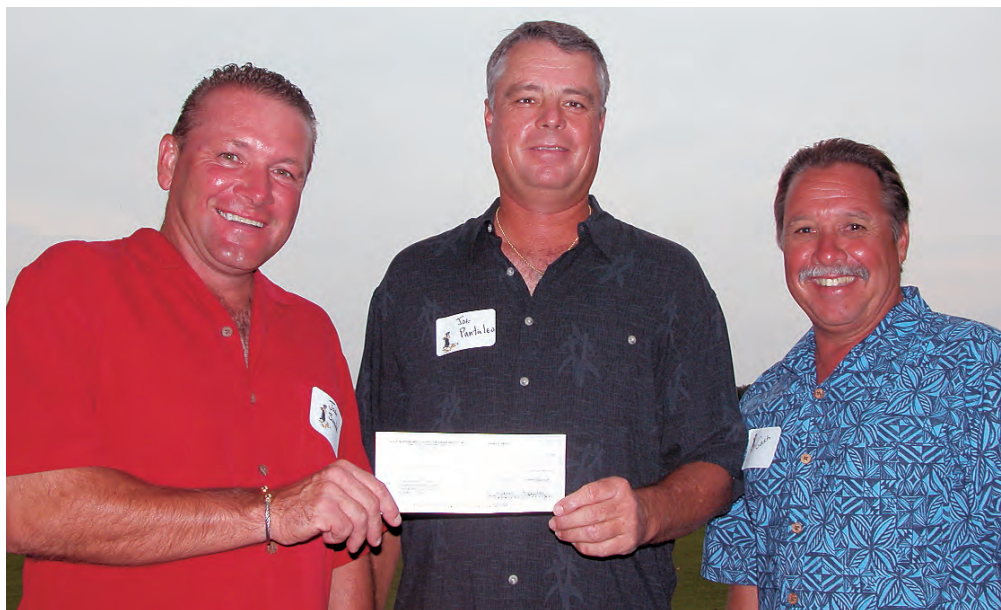


Steve Bernard from the Adios C.C. in south Florida played his way onto the FGCSA Golf Team by winning the Crowfoot Open with a fine 69 on the Grand Cypress New Course. Photo by Joel Jackson.

lived and worked by in service to his employer and his church and community.

Singo, who now lives in Deland and covers the

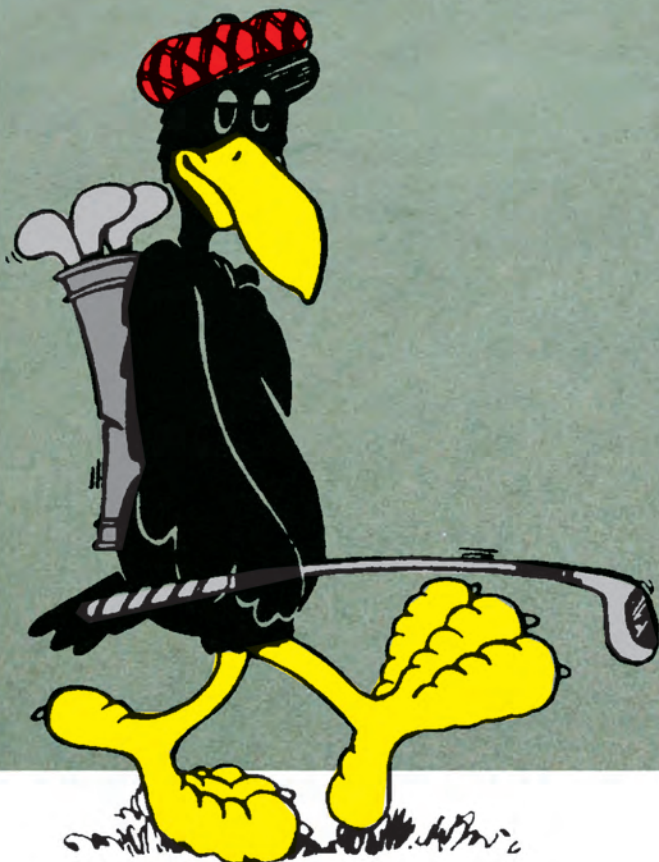
pete in the 2006 GCSAA Golf Championship to be held in Houston next February. See the sidebar for the names of others who



Joe Pantaleo, FGCSA president, center, accepts a \$3,000 turf research donation check from John Swaner, left, and Dale Mitchell of Golf Agronomic Supply & Handling. GASH has donated more than \$50,000 to the FGCSA research fund over the years. Photo by Joel Jackson.

The 29th Larry Kamphaus
**Crowfoot
Open**

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Quick witted Crowfoot Chairman and host Tom Alex doesn't mind laughing at himself as he emcees the annual Crowfoot Reception Raffle. Photo by Joel Jackson.

northeast Florida and south-east Georgia territory for Harrell's, is a former golf course superintendent and past president of the Central Florida chapter. The unpretentious, loyal Singo continues his volunteer services as the education chairman for the North Florida GCSA. His years of unselfish service to others

earned him this well-deserved recognition.

Crowfoot Chairman Tom Alex, 20-year veteran director of grounds maintenance for Grand Cypress, was his usual comical self as he emceed the door prize raffle. Meanwhile, New Course Superintendent David Hill and his staff were all about the

serious business of preparing the course for the tournament for a jury of his peers. The verdict is in – great job David! We do have one word about some of the pin placements however – ouch!

This first-class event comes off successfully every year thanks to the support of our sponsors. Special thanks to Title Sponsor Coastal Equipment Systems and Presenting Sponsors: Harrell's Inc. (Crowfoot Reception); Howard Fertilizer & Chemical (Golf Tournament) and Wesco Turf Supply, Inc. (Awards Luncheon). And none of this would work smoothly without the efforts of Lisa McDowell and her parents Jan and Bob Lloyd who take care of all the details for the Crowfoot Committee: Tom Alex, Dwight Kummer, Joel Jackson, Stuart Leventhal and Joe Ondo.

And speaking of sponsors, we'd like to thank Golf Agronomics Supply & Handling — or GASH, as the company is more commonly called — for its generous ongoing turf research donations. The guys from GASH presented a check for \$3,000 to the FGCSA which brings their total contributions to more \$50,000.

I am sure Larry

The guys from GASH presented a check for \$3,000 to the FGCSA which brings their total contributions to more \$50,000.

Kamphaus is looking down on us and smiling, knowing that everyone is supporting the Crowfoot and enjoying the competition and friendships that each year brings.

Joe Ondo, CGCS

Crowfoot Golf Results

SUPERINTENDENT DIVISION

A Flight

Low Gross: Steve Bernard (69)

Low Net: Andy Neiswander

B Flight

Low Gross: Scott Zakany

Low Net: Stuart Leventhal

C Flight

Low Gross: John Kopak

Low Net: Craig Dale

SUPPLIER DIVISION

A Flight

Low Gross: Dean Refram (66)

Low Net: John Swaner

B Flight

Low Gross: Fred Marshall

Low Net: Don Delaney

C Flight

Low Gross: Butch Gill

Low Net: Mike Pool

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Number 2
Par 5, 563 yards
Lake Nona G&CC
Photo by Daniel Zelazek



THE LAKE NONA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Exceeding Expectations

By Joel Jackson, CGCS

Metropolitan Orlando is home to three very high-profile, golf-centric communities: Bay Hill, Isleworth and Lake Nona. Since Orlando is a world vacation destination, the Orlando International Airport is one of the nation's busiest, but also one of the most accessible. Combine that fact with year-round golfing weather and Lake Nona's location near the airport and it's easy to see why so many international golf professionals have made Lake

Nona their U.S. home. Lake Nona is situated in southeast Orange County and the lake itself is part of an extensive watershed of lakes, creeks and wetlands which are all part of the upper Kissimmee River basin.

I'd love to regale you with insider stories about golf shoot-outs among the residents of this exclusive Golf League of Nations, but we respect the privacy of these golf stars when they are at home.

Besides that, I don't know any.

If you want to see the Lake Nona stars in action with a local flavor, you can tune in to the Golf Channel every spring to watch the Tavistock Cup, which pits golf professionals from Lake Nona and Isleworth G&CC in a friendly head-to-head competition for bragging rights. Both communities are owned by the Tavistock Group, hence the name.

Our story is about the people and practices that are employed to maintain and improve the "home



The par-5, 578-yard 15th hole curves along the north shore of Buck Lake. Photo by Daniel Zelazek

course” for these touring professionals and the local members of this prestigious country club.

One of the key people at any golf course is the superintendent. Brett Harris has been at Lake Nona for 14 years, first as an assistant to Ken Glover in 1991 and the last 11 years as the golf course superintendent. Harris took over in 1994 when Glover went overseas to manage a course in Saudi Arabia. Harris came to Lake Nona with Glover from Grand Cypress where Harris was an irrigation technician for superintendent Tom Alex.

Harris had an extensive background in golf course and landscape work in the Hilton Head, S.C. area, including Palmetto Dunes, Harbour Town and Haig Point. He also spent more than six years in the landscape business, working for landscape architect David Spencer of Spencer Green Goods on Hilton Head and he even had his own landscape company for two years before moving to Florida.

As a veteran who has watched Lake Nona grow, Harris said, “This is a player’s club. We have a large contingent of low-handicap golfers. Our mission is to provide the most consistent, high-quality golf experience each and every day for all our members.”

To accomplish that mission, Harris has 30 employees.

“We touch every playing surface every day,” he explained. “That means mowing greens, tees, collars, greens surrounds, fairways and roughs every day. We may miss fairways one day, but it is rare. That also means the bunkers are checked and raked daily along with the usual course setup and detailing.

“If we have a challenge, it is to

keep all 18 holes playing consistently given some of the soil differences. We have a range of soil types from sandy to sandy loam to heavier muck. A few holes on the back nine have to be managed differently when we get into rainy periods. That’s why we have a drainage program in place to help solve excess moisture situations.”

That’s not the only program going on at Lake Nona.

According to Harris recent master planning called for renovating greens, upgrading irrigation, lengthening the course, and improving drainage. In 2001 the greens were regrassed to TifEagle ultradwarf bermudagrass and the irrigation system gained a new pump station and operating control system (Rainbird Stratus 2).

“The new pump station has a phone paging system so that if the pump goes down during the night, it calls me and reports the failure,” Harris said. “However, the kicker is that it also has an automatic restart feature. It will try to automatically restart three times. After the third time it says, ‘I must have a real bad problem. I’d better wait till Brett gets here!’ Whoever invented that automatic restart gizmo deserves a medal. It’s great.”

During the irrigation upgrade, a double-head system was installed around the greens so the putting surfaces and



Early morning on the par-3, 157-yard 13th hole. Photo by Daniel Zelazek

slope and surrounds could be managed separately, saving water and fertigation costs. Additionally, some new lateral lines were installed to cover areas up and down the fairways and roughs that were not adequately covered by the normal double-row system. Also, Harris said that they installed a mist head system for the bunkers to help irrigate the steep turf areas more effectively. We all know the overthrow by the big turf heads don't always provide good penetrating moisture for these high-and-dry knobs and mounds along the bunkers.

"We stretched the course out another couple of hundred yards by adding new Black Tees" Harris said. "The course now measures 7,215 yards from the tips, and we moved a couple of cart paths to enhance the landing areas on a few holes. On the new tees we are experimenting with Sealsle1 seashore paspalum to take advantage of its quick-recovery growth habit. We are learning that there will be competition between the paspalum and the surrounding bermudagrass so we will have to monitor that interface and perhaps do some 'chemical edging' with products that will control the paspalum. As I said, we are experimenting with it."

Amid all these improvement projects, Mother Nature threw in a monkey wrench – Hurricane Charley. Lake Nona was no different from hundreds of other courses during the 2004 hurricane season. They lost their share of trees and native areas around the course, but like everyone else they got organized and cleaned up the storm damage and replanted and remodeled



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Course Facts



Lake Nona Golf & Country Club maintenance staff.

Lake Nona Golf & Country Club

Location: Orlando

Ownership: The Tavistock Group

Playing policy: Private

Number of holes: 18; par 72; 7,215 yards;
Course Rating/Slope: 74.8/139.

