



The Florida Green

Spring 2005



Number 13
Marsh Creek Country Club
Saint Augustine
Photo by Daniel Zelazek



President Joe Pantaleo
Indian Creek C.C.
52 Indian Creek Drive
Indian Creek, FL 33154
(305) 866-7224

VicePresident Craig Weyandt
The Moorings Club
100 Harbour Drive
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(772) 231-4996

Secretary/Treasurer Matt Taylor
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PO Box 7039
Naples, FL 34101
(239) 261-4987

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Johns Island Club
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Johns Island Club
(772) 231-1700
- West Coast Bill Kistler**
Tampa Palms G&CC
(813) 972-3375

Staff

Association Manager Marie Roberts
1760 NW Pine Lake Dr.
Stuart, FL 34994
Phone: Days (772) 692-9349
(800) 732-6053 (Florida WATS)
(772) 692-9654 (Fax)
fgcsa123@bellsouth.net (E-mail)



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SPOTLIGHT: SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

Stuart Leventhal, CGCS, superintendent of the Interlachen Country Club, was named Golfweek's SuperNews Superintendent of the Year.

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SPOTLIGHT: GOLF INDUSTRY SHOW

The 2005 Golf Industry Show was a success in its debut this past February in Orlando as the combined conference and show for both the Golf Course Owners Association and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

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COVER STORY: MARSH CREEK

Just south of the historic city of St. Augustine, A1A veers right to stay along the beach and County Road 3 continues straight ahead, leading to the entrance of Marsh Creek, which is a country club community that opened its gates almost 20 years ago

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS: GOLF MINING IN TALLAHASSEE

The 2005 Florida GCSA delegation was joined by Gulf Coast GCSA Director Scott Sewell and FGCSA lobbyist Mike Goldie to lobby for support for a matching funds proposal for statewide donations made for turfgrass research

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RESEARCH: ULTRADWARF DECLINE

A team of UF researchers proposes to investigate significant disease problems in ultradwarf bermudagrass putting greens reported by more than 200 golf courses

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SUPERINTENDENTS JOURNAL: WE DO GREEN BEST

Bill Davidson, superintendent at Naples Grande Golf Club, decided that nobody does green better than golf course superintendents, so he entered the Everglades GCSA in Naples' annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.

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Editor Joel Jackson, CGCS

FGCSA Director of
Communications
Address Florida Green business to:
6780 Tamarind Circle
Orlando, FL 32819
(407) 248-1971 Florida Green voice/fax
E-mail address: FLGrn@aol.com

Publications Chairman Craig Weyandt

The Moorings Club
100 Harbour Drive
Vero Beach, FL 33433
(772) 231-4996

Business Manager Darren J. Davis

Olde Florida GC
19393 Vanderbilt Beach Rd.
Naples, FL 34120
(239) 353-4441

Editor Emeritus Dan Jones, CGCS

Oviedo

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CALL FOR ARTICLES

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

Summer 2005 - Ultradwarf Greens Management

Fall 2005 - Bunker Design and Maintenance

Winter 2006 - The role of the Second Assistant Superintendent

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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CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

Brecht. Matthew Brecht is a graduate research assistant, UF/IFAS; 352-392-3631; fax 352-392-6532; mbrecht@ifas.ufl.edu

Charpinsky. Jonathan Charpinsky is assistant superintendent, Card Sound Golf Club; 305-394-3400; charps247@hotmail.com

Cisar. John Cisar, Ph.D. is professor of turfgrass science, UF/IFAS Ft. Lauderdale REC; 954-475-8990; fax 954-475-4125; jlci@mail.ifas.ufl.edu

Datnoff. Lawrence Datnoff, Ph.D. is professor of plant pathology, UF/IFAS; 352-392-3631; fax 352-392-6532; ledatnoff@ifas.ufl.edu

Davidson. Bill Davidson is superintendent, Naples Grande GC;

Davis. Darren Davis is director of golf operations, Olde Florida GC; 941-353-4441; fax 941-353-5947; darrenjuddavis@aol.com

Foy. John Foy is director, Florida Region, USGA Green Section; 561-546-2620; fax 561-546-4653; jfoyl@usga.org

Foy. Shelly Foy is ACSP coordinator, Florida Region, USGA Green Section; 561-546-2620; fax 561-546-4653; sfoyl@usga.org

Jackson. Joel Jackson, CGCS is director of communications, Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association; 407-