Designed by Tom Fazio; built by Wadsworth Construction.

Opened: 1987

Management: Charles Boesch, club manager; Eric Lane, vice president/director of club operations; Gregor Jameison, director of golf; Scott Blanchard, head golf professional; Brett Harris, golf course superintendent.

Renovation projects: Resurface greens with TifEagle; lengthen course with new Black tees; upgrade irrigation system. Install drainage.

Total acreage: 123 acres, 96 under maintenance/irrigation

Greens: TifEagle. Total 3 acres, avg. size 6,000 sq. ft. HOC: .090 - .105 inches, no overseeding; green speed goals: 9.25 for daily play, 10.0-11.0 for special events and tournaments

Surrounds: greenside chipping/collection areas are planted in TifSport for finer leaf blade characteristic. HOC: .375.

Tees: Tifway 419 bermudagrass; total 3.0 acres, HOC: .375. Overseeded with ryegrass blend @ 15 lbs./1000 sq. ft. New tees: Sealsle1 seashore paspalum.

Fairways: Tifway 419 bermudagrass; total 45

acres, HOC: .375. Overseeded with ryegrass for Tavistock Cup @ 400 lbs./acre.

Roughs: Tifway 419 bermudagrass; total 68 acres. Overseeded with ryegrass blends selected for quick transition for Tavistock Cup @ 300 lbs./acre.

Bunkers: 52 type 37M sand; machine-raked with Toro Sand Pro.

Native areas: Approximately 5 acres. This expanded during hurricane clean-up. Contain sand, pine straw and native plants.

Waterways/Lakes: 8 lakes; edges and banks maintained by outside contractor.

Irrigation: Source: Orange County Conserve 1 reclaimed water and deep well. Watertronex pump station with auto restart and phone-page features; Rain Bird Stratus 2 controls; Rain Bird heads with double-row coverage; fertigation system (four tanks).

Staff: Total 30 full time including superintendent, scheduled 40 hrs straight time, split week-end and staggered schedules: Monday - Friday, Tuesday - Saturday and Sunday - Thursday.

Leadership: Murray Russell and Jay Shipley, assistant superintendents; Brian Sargent, equipment manager; Bob Cody, spray tech and weekend foreman. Robert Scott, administrative assistant.

Communications: Biweekly crew/safety meetings.

Cultural Programs: Low nitrogen, high potash fertility; deep drill greens in May; actively brush and groom with True Surface Thatch-away equipment during summer season; power brush tees, fairways and roughs twice in the

summer. top dress greens every two weeks in season with bagged green sand.

Pest Control: Apply Chipco Choice to 36 acres once per year for mole cricket control; alternate fairways and roughs, targeting chronic areas that have been scouted and mapped. Grubs controlled with Merit applied every other year. All other insect, weed and disease control is done only as needed except for the pre-emergent herbicide applications in the early spring (Ronstar or Barricade on fertilizer) and prior to fall overseeding with Ronstar XL banding and Barricade on non-seeded areas.

Management Challenges: We touch every playing surface from tee to green every day. Everything is mowed and/or groomed daily. Trying to make all 18 holes consistent given sandy, sandy loam and mucky soil profiles on various holes requires prescription management to add or withhold cultural practices and nutrition depending on the weather and growth conditions.

Environmental Management: Member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System. We use mowing and pest-control setbacks around water features and we cultivate the use of native plants and extensive natural areas along many of the holes. Our use of nitrogen is minimal and we use lots of organic-based fertilizers and foliar feeding in our nutrition program.

Special events: Annual Member-Guest, Tavistock Cup and Club Championship Tournaments. We have hosted the Solheim Cup, the World Cup and numerous USGA events.

the native areas to blend in with the course. A silver lining behind the clouds was the fact that several contractors were already on site doing the improvement to the course. After a little regrouping, they helped with the clean-up and restoration of the course and the surrounds, and are now back on task to complete the planned work.

Large-scale projects like irrigation renovation and fairway drainage require a lot of attention and coordination, but the bread-and-butter and focal point of any course is the greens. Having good sound programs and practices in place is one of the keys to success and the TifEagle at Lake Nona is no exception.

"The TifEagle is a great grass," Harris says. "But like some others. I don't think it is for every course. You do have to have the manpower and resources to maintain it properly. It takes constant attention to bring out the best playing conditions and monitor for any stresses. We have a couple of greens that pop up with fairy ring once in a while, so we have to keep an eye out for them."

Typical of the factors that affect ultradwarf greens, nutrition and cultivation are two areas that need to be monitored closely to avoid excessive thatch formation. Harris does this with some tools and products I hadn't heard of before. Superintendents learn over time that many inputs and stresses are site-specific based on soil, water quality, air circulation, shade and the club's resources to meet expectations. So these practices are things that work for Lake Nona, given the resources the club can apply to its unique situation. So take the following with a grain of salt but also with some healthy curiosity.

NUTRITION

"We are potash freaks. During the summer we are applying 0-0-30 or Sul-Po-Mag every two weeks. Our nitrogen levels run only 6-7 lbs. of nitrogen per year. On the greens we use lots of foliar applications in the summer months. Generally these are low in nitrogen and higher in calcium and magnesium. During the season we may



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Assistant superintendents Jay Shipley, left, and Murray Russell are veteran members of the Lake Nona Golf Course maintenance staff.

apply an organic granular blend called The Sanctuary (12-2-12 or 8-0-6). We

will add phosphorous when we overseed to stimulate root growth. On our wetter

holes we often skip an application knowing that the nutrients will last longer. We use Tom Burrows as an agronomic consultant. Lately we have been making applications of 4-2-27 and Sul-Po-Mag. Once again low on nitrogen and high in potassium."

Harris also has four fertigation tanks which he uses for:

- pHairway/urea acid injection to combat the high pH well water;
- applying regular fertigation blends like 16-0-5, 11-0-4 and sometimes 29-0-0;
- wetting agents;
- and "Dealer's Choice", which he uses for specialty liquid products like a phosphorous application.

Harris reserves the acid injection material only for the greens and must coordinate irrigation zone run times to charge the system just as the greens cycle is coming on. "It's too expensive right now to do the whole course, so we target the greens which are under the most stress."

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Superintendent Facts

Brett Harris



Roots: Born in El Paso, Tex., but raised in Pittsburgh. "Go Steelers!"

Family: Wife, Charlotte; son Wyatt, 10; daughter, Libby, 8.

Education: General Studies, University of South Carolina

Employment history: 1994 – present, Lake Nona, superintendent; 1991-1994 Lake Nona,

assistant superintendent; 1990 Grand Cypress, irrigation tech; 1988-89 Innisbrook, Landscape Dept.; 1986-1988 Hilton Head, SC, own landscape business; 1981-86 Hilton Head, landscape supervisor for Spencer Green Goods; Early 1980's Hilton Head (high school summers) worked on crews at Palmetto Dunes and Harbor Town.

Professional affiliations and awards:

Member of GCSAA, FTGA and Central Florida GCSA. Served on the board and as external vice president of the CFGCSA, secretary/treasurer since 2002.

How did you get into the business? As a teenager I worked on golf courses in Pittsburgh and Hilton Head after we moved in 1980

Mentors: Gary Snyder, CGCS, Haig Point GC, golf course construction and renovation; Tom Alex, Grand Cypress Resort, planning and managing a large operation; Ken Glover, Orchid Island GC, tournament preparations. Tom Burrows, stick to the basics of soil science.

Goals and accomplishments: John Kopack

and I have a pact to become certified superintendents. My goal is to see all the changes and improvements at Lake Nona completed. Some of that has been accomplished, and that is rewarding.

Work philosophy: Work smarter not harder. Treat your people well and your suppliers too. Train and cross-train the crew, delegate and have high expectations. Educate, explain the whys and wherefores and keep restrictions to a minimum.

Advice: Keep the job in perspective. Take care of your family. Protect your employer's investment. Use resources wisely. Learn from the good and bad traits of those you have worked for. Collect data and information because you can't improvise everything. Don't be afraid to ask questions of your mentors, peers, suppliers — especially those older than you. You can't know it all

Hobbies/Interests: The Uncle Freddy Band, guitar construction and repair, gunsmithing, competitive pistol and rifle shooting.

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Fun Facts

1. **Vehicle:** Chevy 2500 HD
2. **Last good movie I saw:** The Big Lebowski
3. **I stay home to watch:** "24" and Monday Night Football
4. **The book I've been reading:** "The Principles of Correct Practice for Guitar"
5. **Favorite meal:** Chicken Paprikash
6. **Favorite performers:** Dream Theater, Foo Fighters and Al Dimeola
7. **Prized possession:** 1987 Martin D-60 Guitar
8. **Personal Heroes:** Our armed forces
9. **Nobody knows that I:** Service and repair guitars
10. **I'm better than anyone else when it comes to:** Defusing a crisis
11. **I'd give anything to meet:** Bill Cowher
13. **My fantasy:** To be the Pittsburgh Steelers' offensive coordinator. I just know I can do better.
14. **The one thing I can't stand:** Incompetent servers
15. **If I could change one thing about myself:** Have a little more patience.
16. **My most irrational act:** Attempting to

snowboard.

17. **My most humbling experience:** The birth of my children.

18. **The words that best describe me:** Analytical. Decisive. Impatient.



Harris with his traveling electric guitar. Photo by Joel Jackson.

CULTIVATION

Cultivation of ultradwarf putting surfaces is just as important as getting the nutrition levels right. Harris employs a line of equipment from the True Surface Company called the "Thatch-away System." One particular favorite implement, nicknamed the "Poa Buster" by northern superintendents, is a verticutter-like tool. The main difference is that the blades are oriented at an angle instead of being vertical.

"You don't see lines after a pass," Harris says, "but you have a half basket of material at the end of the run. We mow behind it and it is really slick. With regular verticutting, the greens often turned yellow before they recovered.

"We also run brushes on the greens beginning in March and all through the growing season. On the fairways and tees we use a tractor-mounted, rotating power broom which really strips out the organic matter. In May as early

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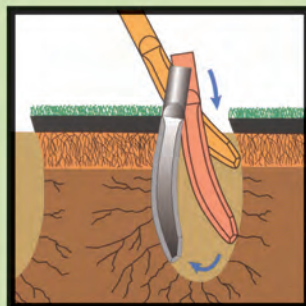
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The par-4, 434-yard 7th hole sports a two-tiered fairway. The second green can be seen to the right. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

as possible, we deep-drill the greens and all summer we run a Thatch-away scarifier, with the blades 1 inch apart instead of the usual 1/2 inch. We do that once a month all summer. Weather permitting, the tees, fairways and roughs are aerified and power-brushed twice during the summer. We missed one cycle last year, thanks to the three hurricanes. We top dress the greens monthly in the summer and every two weeks in season using bagged green sand.”

PEST CONTROL

As far as pest control challenges on the greens and around the course, Harris hasn’t been saddled with many problems.

“We use Pro Star for the fairy ring on a couple of holes. The only place we really had a tough time with nematodes was a few years back on a 180-yard stretch in front of the 10th green. It is a very sandy area and the turf could not take a fairway-height cut. We raised the area to rough height and began top dressing the area with a compost made of yard waste. After a while, the nematode counts went down and we lowered

the area back to fairway height.

As far as mole crickets go, we treat approximately 30 acres each year with Chipco Choice. We have had good-enough, long-term control that we alternate fairways and roughs every other year. If we have any hot spots I haven’t found anything better than an over-the-top spray with an Orthene and Penetrol mix. I have found by watering it in right after application makes it very effective. We go after grubs with Merit every other year.

“Actually the sandhill cranes seem to do more damage than the grubs. If the cranes get too aggressive, we found that 10 lbs. of Milorganite or our organic-meal fertilizer applied in the area tends to discourage them.”

What is encouraging for Harris is the progress the course has made under the management of the Tavistock Group since it took over almost ten years ago. Harris said, “We have renovated the greens, the irrigation system, the drainage infrastructure and the maintenance facility is on schedule for improvements. The course has evolved over time along with the residential development

of the property. Our mission is to see that they coexist as an enjoyable seamless experience so that we meet or exceed the high expectations of our members.”



View from the par-3, 196-yard fourth hole. The fifth green can be seen to left and the third hole is in the far background. Photo by Joel Jackson.



**Congratulations to Brett Harris and
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Recruiting Bilingual Employees

By John R. Piersol

Many golf course superintendents and landscape company managers are seeking English/Spanish speaking employees. Many colleges are working hard to diversify their student bodies to include more minorities, especially in their turf and horticulture programs. The solution for both industry and education might be right in front of us, and we do not realize it: the children of Hispanic employees.

Golf courses and landscape companies in Florida and throughout the United States commonly hire Spanish-speaking employees. Many of these workers are U.S. citizens or are working to become citizens, and they have their families here. The parents may speak mostly Spanish and be struggling to learn English, but their children are in the public school system, and they quickly learn English.

The parents are usually not candidates to attend college, but their children are prime candidates. The parents may not consider horticulture-based college programs for their children, because they are not fully aware of all the offerings in the U.S. postsecondary system.

Plus, the parents may not want their children doing anything like what they do because, like all parents, they want a good life for their children, and the parents may think that being a laborer is all that the horticulture industries has to offer their children. The parents may not realize that there are excellent two-year and four-year college programs that can educate their children for lucrative management careers.

Golf course superintendents and landscape managers could survey their Hispanic employees to learn more about the employees' families; number of children, ages, interests, etc.; in fact, many managers ask about their employees' families as a function of good personnel management. Employees like to know that the employer cares about them and their family, and most Hispanics are very family oriented.

If the children are in ninth grade or above, maybe the manager could offer to have

them "shadow" with him for a day. Maybe it could be a "bring your children to work" day with an employee barbeque, etc. Managers could introduce the children to all that goes on at a golf course or landscape operation giving them an understanding of what their father does and the full range of opportunities that exist in the golf/landscape industries.

This introduction to the golf/landscape industries could lead to the employees' children asking for part-time work when they are of age. If they like the field, and the employer would like to see them stay in the industry with them or elsewhere, the employer could mention colleges to attend and perhaps, offer some scholarship help. Imagine how good this would make the parents feel! The employer helping their children get educated to get a good job.

College programs would also win. At Lake City Community College there are five horticulture/turf oriented programs: Golf Course Operation (3 years), Landscape Technology (2 years), Turf Equipment Management (1 year), Irrigation Management (1 year), and Pest Control Operations (1 year). All programs need good bilingual students to meet the strong industry demand.

Community colleges are inexpensive. A whole year of any program at LCCC for tuition, books, and lab fees is only about \$3,000. There is extremely strong demand in Florida and nationally for graduates from all the above programs, and career salary potential can be \$50,000 to \$100,000 or more.

Sometimes the answer is right in front of us. This could be the case with the demand for turf equipment technicians, irrigation specialists, pest control technicians, landscape managers, assistant golf course superintendents, especially graduates who are English/Spanish bilingual. Help yourself, the industry, colleges, and your employees' family by recruiting from within your crew. Lake City Community College and other colleges would be pleased to have these students, and providing scholarships could provide a significant benefit to the employees.

For any information on the golf, landscape, turf equipment, irrigation, pest control, or forestry programs at Lake City Community College, please contact me.

Editor's Note: *The author is chairman of the Division of Golf/Landscape/Forestry at Lake City Community College.*

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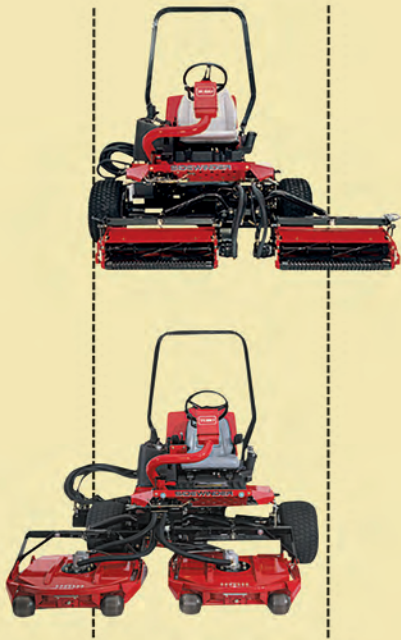
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BUNKERS

How to Meet Players' Expectations Through Realistic Design, Construction, and Maintenance

By Lewis C. "Chip" Powell



The prominent role of bunkers in golf course design was secured during golf's golden age as prolific bunkering became synonymous with the great designs of the likes of MacDonald, Tillinghast, Ross, Thomas and Mackenzie who employed a wide variety of styles to not only create strategy but "The Look" as well. In this current era of design the art of bunkering has reached new heights (or depths, depending on how you look at it) as designers have many times relied on sand to provide far more of "The Look" (a.k.a. eye candy) than strategic function.

Unlike today's players, golf's golden age players were not as interested in "fairness" and as a result placed far less value on the pristine maintenance of anything on the course let alone the bunkers. Fueled by unrealistic television images and excessive concern for fairness, today's players have come to expect pristine conditioning not only on greens, tees and fairways, but on bunkers as well.

The daunting task of meeting players' high expectations often with limited resources has left many of today's golf course superintendents pretty much between a rock and the hard place. While it is tempting to want to think that the solution is as easy as using a power bunker rake or installing some miracle liner, the ultimate solution will require not only the efforts of golf course superintendents but a far better effort from architects and owners as well.

For starters, architects must focus more on designing golf holes for golfers and superintendents instead of photographers, even though this may result in not getting the recognition deserved for designing subtly brilliant golf holes that don't photograph as well as those

Golf courses must honestly assess the conditioning expectations in bunkers versus the cost to maintain the quantity and style of the bunkers. Photo by Joel Jackson.

loaded with eye candy. In addition, architects must do a better job of educating clients and players as to what constitutes a great golf hole and that doesn't mean the one that photographs the best.

Respecting maintenance budgets still leaves plenty of room to do more with less by placing smaller bunkers in strategic locations while eschewing the temptation to place gratuitous eye candy in locations that most often offer no challenge to the better players, continual frustration for higher-handicap players and excessive added expense to the maintenance budget.

Once the quantity of sand has been sensibly addressed, focus should turn to construction technique. Just as the USGA method of greens construction has become an industry standard, nearly all new bunkers are now constructed in a manner that meets demanding criteria for both sand type and drainage. At a minimum, all bunkers should be constructed with an extensive subsurface drainage system with lateral line spacing dictated by slope and native soil type. Bunkers should then be finished using 4-6 inches of sand carefully evaluated by a qualified soils testing laboratory with physical characteristics that provide high water infiltration rates, resistance to ball plugging and resistance to movement by high winds.

In addition to these base requirements, the quality of the native soils must be considered with measures taken to prevent contamination of the imported sand addressed at the time of initial construction.

In recent years many new fabrics and spray-on polyurethane liners have been introduced that are effective with regard to preventing native soil contamination to the imported bunker sands. While these products offer benefits, they also come with the downside of significant initial expense and, if maintenance is not carefully performed, shortened life expectancy especially around the edges where the need is the greatest. If properly installed and maintained, these products all offer improved playing conditions, ease of daily maintenance along with extending the life of imported sand and drainage systems by preventing contamination from the extremely fine particles found in nearly every native soil encountered.

The bottom line is that liners must be looked at seriously and considered as part of the true cost of construction if pristine bunker conditioning on a day to day basis is the desired end result. How many courses would construct fewer bunkers if the true construction cost were addressed up front?

Finally and most importantly though is the fact that, even if properly constructed, the day-to-day quality of bunkers is ultimately more controlled by maintenance than any other single factor. The point being that great maintenance can make up for some construction deficiencies while poor maintenance can destroy the quality of the best-constructed bunkers.

Maintaining high-quality bunkers comes down to performing two basic tasks: raking and edging. And few would argue that both frequency and technique are the deciding fac-

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And the Survey Says...

We posed a quick survey on bunker maintenance issues to several superintendents. Here are the responses of Shane Bass, St. James Bay GC in Carrabelle; Mike Bellino, DeBary G&CC in DeBary; Greg Kriesch, Heritage Palms in Ft. Myers; Chris Neff, Timaquana CC, Jacksonville; Matt Taylor, Royal Poincian GC, Naples; and Craig Weyandt, The Moorings Club in Vero Beach.

Q: Do you machine-rake or hand-rake?

Bass: We machine-rake three days a week and the other four days we hand-rake only the bunkers that need attention.

Bellino: We machine-rake the center and hand-rake the edges. It takes two men about four hours to do this.

Kriesch: We machine-rake the bunkers. It takes four people 3.5 hours per day for 36 holes.

Neff: We Machine-rake fairway, but hand-rake greens bunkers

Taylor: We have 36 holes. We machine-rake fairway bunkers and hand-rake greens bunkers. It takes three people 3.5 hours per course to rake the bunkers. One course has smallish greenside bunkers. These are raked by the greens-mowing person.

Walker: Machine-rake all bunkers. It takes one person 3 hours.

Weyandt: We machine-rake our bunkers. It takes one person 3 hours in the morning.

2. Do your bunkers have drainage installed?

Bass, Kriesch and Weyandt: Yes, they were built with drainage.

Bellino: Four new bunkers have drainage.

Neff: Yes, installed during the recent course renovation.

Taylor: Some bunkers have drainage but we also have installed drainage in others.

Walker: No drainage.

3. How many bunkers do you have and how often are they edged? Also how many people and how long does it take?

Bass: We have 62 bunkers. I have one person who takes care of the bunkers completely. He is the only one in the bunkers except for someone to rake them on his days off. He edges about four or five holes per week and flymows the ones with fingers every time we mow roughs. It takes him about 5 hours to machine-rake all the bunkers. After raking the bunkers he edges

about four or five holes a week. He also hand-sprays any weeds in the bunker collars.

Bellino: Our 56 bunkers are edged monthly. It takes four men two days to complete the task.

Kriesch: We have 36 holes. There are 88 bunkers on the Royal Palm course and 76 bunkers on the Sabal Palm course. It takes two people per course about 20 hours to edge the bunkers over a 4.5–5-day period. Our edging cycle is once every two weeks in summer. Every three or four weeks in cool season.

Neff: We have 76 bunkers that are edged biweekly. It takes two men four hours to edge them.

Taylor: 36-hole layout. One course has 42 bunkers the other has 57. They are edged biweekly. On each course it takes six people four hours per course to edge the bunkers.

Walker: We have 38 bunkers. It takes four men two days to edge the bunkers.

Weyandt: We have 46 bunkers. They are edged weekly. It takes three people an average of seven hours to edge and clean up the bunkers weekly.

4. Have you ever had to modify bunkers to prevent chronic washouts?

Bass: No, but that is why you need an architect who understands maintenance (ours was Robert Walker) and why the superintendent needs to be there from the very beginning.

Bellino: Yes. On some with steep faces that had chronic washouts in heavy rains we sodded the bunker faces.

Kriesch, Neff, Taylor, Walker and Weyandt all replied No.

5. Do you do anything special to firm up the sand to improve the lie of the ball?

Bass, Kriesch and Neff: No

Bellino: No. I seem to get more comments when we are watering a lot or if it's raining a lot, that the bunkers are too hard. We have a homemade attachment for our sand pro with 5-inch rebar spikes to loosen up the sand.

Taylor: Not really, but we use 37M bunker sand. We have the standard rake assembly on our Sand Pros that is used when the bunkers are wet. If the sand is dry we install brushes on a separate Sand Pro. This helps to keep them from getting too soft.

Walker: No. We use 37M sand, which firms up nicely. We only cultivate one inch deep when raking.

Weyandt: Yes. If we see that the bunkers are getting too soft from machine raking we just

hand-rake until they firm up.

6. Please make any additional comments regarding bunker maintenance tips as you see fit.

Weyandt: The most important thing about bunkers is construction. Know where the water is going to go to prevent washouts. Install drainage in bunkers at the time of construction. A little time spent in the beginning during construction will save hours of time repairing washouts later.

Neff: Tell everyone to take Bob Randquist's bunker class at the GCSAA show if he continues to teach it. It really makes you think about bunkers and how they fit at your club.

Bobby Weed did outstanding job of bringing bunker play back into the game at Timuquana CC. My outlook is consistency from the chipping green to the 18th hole throughout the golf course. We are very conservative when it comes to edging the bunker. We don't look for sharp edges like some courses. We try to keep our contour definition but without shaving the edge. We don't rake bunkers every day as well. I try to keep them a little on firm side barring effects of weather and playing traffic.

Every winter one project is the addition of new sand throughout the golf course. Depths are checked and additional sand is applied only if needed. We do not rake the edges every time. We rake the bunker completely one day including the edges and the next without. It's kind of like mowing a green without mowing a cleanup pass to save the edge of the green. We try not to build up sand on the edges too much. I will be looking at different varieties of grasses on faces of bunkers over the next few years. We are discussing a possible renovation of bunkers and we might consider some of the new bermudagrasses or zoysiagrasses for a different look. Also, the addition of small pop-up heads around the bunkers is becoming more and more popular. This is almost necessary with the higher standards now being demanded throughout the industry.

Having the opportunity to work five Players Championships and a U.S. Senior Amateur has really opened my eyes to different beliefs on bunker maintenance. Is there really a perfect bunker in this world of golf? Understand the level of expectation for bunkers from your club, depending on the type of facility (public, private, resort, etc). Then develop your management programs to meet expectations. But it is still a hazard in the end isn't it?

tors that truly make the difference with regard to both aesthetics and playability.

With regard to edging, light and frequent should be the mantra if consistent quality is the goal. Staying on top of edging offers the benefits of better day-to-day eye appeal and most importantly less disruption of the native soils that are a constant threat to contaminate imported sands. Frequent edging does require adequate labor resources and any club that demands high-quality bunkers must address this as a true cost of maintenance

Frequency is also a key with regard to raking but, just as important as frequency, is how the bunkers are raked. While power rakes are well suited for removing footprints and preventing weeds from thriving in very large and flat bunkers, they are ill suited for raking smaller bunkers and those with any type of flashed sand. While many creative attempts have been made to mitigate the destructive aspects of factory-installed rakes, the best power rakes are still no match for the results obtained by careful hand raking. When was the last time you saw a tourna-

ment course on TV with bunkers not raked by hand?

Once again, hand raking requires adequate labor resources and any club that demands high-quality bunkers must address this as a true cost of maintenance. I repeat: how many courses would construct fewer bunkers if the true cost to properly maintain them were realistically addressed up front?

The challenge of meeting high player expectations with limited resources is one that does not appear to be going away anytime soon. Meeting this challenge will require all parties involved to honestly address the role of sand on our courses by creating realistic construction and maintenance budgets.

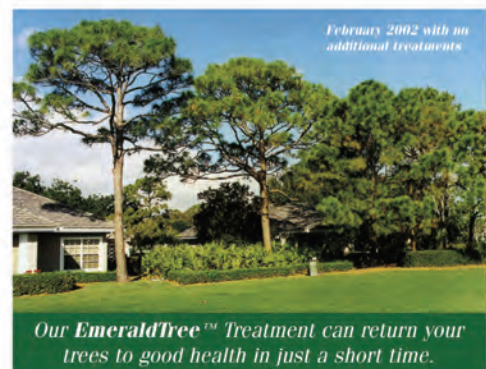
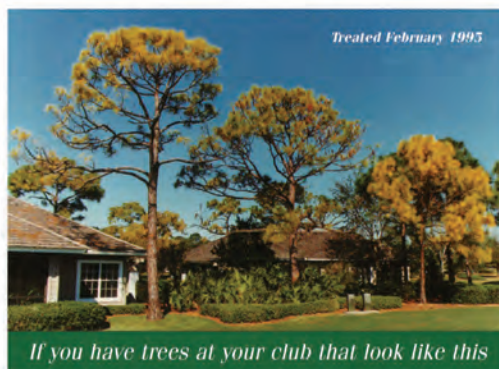
For new courses, this will require making fundamentally sound decisions about the style and quantity of bunkers as the design of the course develops. For existing courses, this will require an honest assessment of conditioning expectations matched with maintenance resources and the realization that the ultimate solution will most probably require the rebuilding of all improperly constructed bunkers and

the possible elimination of sand in order to find the proper balance.



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Professional Cup-Hole Cutting

By Michael Hoffman

The most valuable areas of a golf course are the greens and any activity that occurs on the greens should be the most meticulous, cautious and professional activity that transpires anywhere on the golf course. I have developed the following procedures over the years to help me and others do a thoroughly professional job of cup hole cutting and cup hole painting for daily operations and for tournaments.

CUP HOLE CUTTING PROCEDURES

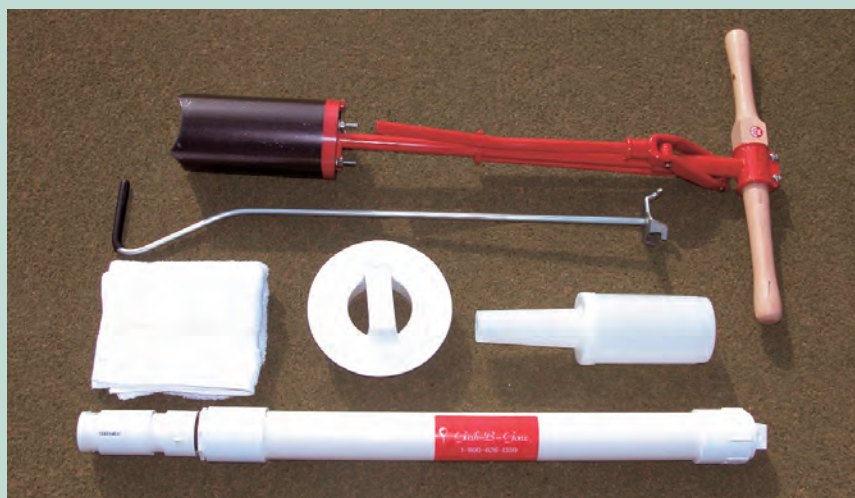
Determine the hole position either from a designated pin sheet or by using an approved rotation system as designated by your club. When using a pin sheet, pace the depth measurement from the front edge of the green and mark that dimension with your tool/sand container and then pace off any left or right distances.

For example a pin location designated 14/8 would be 14 paces from the front edge and 8 paces from the left or right edge as indicated on the pin sheet. Single numbers mean the location is in the center of the green.

Now that the position is determined, if you are using a twist-in or rotating-cut hole-cutter, hold the cup cutter 18-24 inches above the green and release it. I have found this produces a cleaner hole edge than just placing the cutter edge on the surface and twisting it in. Using this drop-release method, the cutter will generally penetrate the green surface 1.5-2 inches. Remove the cup cutter from the hole.

Release the grass plug into the container; wipe off the outside of the cutting cylinder with a towel. Carefully insert the cup cutter into the new starter hole. Bring the cup cutter to a perpendicular position by centering the level. Rotate the cup cutter left and right, exerting a downward pressure until the standard 7-inch depth is reached.

Please note that this should be done slowly while checking the level during the process. There are various devices



Items required for proper cup hole cutting – From the top: inside-bevel cup-cutter with level, cup puller, clean towel, cup setter, water bottle and a uni-par sand dispenser. Not pictured: a ball mark repair tool. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Recommended General Procedures

- Sharpen cup hole cutter weekly
- Carry the hole cutter in the cab of the utility vehicle and/or with a rubber mat to protect the cutting edge
- Use a container that is "edgeless" on the bottom to carry tools, sand, water, etc.
- Always wipe the bottom of the container before you arrive on the green
- If possible carry some green sand or purchase a ball mark tool that dispenses green Uni Par sand

and stops that can be used to indicate when the hole has reached the required depth when using the two-plug cutting method. I have found that by measuring 7 inches from the top of the scallops on the cutting shell and then painting a mark or applying a high visibility tape just above that mark gives me a good guide to achieve the proper regulation 7-inch overall depth.

Now slowly twist the cup cutter while at the same time lifting up on the handle to remove the cup cutter and plug from the hole. It is important to do this slowly to prevent soil from falling out of the cut cutter cylinder. If soil does fall out, carefully replace the cup cutter back into the hole. Once the cutter is all the way down in the hole, lift it up 1-2 inches and

The operator should have the following items when cutting cups:

- Pin sheet with hole locations
- Cup hole cutter with centering level
- Small water container
- Cut setter tool
- Small amount of sand
- Small clean towel
- Cup puller tool
- Ball mark repair tool
- Small flashlight
- Edgeless 5 gallon container

then gently push down recapture the soil that fell out. Again, slowly remove the cup cutter with a slight left/right rotation. Place the cup cutter into the container.

Clean off the inside and outside of the cup. With both hands insert it into the new hole rotating it left to right until the top of the cup is 2 inches above the green. With the water bottle apply a small amount of water around the outside of the cup. This will help keep the edge from drying out during the day. Also apply a small amount of water inside the cup. This can remove any residue that was not wiped out. It also helps clean the ferrule hole of any sand, dirt or debris that may cause the flagpole to bind. If you want to pre-check the flagpole angle to make sure its perpendicular and not leaning before using



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the cup setter, place the flagpole in the cup while it is still elevated slightly above the green. If it is leaning slightly, move it to perpendicular while in the cup and gently compress the area around the cup. Remove the flagpole and insert the cup-setter tool.

Insert the cup setting tool into the cup. Push down firmly until the rim of the cup setter touches the surface of the green. It is important not to force the cup setter. If you do not achieve full depth and surface contact with firm foot pressure, the hole was not cut to the proper depth. Remove the cup setter and cup and repeat Step 2. Remove the cup setter with a straight upward pulling motion. Do not twist or rotate the cup setter when removing it as it can damage the edge of the hole. Replace the flagpole and check to make sure it slides easily in and out of the ferrule.

To replace the plug in the old hole, clean off the cutting cylinder before you insert it into the hole. Place the cylinder into the hole making sure it is all the way to the bottom of the hole. Release the soil plug while keeping the cylinder contacting the bottom of the hole. Once the

soil plug is released, remove the cylinder from the hole. To ensure the soil plug is all the way to the bottom of the hole – reinsert and repeat the above steps. This helps prevent any possibility of the soil plug from sinking.

Remove any debris from the grass plug. Measure the thickness of the grass plug with your thumb. Use your thumb mark to measure how much, if any, soil you need to remove or add to achieve a level plug replacement. Gently insert the grass plug into the hole at a slightly tilted angle pushing in the front edge of the plug first towards the back edge that is inside of the hole. Push down on the plug so that it is level with the surrounding surface.

Use a ball mark repair tool to mesh the edges of the plug with the green's surface by inserting the tool about 1/2 inch in from the edge of the plug and twisting the tool outward. Sprinkle a small amount of water over and around the plug. This will help promote faster regrowth.

Finally, with very slight pressure tamp the plug with your foot. Sometimes a very slight twisting motion with your foot

will help mesh the edges. The tightness of the plug is critical. Test the surface around the plug for firmness. It should feel the same as the plug.

HOW TO PAINT CUP HOLES FOR TOURNAMENTS

The operator should have the same items utilized in daily cup hole cutting with the addition of the following items:

- Spray paint hole cover device
- Two cans of white hole paint
- Small cloth 8 x 8 inches
- A damp 24 x 24-inch overspray towel with a 5-inch diameter hole cut in the center

After the cup hole has been cut following the previous guidelines, the following procedures are to be used when painting the cup hole.

Prior to setting the cup with the cup setter, insert a small rag into the cup to cover the bottom of the cup.

Set the cup with the cup setter. Place the spray paint hole cover device into the cup

Place the damp 24" overspray towel around the cup hole cover device

Insert the spray paint can nozzle



Rules of Thumb

Left: Use your thumb to measure the remaining depth of the soil plug to the surface.

Below: By checking the "thumb length" on the side of the grass plug, you can judge how much soil to remove so the plug will fit properly. Photo by Joel Jackson.





Mike Hoffman demonstrates an easy way to check and adjust the straightness of the flag-pole by inserting it in the cup before it is set to its final depth. Photo by Joel Jackson.

into the hole cover device

Begin to spray by rotating the paint can 360 degrees clockwise. It is important to note the starting point for the spray pattern to avoid overlapping the paint. One 360 degree rotation is sufficient.

Remove the overspray towel.
Remove the hole cover device and place it

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on the towel to avoid getting any drips on the green.

Rotate the small cloth that is in the cup so that it collects any paint that is on the cup interior. Remove the cloth from the hole

Following these procedures will give you better results in your hole cutting and painting operation.

We have a 5-6 minute video available that demonstrates the entire hole-cutting procedure step by step, from pacing off the hole location to cutting the hole and replacing the plug as noted in this article, as well as some other helpful tips to improve your hole cutting process. The video is available in English or Spanish. Email: flachoff@cs.com or call 352-223-1900.

Editor's Note: *Mike Hoffman has many years experience in the golf course industry in golf operations and maintenance. He is currently the golf course maintenance service manager at the Isleworth G&CC. Hoffman is responsible for daily course set up, detailing and quality control. Hoffman has authored articles for various golf publications and holds several patents for golf course tools including the AccuPro cup cutter and a cup cutting level.*



A moist clean towel with a 3 inch hole cut in the center catches any overspray when painting tournament cups. A small cloth in the bottom of cup during painting is used to clean the sides of the cup as needed. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Sanding Tool

The UniPar sanding tool easily and quickly dispenses green sand to fill ball marks on the green. Using the UniPar tool like a pepper mill a light application of green sand can be made to blend in the edges of the replaced plug. Photos by Joel Jackson.





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Spreading the Good Word

By Darren J. Davis

If you have read previous "Super Tips" in *The Florida Green*, you know that I generally highlight unique tools or innovative solutions that my peers have developed. However, in this installment I am going to take a different course and speak on a topic that is near and dear to me — communication. This Super Tip will focus on communicating our value to others, or "spreading the good word" about the golf course management profession.

It is rare to come across a report that highlights the challenges, issues, and hard work of a golf course superintendent. However, it is all too common to stumble upon negative reports or viewpoints of the golf course industry and those connected with the vocation. For this reason, it is my belief that each of us needs to step out of our comfort zone and become diligent promoters of the trade that provides immense satisfaction and gainful employment.

When most people think about the duties of a golf course superintendent, they think about our agronomic responsibilities. If they have been educated about the profession, they might also understand the business aspect or people-management side of our vocation. However, those not directly connected to our line of work often are unaware of the countless auxiliary duties that we perform on behalf of our employers, those things that don't fall under the typical golf course superintendent job description. One example is the massive fund-raising efforts we undertake to subsidize turf-grass research that directly benefits our employers. A second example, and the topic of this article, is about promoting our profession to portray our occupation in a positive manner.

Many things I do relating to the golf course management profession come from suggestions or ideas that I have gained from my peers. The idea that I am writing about in this "Super Tip" came primarily from Joel Jackson, the commander and chief of our terrific magazine,

The Florida Green. Shortly after my fellow FGCSA board members and I were fortunate enough to entice him into early retirement and come aboard as director of communications for our association, Jackson began submitting short educational articles to golfer-oriented magazines and newsletters in the Central Florida area.

FLORIDA GOLF CENTRAL GOLF IS OUR GAME

These publications are distributed to golf course pro shops and retail outlets and are read by golfers, the people whom we superintendents are trying to influence and educate about the profession.

The idea stuck with me, and it resurfaced one afternoon last year when I was grabbing lunch at a nearby sandwich shop. While I waited for my hot Italian sub to be prepared, I began thumbing through a local ball and stick publication that was on the rack next to the *Homes and Land* magazine. In browsing through the magazine, I recalled the numerous articles that Jackson wrote and subsequently shared with the FGCSA board. After I finished my lunch I returned to the office with a copy of the publication.

So I wouldn't forget, I immediately e-mailed the publisher with the question, would he like me to supply him some editorial at no charge? Like many regional publications of this type, it provided its readers with scores, names of golfers who had holes in one, an instructional golf tip, and sometimes a few photos of area golf events. The editor responded to my e-mail with, "No promises but go ahead and send me something."

This email began a long-term relationship which has provided me an outlet to spread the good word on the positives of the profession and the hard work of my peers.

Just as Jackson was not looking for praise for his efforts, I am not seeking recognition for mine. I can honestly say that the most rewarding outcome of me

writing for the local golf magazine is when one of our peers reaps the benefits of having a golfer recognize what it is that their golf course superintendent does for them. The intended outcome of this editorial (Super Tip) is not to draw attention to Jackson's or my efforts, but rather entice others to follow suit.

So if you are asking where do I start? After getting the green light from a local publication, I suggest you look at your previous submissions in your club newsletter. More than likely with just slight modifications those articles will work well in this format.

My first few submissions came from stock articles that Jackson provided me and I modified to fit with my region of the state. Since then, I have submitted my own work monthly, 800 – 1200 words on topics including "Off the Beaten Path," an article on golf-car traffic and its devastating effects on turf; "Green Speed"; "Golf and the Environment," an editorial that highlighted the numerous positive impacts a golf course has on the environment and the community; "Water - A Precious and Expensive Resource," a discussion on the efforts made by golf course superintendents on water reduction; "The Augusta Syndrome – TV Golf is not a Reality Show;" "Jack of all Trades – A Look at Today's Golf Course Superintendent;" "The Language of a Golf Course Superintendent - A Primer of Terms"; "Grain or Grade," a discussion on the realities of grain on putting surfaces; "The Summer Culture – Cultural Practices Require Golfer Patience," and "Bunkers – A Hazard of the Game," an article that depicted the time and money that is poured into an area of the course that was once truly considered a hazard.

A few suggestions: remember your audience and speak on their level, prepare several editorials at once so that you can always meet your deadline, and finally submit your own photography so you can further highlight the issue you are addressing.

So what are you waiting for?
Spread the good word!



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From left, new GCSAA managing directors Bryce Gartner, marketing; Teri Harris, development; Hannes Combest, member programs; and Cam Oury, finance.

GCSAA Fills Vacant COO Post With Team of Directors

By Steve Mona, CAE

I have never been shy in recognizing the valuable contributions the GCSAA staff makes to the success of the golf course superintendent and the association as a whole. Since arriving at GCSAA almost 12 years ago, it has been my goal — and that of the elected leadership — to ensure that we are attracting, building and retaining a talented and motivated team.

I realize that as our staff develops, there will be those who leave us for other opportunities. I am proud that GCSAA has been able to further the career of several outstanding individuals.

As you know, Julian Arredondo left GCSAA earlier this year after 11 years of service on the executive staff, first as the chief financial officer and later as the chief operating officer. As is the case with all open positions, we evaluate the needs of the organization and align our resources to best meet them. While Julian's departure was a loss, we are fortunate that GCSAA has developed depth on its staff over time.

Therefore, in late June, I announced a new structure for our senior leadership level that provides the best means to accomplish organization goals — and serve the members. That decision came after spending considerable time speaking with industry leaders and peers within the association-management profession.

Normally, I would not consider staff organizational issues to be of significant importance to association members, but I also realize the GCSAA member-staff relationship is unique. There is a high-level of mutual respect and admiration between the two groups and a strong esprit de corps present that has served the association well. Because of this interaction, I am sharing some basics of the structure so the membership can gain a greater understanding of association operations.

The new management structure will not include a chief operating officer position. Rather, I will have four managing directors report to me, focusing on the areas of Member Programs (career services, education, environmental programs, meeting planning), Marketing

(communications, brand management, publications, technology), Development (Environmental Institute for Golf, corporate marketing and sales) and Finance (accounting, facilities, member solutions). Such a structure allows me direct and frequent access to those individuals conducting the day-to-day business affairs of the association. We have been operating under a similar structure since Julian's departure and have been pleased with the results.

The managing directors include Hannes Combest, member programs; Teri Harris, development; Bryce Gartner, marketing; and Cam Oury, finance. Each is considered an equal member of what internally is known as the Senior Leadership Team. Cam Oury will continue to execute the responsibilities he was assigned when hired to fill the chief financial officer position when Julian moved to chief operating officer. Cam will continue to use the CFO title when appropriate.

Having a talented staff is crucial to the success of GCSAA and ultimately its members. We employ a detailed staff development program that includes ongoing coaching, mid-and end-of-year reviews, 360 degree evaluations and individual development plans. We also evaluate our staffing resources and needs when positions become open, and in the budget and planning process.

With the changes I have noted and with the processes we have in place, I am confident we are making strong progress in the achievement of our mission, vision, goals and strategic indicators.

Editor's Note: *As we go to press, the GCSAA and Golf Course Owners Association have announced officially that the 2006 Golf Industry Show scheduled for New Orleans has been moved to Houston, Tex., which is also the site of the 2006 GCSAA Golf Championship. Check out the most recent information regarding registration and housing at www.gcsaa.org.*



Steve Mona, CAE
GCSAA Chief
Executive Officer

Plants of the Year

This is the last in the Plants of the Year series for 2005. This may be the last of this series for awhile. The FNGLA is reevaluating the program. The plants selected for this program have been found to be good performers in the Florida environment and require less maintenance and inputs. Here are two specimens for your consideration.



Common name: East Indian Holly Fern
Botanical name: *Arachniodes simplicior variegata*
Hardiness: Zones 7-10
Mature height and spread: 18-24 x 16-20
Classification: Ground cover masses in part shade to shade
Landscape use: The East Indian Holly Fern features evergreen leaves with yellow variegation along the midribs. It makes a good cut for floral arrangements and is best in light shade of trees, but is able to take sun if well watered.



Common name: Weeping Yaupon Holly
Botanical name: *Ilex vomitoria 'Pendula'*
Hardiness: Zones 7-9
Mature height and spread: 20-30 x 10-15
Classification: Multi-trunked tree
Landscape use: Striking accent plant
Characteristics: The Weeping Yaupon Holly features small, white flowers that blossom in the spring and red berries that appear in the fall and winter. Drooping branches give a narrow profile and a distinctive appearance to this evergreen tree. It is an excellent wildlife plant, native to Florida and is disease- and insect-free taking full sun or shade.

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EPA REVIEW PROCESS COMPLETE:

2,4-D Occupational and Residential Risks 'Not of Concern'

EPA News Release

The Environmental Protection Agency released its comprehensive assessment of the herbicide, 2,4-dichloro-phenoxy acetic acid (2,4-D), under the Agency's reregistration program Aug. 8. EPA's decision document concluded that 2,4-D does not present risks of concern to human health when users follow 2,4-D product instructions as outlined in EPA's 2,4-D Reregistration Eligibility Decision (RED) document.

The agency's announcement and release of the RED on 2,4-D completed a 17-year EPA review process. 2,4-D is a phenoxy herbicide discovered 60 years ago and is used worldwide for a wide variety of applications in agricultural, non-crop, residential, and aquatic settings. The agency concluded that acute and short-term margins of exposure for homeowner applications of 2,4-D to lawns were "not of concern."

Over the course of 17 years, the Industry Task Force II on 2,4-D Research Data developed and submitted to EPA more than 300 Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) toxicology, environmental and residue studies which EPA scientists reviewed to assess the herbicide's safety under the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA). Task Force members hold technical 2,4-D FIFRA registrations and include Dow AgroSciences (U.S.), Nufarm, Ltd. (Australia), Agro-Gor Corp., a U.S. corporation jointly owned by Atanor, S.A. (Argentina) and PBI Gordon Corp. (U.S.).

"The EPA's assessment of the human and environmental scientific data reinforces a growing number of regulatory decisions and expert reviews that conclude the use of 2,4-D according to product instructions does not present an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment," said Don Page, assistant executive director of the Industry Task Force II on 2,4-D Research Data.

"EPA's comprehensive findings are consistent with decisions of other authorities such as the World Health Organization, Health

Canada, European Commission and recent studies by the U.S. National Cancer Institute on 2,4-D", added Page.

EPA's RED assessment included a review of animal and human data, the latter in the form of epidemiology studies (the study of the incidence of disease in populations). EPA stated, "The Agency has twice recently reviewed epidemiological studies linking cancer to 2,4-D. In the first review, completed January 14, 2004, EPA concluded there is no additional evidence that would implicate 2,4-D as a cause of cancer (EPA, 2004). The second review of available epidemiological studies occurred in response to comments received during the Phase 3 Public Comment Period for the 2,4-D RED. EPA's report, dated December 8, 2004 and authored by EPA Scientist Jerry Blondell, Ph.D., found that none of the more recent epidemiological studies definitively linked human cancer cases to 2,4-D."

2,4-D, one of the most widely used herbicides in the U.S. and worldwide, is applied to crops such as wheat, corn, rice, soybeans, potatoes, sugar cane, pome fruits, stone fruits and nuts. It controls invasive species in aquatic areas and federally protected areas and broadleaf weeds in turf grass. An economic evaluation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (NAPIAP Report 1-PA-96) concluded that the loss of 2,4-D would cost the U.S. economy \$1.7 billion annually in higher food production and weed control expense

EDITOR'S NOTE: For more information about 2,4-D visit www.24d.org or call 800-345-5109.

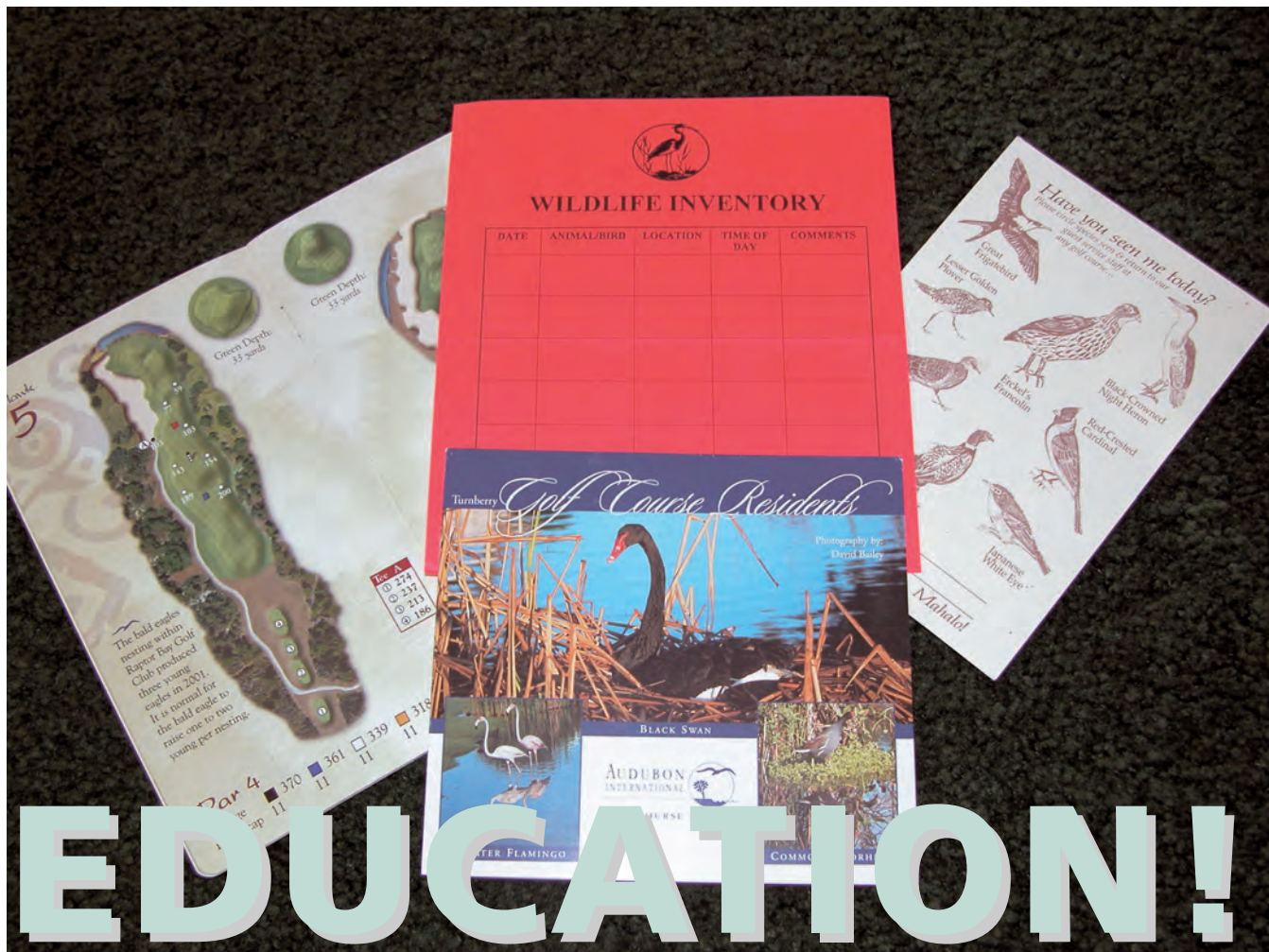
The agency's announcement and release of the RED on 2,4-D completed a 17-year EPA review process... The agency concluded that acute and short-term margins of exposure for homeowner applications of 2,4-D to lawns were 'not of concern.'



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EDUCATION!

My friends tell me that on occasion I sound like I'm preaching, because once I get stuck on an issue, I have a hard time letting it go. Well, my 'thing' for this article is outreach and education and the benefits to you when you do this correctly.

By Shelly Foy

Education.

It is an exciting time when our children start school. They start learning all kinds of interesting things; how to read and how to write their names, how to stay in a straight line, and how to tie their shoes. They also come home and repeat things they have learned at school like, "a baked Alaska is a cake with a fire in the middle of it," or "Mommy, do you know what the capital of Georgia is?" The answer is Athens, home of the Georgia Bulldogs, right? They have a thirst for knowledge, and it is very rewarding to watch it happening every day.

Education — we all got it, we all use it, and most importantly we all need to keep getting it. Fortunately, life is an ongoing education process. We learn by doing, by seeing, by reading, by watching and by listening. Some of us even still learn from our mistakes, and this is also a good thing.

I think that the most important part of the ACSP for Golf Courses is Outreach and

Education. Yet, this is the most overlooked, ignored, and put-off aspect of this program for almost every person who is working toward certification. Or worse, you do a couple of things just to get you through the certification process, and then you never think about education again. You are not getting the full benefit of the Audubon program if you are not taking outreach and education seriously and if you are not making them a regular part of your program.

You let your golfers know before you aerify because you don't want to have everyone complaining about you tearing up the golf course. Ideally you want them to understand that aerification is a basic part of golf course management and that if they want to have healthy turf, then they are going to have to put up with it from time to time. You hope that once they become educated about aerification they are not going to give you any more grief about it, and better yet, they are going to explain it to other golfers. You have benefited from sharing a little education with your members.

The same principle is true for the envi-



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ronmental programs on your golf course. You want to share this information so that the golfers will in turn share the information. Maybe one day when golf courses are getting slammed as being bad for the environment, lo and behold one of your very own golfers will take the stand that golf courses are good for the environment. They know this because their golf course superintendent took the time to educate them and share information with them. Hey, it could happen. More importantly, it needs to happen.

Forget about the ACSP for a minute.

Regardless of whether you are participating in this program (although I think you are crazy not to be), there are lots of reasons to tell your golfers how many different ways golf courses are good for the environment. The perfect example came to me when I was reading Joel Jackson's article "Responsibility Lacking, Not H-2-O" in the April 2005 issue of *Golfdom* Magazine.

He wrote, "According to a recent Golf Economic Impact study, there are 4 million acres of lawn turf and 140,000 acres of irrigated golf turf in Florida. The public sector uses 30% of the water; golf uses 3.5%. Agriculture (the biggest user of water) and golf (one of the smallest) still get hammered in the press, even though both manage and recycle water better than John Q. Public."

I believe that most of you knew that already, but answer this question truthfully: How many of you have shared that information with your golfers?

Here is another perfect example: Most of you know the information in the gray box elsewhere on this page, but have you shared it with anyone?

There is factual, unbiased university research to support each one of the above golf-course benefits. Got any idea how simple it would be to take one or two topics at a time and put a paragraph about them in your club newsletter or on the course Web site, or pin it up in the locker room?

The beauty of this is that the information is already written and out there, and all you have to do is reprint it. Who has time to reinvent the wheel these days? It is up to you to help educate golfers, and it takes very little effort on your part.

How do you communicate with your golfers? Post information, either on the course or in the clubhouse. Write monthly articles for your club newsletter. Speak to your golfers personally while you are out on the golf course. Is this enough?

Here are some simple ideas on ways to communicate effectively with your golfers.

- Take advantage of your club's Web site and newsletter. Writing a monthly or even quarterly article may seem daunting. Don't reinvent the wheel. The USGA, GCSAA, Audubon International and others have Web sites where you can download tons of information and reprint it. Just give credit to the folks you borrow it from and that is that.

The golf course ecosystem:

- Provides wildlife habitat
- Protects topsoil from water and wind erosion
- Improves community aesthetics
- Absorbs and filters rain
- Improves health and reduces stress for more than 25 million golfers
- Improves air quality
- Captures and cleanses runoff in urban areas
- Discourages pests (e.g. ticks and mosquitoes)
- Restores damaged land areas (e.g., former landfill or mining sites)
- Makes substantial contributions to the community's economy
- Converts carbon dioxide to oxygen
- Improves property values
- Can act as a firebreak
- Is often the only significant green space in an urban environment
- Lowers temperatures
- Filters dust and pollen in the air

- Craig Weyandt does a great job with his "Wild at Heart" column in his club's newsletter at The Moorings in Vero Beach. He picks one wildlife species that lives on his golf course and writes a few paragraphs about its life cycle, what it eats, its benefits to the environment, etc... and he includes a picture. Craig would be the first to tell you that the information is easily accessible from a variety of books and Web sites.

Consumer Golf Show Pays Off

On March 19 and 20, the MetGCSA sponsored a booth at the Journal News Golf Show in White Plains N.Y. The weather was a perfect spring day. When I arrived, there were 600 or so people waiting at the door for the 10 a.m. opening. By the end of the day more than 1,350 tickets had been sold. The show featured more than 75 different golf exhibits. Everything from area courses selling memberships, to the gentleman selling hand-rolled cigars.

We borrowed a display from Audubon International. If you wanted a good laugh you should have been there when I put it up. I must say though, that after all was said and done, the booth looked pretty sharp. Audubon also donated a golf print of Pebble Beach. In order to be eligible to win the print golfers had to fill out a quick questionnaire (*See facing page*). We collected more than 60 surveys. The responses were very positive. Most golfers do view their courses as being good for the environment and would be willing to travel further and pay a little more for golf courses that have demonstrated good environmental stewardship. We also had rule books to give out complements of the USGA.

and literature from GCSAA and our local *Tee to Green* publication.

The show generated a lot of interest. We answered a wide variety of questions from goose control to organic fertilizers. Tim Moore said he spoke with a reporter from a golf magazine with the possibility of writing some articles. It's that kind of networking that can become invaluable.

I would like to thank the people who helped man the booth. Chuck Denny, Glenn Perry, Glenn Dube, Tim Moore, Blake Halderman, Peter Waterous, and my daughter Megan. I would also like to thank Dave Oatis from the USGA for the *Rules of Golf* books and literature, Shelly Howard from the GCSAA, and JoEllen Zeh from Audubon International for letting us borrow her display.

In closing I think the show went quite well. We were able to pass out a lot of good information. It was a great place to stand on a pedestal and tell the golfing world what we do and how we do it and that golf courses are good for the environment.

Matthew Ceplo CGCS

- Pet Peeve: Don't put your ACSP prints, certification certificates, etc on the wall in the maintenance facility! How many of your golfers make it down to your office to check this out? Display these things in a more public area. You worked hard for your ACSP certifications. Share them with more people other than your maintenance staff.

- Host a "Wild" photography contest. Get with club officials and come up with some prizes, categories and basic, easy rules. Write a little information. Post it on the website in your newsletter, the locker rooms, the clubhouse, the pro shop, etc. Display all the entries and make a party of it one night. Let your members/golfers vote on winners, and just make it fun. One of the basic simple rules should be that the photographs are taken on the property. You are getting the management involved and your golfers/members involved in the project, and you are highlighting the environmental assets of your property.

- Displays can be scary. However, and this is my secret tip of the day: If you hate doing displays, give that job to someone else. If I were the boss and if I were charming enough, I could find someone who would love to do this. Now, I have seen displays of all kinds and styles; big budgets with built-in cabinets, all the way to poster boards. You know your golfers/members. What will attract their attention? Make it really nice, or make it simple. Just find a place in the clubhouse to display it.

- Lots of folks have created some nifty brochures of all kinds. From information sheets on a particular subject such as wetlands preservation that are posted around the clubhouse, to brochures that describe the club's involvement in the ACSP and the projects they have implemented or are planning, to beautiful topographies of native vegetation, to laminated sheets that list why golf courses are good for the environment.

There are some pretty creative folks out there. I have to say that some of my all-time favorite Florida-specific brochures have come from David Bailey at Turnberry Isle Resort & Club. David is an incredible photographer and the club has utilized his talent in creating some very nice color brochures that depict plant and wildlife species that can be found on the course. One is called "Golf Course Residents" and has descriptions of more than 35 of the most common birds found on the course, as well as some spectacular photos from David. The other is a "Botanical Tour" of the property that not only lists plant materials, but has great photos as well, and even Trivia/Facts from the Landscaping Department.

Win a \$200 Golf Art Print!!!

2004 Golf & Environment Survey

Audubon International is working with golf organizations such as the United States Golf Association and the PGA of America to learn more about golfers' perspectives on golf and the environment across the United States. Please take a few minutes to complete the following survey. Each completed survey will be entered into a drawing for a golf art print, valued at \$200. You may enter only once, and the winner will be notified by November 30, 2004.

1. How often do you golf each year (circle one)? *Over 25 times/year* *8-14 times/year* *Less than 8 times/year*
2. What type of golf courses do you play at primarily (circle one)?

<i>Daily Fee</i>	<i>Private/Club</i>	<i>Municipal</i>	<i>Resort</i>	<i>Other:</i> _____
------------------	---------------------	------------------	---------------	---------------------
3. Do you feel that it's important to protect the natural environment (circle one)? *Yes* *No*
4. Do you belong to any local, state, or national conservation or environmental groups?
Yes *No* *If Yes, which groups:* _____
5. What type of effect do you believe golf courses have on the natural environment?
Negative/Harmful *Positive/Beneficial* *No Effect Either Way*
6. Would you pay more to play at a golf course that had been certified as "eco-friendly"? *Yes* *No*
7. Have you ever heard of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses?
Yes *No* *If Yes, where?:* _____
8. Are you aware of ever playing at a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary golf course?
Yes *No* *If Yes, where?:* _____
9. Would you ever seek out certified, environmentally-friendly golf courses in order to play them? *Yes* *No*
10. Would you want the course(s) where you play enrolled in a voluntary environmental program and working to reduce the environmental impacts of its day-to-day operations (chemical use, water use, etc.)?
Yes *No* *Don't Care*
11. Would you ever consider joining a national group of golfers interested in protecting the natural environment?
Yes *No* *If Yes, what fee would you pay to join?:* _____

Thank you for your participation. To be entered into the drawing for the golf art print (valued at \$200), please provide the following contact information:

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Phone (optional): _____
 Email (optional): _____

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Survey used by Metropolitan GCSA. See Consumer Golf article page 50.

- WCI's Raptor Bay Golf Club in Bonita Springs also has a spectacular yardage book that has tons of information about the golf course, as well as great pictures. However, on each page they also list environmental facts about the golf course or environmental projects to notice on a particular hole.

- An easy way to get some buy-in with environmental programs is to enlist the help of your golfers in creating a wildlife inventory. This can be done in several ways. One simple way is to just have a book in the clubhouse where golfers

can list wildlife sightings. Tip: Make it a nice book, not a spiral-bound \$1 version from the local discount store.

- Several golf courses have created some very nice information cards that can go right on the golf cart. The famous "Have you seen me today" card from Kapalua has pictures of birds, and all golfers are asked to do is circle the ones they see while they are out playing golf. These information cards are inexpensive ways to get member involvement. Remember, there is a chance that once they actually take their eyes off

the golf ball and look around the golf course, they just might actually get into the wildlife you have and start noticing some of the other great environmental benefits of golf courses as well.

- A lot of you are now including “wildlife tours” in your seasonal programs. There are folks from local Audubon chapters, or retired ornithologists like George McBath in Naples, who will come out to the golf course and lead your members/golfers on tours. Craig Weyandt at the Moorings Club in Vero Beach leads his own tours. He just wrote an article about this in the last issue of the Florida Green, so dig it out, go back and re-read it. Matt Taylor at Royal Poinciana has George McBath come out and do “grandchildren tours”. After the tour they give each child a bag filled with goodies. Closest way to a grandparent’s heart? Through their grandchildren.

- Some people have school groups

come and tour the golf course. Let me just say for any of you out there who may be confused on this matter, you are not required to have kids on your golf course in order to achieve certification in Outreach and Education through the ACSP. I am truly amazed at how many of you still believe this and how many of you use this as an excuse to not get involved in the program.

Don’t get me wrong, it is wonderful to educate children about the environmental benefits of golf courses, and if you can bring them out to the golf course, please do so. Ever heard of the trickle-down effect? Kids hear something at school; come home and tell mom and dad, grandma, the neighbors, the family dog, etc. However, in a lot of situations, you are better off in my opinion, spending the time educating your own golfers/members.

I heard through the grapevine that the

Don’t put your ACSP prints, certification certificates, etc. on the wall in the maintenance facility! How many of your golfers make it down to your office? You worked hard for your ACSP certifications. Share them with people other than your maintenance staff!

owner of the Indian River Club in Vero Beach loves to have school tours at his club, and has even offered \$100 to the school that spots a bald eagle during their tour.

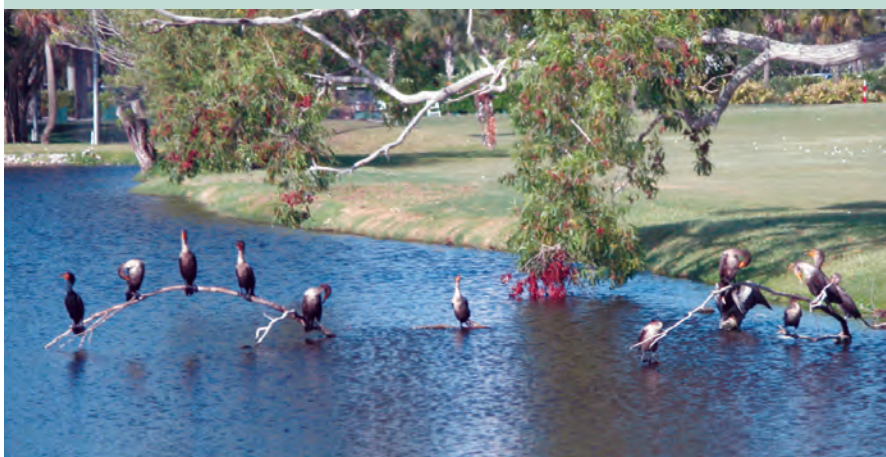
These are just a few ideas of outreach and education ideas going on around the state. One last thing I would like to share with you as a potential chapter or state project is something that the MetGCSA in New York did in 2004. They borrowed a display from Joellen Zeh at Audubon International and took it to a local golf show.

Several of their superintendents manned the booth during this educational show and took turns telling the golfing world what it is they do, how they do it and explaining why golf courses are good for the environment. They also had Audubon donate an art print, and everyone who took the time to fill out a one-page survey had a chance to win the print. Please see the survey reprinted in the Stewardship section. They collected more than 60 surveys that day and learned that golfers do view their golf courses as being good for the environment and that they would be willing to travel further and pay a little more for golf courses that demonstrated good environmental stewardship.

Hopefully I have convinced some of you to take a closer look at your outreach and education philosophies and make some changes that will benefit everyone. There are a handful who are doing an incredible job on this topic, and there are those who think they are doing a good job, and unfortunately there are many who aren’t doing much at all.

So you may agree with my friends who tell me that I “preach” too much, but trust me, all this is for your own good, as well as for the good of your industry.

ACSS Update



New Florida Members

- Country Club at Boca Raton**, Randy Bushway, Palm Beach GCSA
- Doral Golf Resort & Spa**, Eric VonHofen, South Florida GCSA
- Kelly Greens G&CC**, Anthony Dumas, Ft. Myers
- Links at Greenfield Plantation**, Mark Todd, Bradenton
- Okeehoelee GC**, Jim Witt, CGCS, West Palm Beach
- Tampa Palms G&CC**, Bill Kistler, West Coast GCSA
- Wycliffe G&CC**, Steve Tilley, Palm Beach GCSA

New Florida Certifications

- Old Marsh** – Recertified
- Brooksville CC at Majestic Oaks** – Recertified
- Copperleaf GC** – Environmental Planning
- WCI - Club Renaissance at Sun City Center** – Environmental Planning
- The Jupiter Ritz Carlton Golf Club & Spa** – Environmental Planning, Resource Conservation and Water Quality Management





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Rock On, Uncle Freddy!

The Uncle Freddy Band rocks at a Memorial Day barbecue in Casselberry.

By Joel Jackson

All work and no play can make Jack a dull superintendent. One group of superintendents has found a unique way to unwind and relieve the stress of maintaining manicured Central Florida golf courses. They get together once a week and have a jam session playing classic rock music for their own enjoyment and decompression. Occasionally they perform publicly at the Kerryman's Pub in Altamonte Springs and at a couple of private parties. But the main goal is just jamming for the fun of it.

The Uncle Freddy Band, as they are known, is the result of a road-tripping bull session between Lake Nona superintendent Brett Harris and John Kopack, then superintendent of the Legacy Club at Alaquá. They were on a holy pilgrimage to golf's Mecca, Augusta National, in 2002 when they discovered they had a common love for music.

Both had been involved in bands years ago. Harris no longer owned a drum set and hadn't played in nearly 12 years. But the musical conversations continued back in Orlando over beers after Central Florida Chapter monthly meetings. Soon Jack Kress, the superintendent at The Alaquá Club, and his mechanic, Steve Kulka, became regulars in the bull sessions until they finally agreed to meet and just goof around.

They drew from Blues, R&B and classic rock performers like Elvis, Joe Walsh, Stevie

Ray Vaughan among others to create a play list. By mid-2003 they had 25 songs they could play reasonably well. Well enough that, after a year of weekly Friday jam/practice sessions they made their public debut at the Central Florida Superintendent/Vendor Tournament in February 2004 at Deltona Hills. Originally they called themselves "Supt-Up" (Souped Up), but later changed the name to The Uncle Freddy Band.

Subsequent appearance offers didn't come rolling in, but John Kopack's favorite watering hole, the Kerryman's Pub agreed to let them perform under the beer tent in the parking lot on St. Patrick's Day. They have done a couple of gigs at Kerryman's. It was Brett on drums, Jack Kress and Steve Kulka on lead and rhythm guitars, John on vocals and a mean tambourine and Wayne from the Kerryman's on bass guitar.

Wayne moved on a short time later and Mike Hamilton, head mechanic from the Ventura Golf Club, filled in on bass for awhile and is still the group's sound man. It turned out that Mike Dean, John's assistant superintendent at the Legacy Club also played bass and, according to Brett, may be the most talented musician of the bunch.

The musical influences within the group are Jack (Blues), Steve (Classic Rock) and Mike (Master of improvising). Brett says, "Wherever we perform we need a little room for the sonic blast. The mashers definitely outnumber the finesse boys." While the group has concentrated on covering tunes from known bands,

...the fun-loving, stress-relieving turf gurus meet weekly in an un-air-conditioned warehouse in Altamonte Springs. They drag out some fans and a barbecue grill and have steaks or ribs while jamming on a Friday night.

Steve has been writing some original songs for the band.

The group used to practice in John's office in the golf course maintenance building, and then they moved into a vacant rental home until it was, duh, rented. Now the fun-loving, stress-relieving turf gurus meet weekly in an un-air-conditioned warehouse in Altamonte Springs. They drag out some fans and a barbecue grill and have steaks or ribs while jamming on a Friday night. Coincidentally it turns out this warehouse complex is also the practice home to several area pro bands. Who knew?

The group has no aspirations for a professional music career. They like to perform in public to get the crowd feedback and maybe help defray some expenses, but they are content to mostly play for themselves for the fun and relaxation on Friday nights. Rock on!

The Quarterly Question

What do you do away from work to relieve stress or just balance your life beyond turfgrass?

EDITOR'S NOTE: We're introducing a new feature, "The Quarterly Question." We will ask FGCSA members one question each issue to shed some light on the range of positive, negative and humorous and experiences we have all had along the way.

I go out on my boat and get away. Sometimes just to cruise but most of the time to go fishing.
Chris Neff, Timaquana CC

I build, repair and service guitars and play in a classic rock band.
Brett Harris, Lake Nona G&CC

A group of superintendents and suppliers get together once in awhile for fishing expeditions. I also coach and/or help support my kid's sports teams.
Matt Taylor, Royal Poinciana CC

I settle back and enjoy a glass of merlot, cabernet or an Italian red.
Darren Davis, Olde Florida GC

Twelve superintendents in the Everglades GCSA have earned their boat captain's licenses.
Mark Black, Quail West GC

I am an NCAA football referee."
Mike Mongoven, Shell Point GC

I am a Civil War history buff.
Mark Jarrell, Palm Beach National GC

Is it lobster season yet?
Paul Crawford, Palm Beach CC

I try to go skiing once a year. Colorado is great. Been to Winter Park, Aspen, Crested Butte, and Breckenridge. Park City Utah is another great

spot. Easy in and out of Salt Lake and a 50-minute drive to Deer Valley, Park City and The Canyons slopes. I have been lucky enough to take the family most of the time and also spent time with just the boys. We have been out skiing with other families as well: Steve Wright from Boca West; Ken Ezell of Clifton, Ezell and Clifton; and M.G. Orender. I would like to go more than once per year, but time never seems to be abundant enough. Great scenery, great exercise, and just a whole different get a way.
Tom Alex, Grand Cypress Resort

We like to travel. Highlights so far: The Carolinas; California Coast and Palm Springs; Pacific Northwest; Minnesota; London, Edinburgh and St. Andrews."
Joel Jackson, Florida GCSA

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Photo Contest Results

Category 4 - Scenic Hole



First Place (tie) — A Florida Holly frames sunrise on the 12th Tee at Bent Tree, Sarasota. Photo by Tom Biggy



First Place (tie) — Sunrise on the 18th Hole. Photo by Teri Hoisington, Lansbrook GC, Palm Harbor.

These views show some of the many daily benefits of working on a golf course.

Congratulations to the winners. The judges declared a tie.

2006 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 the highest resolution setting on a camera rated at least 2.2 megapixels and saved as JPEG or TIF (or TIFF) format images. For the technically inclined, we need at least 1800 pixels by 1200 pixels (2.16 megapixels) of digital information to print a 6x4-inch image at 300 dpi. 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-inch 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, or 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.

6. Mail entries in a bend-proof package marked, "PHOTOS DO NOT BEND" to Joel Jackson, 6780 Tamarind Circle, Orlando, 32819. Entries post-marked after August 1, 2006 will be automatically entered in the 2007 Photo Contest.



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3-2-1 BLASTOFF

After a two-year hiatus, the U.S. successfully launched the Space Shuttle Discovery from Cape Canaveral. I don't remember the circumstances surrounding the day, but I remember being home and watching the launch on my 50-inch, high-definition TV. What a wonderful and glorious sight it was with all the rumbling, roaring, fire, and smoke associated with the initial blastoff.

Fast forward a couple of weeks to August 11. The launching of little white balls began at Baltusrol. I was absolutely horrified to watch not just Tiger, John, and Phil hitting it over 300 yards every

AS IT LIES



Jim Walker

time they teed off, but the entire field was bombing it out of sight. Then came the Ladies Amateur won by Morgan Pressel, a high-school senior who was hitting it 260 yards. The *coup de gras* was the World Championship at Firestone where, on one particular hole, the entire field of 64 hit it 300 yards-plus except for two weaklings who only got it out in the 290s. On one hole, Tiger hit it 340 and was still behind Mike Weir. That's correct, the little Canadian who must be all of 5-7 and 140 pounds soaking wet smoked it 365 yards. Enough of the groundwork, my point is the ball is going too far, and anyone who doesn't think so is looking at the world — or in this case, golf course — through rose-colored glasses.

Now I don't want to sound like a bitter old frump who can't hit it out of his own shadow anymore, but where is this all going to end? The equipment has gotten so good, along with the players and their strength conditioning and personal sports psychologists that every golf course in the world is too short unless it is tricked up with rough 4 inches long and greens faster than the speed of light.

I played a course recently where I had a downhill 8-footer for birdie that missed and went 6 feet past the hole. Not because I hit it too hard, but because gravity wouldn't let it stop any sooner. It was

like putting a ball from the back of your bathtub and trying to stop it short of the drain.

I know the USGA and the R&A have had a tough time trying to keep the lid on the equipment frenzy over the last 10 years or so, and the whole thing has been driven by the manufacturers who have turned the game into a corporate sideshow with each one jockeying for a bigger share of the marketplace.

Our balls go farther, are softer, and don't spin as much. Our drivers are bigger and better. They are made with space-age alloys, and are the size of two-slice toasters. Let's don't forget the shaft — which spent two years in development — and you can have it all for about the same price as a small Japanese car. But it's worth it, because if you hit it in the sweet spot it will drive the ball 8 yards farther.

Ninety-five percent of the golfing public can't break 100 and may not hit one ball dead solid perfect in a round. They would be just as well off with the clubs they had 10 years ago, provided it was quality equipment to begin with, but the equipment folks keep grinding out the new products every year to feed the financial corporate giants of the game. Their talking head marketing folks do one hell of a job convincing people that this year's equipment will add distance and lower their scores. There's about as much chance of that happening as the U.S. military finding Osama Bin Laden, and giving him his own personal 9-11.

In preparing to write this article I contacted the USGA and spoke to Carter Rich who is the manager of equipment rulings. He pointed me in the right direction of which USGA Web sites to visit to get some nuts and bolts, and he was most helpful and polite. I want to further state that nothing I have written thus far — or will write to this article's conclusion — was said or implied by Mr. Rich.

There is a "Joint Statement of Principles" put forth by the USGA and the R&A that states in part: "...the game has seen progressive developments in the clubs and balls available to golfers who, throughout six centuries, have sought to improve their playing performance and enjoyment.

"The R&A and the USGA continue to believe that the retention of a single set of rules for all players of the game, irrespective of ability, is one of golf's greatest strengths.

"The R&A and the USGA regard the prospect of having permanent separate rules for elite competition as undesirable and have no current plans to create separate equipment rules for highly skilled players.

"Golf balls used by the vast majority of highly skilled players today have largely reached the performance limits for initial velocity and overall

There was just so much stuff coming down the pike at once that they blinked a couple of times, got threatened with a few lawsuits and here we are with a 15-year-old girl hitting it 300 yards!

distance.

"The R&A and the USGA believe however, that any further significant increases in hitting distances at the highest level are undesirable."

They go on to say that lengthening courses is cost prohibitive and have negative environmental and ecological issues. It would also slow the pace of play and playing costs would increase.

So it's safe to say that the rule-makers are very aware of what's going on in the game of long ball: hitting for the fences, taking it deep.

So, here's what happens: You take a ball with 432 dimples which is 1.682 inches in diameter, weighs 1.59 ounces, put it on a tee 2-1/2 inches long, and hit it with a driver with a head that fills 460 cc, has a coefficient of restitution of .83, on the end of a high-tech shaft. The ball is in contact with the clubhead for 450 microseconds, hit with 2,000 pounds of force, compresses one-fourth of its diameter, and — if properly hit — has backspin making it fly as wings make an airplane fly.

My personal take on the situation is that the governing bodies got caught with their pants down because everything hit at the same time. They were testing clubs and balls, but not launch angles or aerodynamics. They didn't see the guys in the gym getting stronger. They didn't see them throw away their cigarettes and drinking Perrier or diet soda instead of scotch and beer. There was just so much stuff coming down the pike at once that they blinked a couple of times, got threatened with a few lawsuits and here we are with a 15-year-old girl hitting it 300 yards!

Yes, she's a great player... but 300 yards?

The rule makers are back on track and need our support to keep the game we all love safe from the corporate techies. If you do not belong to the USGA, join! Visit their Web site at www.usga.org and see what they are doing to protect our game. In particular, look at the list of non-conforming clubs and balls. So much technology, so little time.

See you on the range... or maybe in orbit.

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This column isn't about turfgrass issues. It's about trying to live in the 21st century.

OK! Now I have seen it all. Spray-on Mud for SUV owners who want to look like off-roaders but never get past the city limits or off the Interstate or, as the Orlando Sentinel newspaper article said, "...send out rugged vibes even though you go no farther than the corner market."

It is a mixture of water and real dirt strained to remove stones and debris with a "secret" adhesive that helps it stick to the vehicle's body. It will be available in the U.S. and Canada within a few months. The British

inventor says he can't keep up with the Internet orders.

A spokesman for the Sport Utility Vehicle Owners of America says he wouldn't be surprised if the product sold well in America. He also said, "There are some who would buy this product to show how macho they are." But he also added that he feared it could fuel more SUV-bashing as evidence that people don't really need these gas guzzlers to go off road.

In another departure from reality, a new cottage industry is springing up that is made up of people who have real life skills like sewing, knitting and cooking. They are being hired by members of the younger generations of parents who, for whatever reason, never learned the basic skills of home economics.

These people who can operate computers and camera cell phones just can't boil water, fry an egg or bake a cake. So they are hiring people to show their kids how to accomplish the staples of life. I guess on balance that is a good thing. My thirty-something daughter is one of a few of her age group who actually cooks meals and bakes things. Admittedly she isn't much of a seamstress, but I am proud to say she is pretty practical and self-sufficient overall.

Let's all agree that Hurricane Katrina was a terrible disaster and that there's plenty of blame to go around for the mounting loss of life and sheer lack of preparedness for a known dangerous storm. But you've got to be kidding when there was the guy on CNN who reportedly flew to New Orleans from California expressly to experience the hurricane. They gratuitously showed the video he shot from his waterfront hotel showing the storm surge, all the while admonishing the audience not to take such a risk for 15 seconds of fame.

I think we are all shaking our heads at reporters trying to make a coherent report of hurricane

I think we are all shaking our heads at reporters trying to make a coherent report of hurricane conditions while being buffeted by winds and rain and then tell people not to go outside. Duh! One of these days a piece of wind-blown debris... oh well, the ratings will soar.

conditions while being buffeted by winds and rain and then tell people not to go outside. Duh! One of these days a piece of wind-blown debris... oh well, the ratings will soar. Do these reporters have to sign a waiver or can their families sue the network or station for placing them in jeopardy?

Here are a few more things that make no sense these days. We have ripped and frayed blue jeans fresh off the rack and faded fabrics that make a shirt look like it's ready for Good Will. There are bullet-hole decals finding their way onto cars and trucks as if road rage violence wasn't already an issue. There are virtual pets you take care of with a hand-held device and radio controlled robot doggies, although those are yesterday's toys for people who have forgotten real life.

And this just in from David Robinson, associate director of grounds operations for Marriott Golf: "In the Thursday Sept. 1, 2005 edition of *The Wall Street Journal*, Personal Journal section there was a special advertising section for the Deutsche Bank Championship. Within this section was a part titled "Getting The Course Ready." In my rudimentary thinking process, I actually thought this would be an interview with the golf course superintendent. Wrong. It was with the general manager. He did manage to mention the superintendent. He also mentioned the "ergonomic" experts from the PGA Tour who would help troubleshoot the course. That's right, "ergonomic." At least the operators will be comfortable with little fatigue. I thought you might find this funny as well as disturbing."

"Thanks for sharing, Dave. I'll bet there are a lot of us looking for an ergonomic flymow. Oh well, we've endured pet rocks, cans of souvenir air from wherever and pregnant pig gestation crates in our own state constitution. Now back to spray on mud. I mean, are we nuts or what? The next thing you know, they will be inventing green paint for turfgrass.

Oops, I'd better go now."

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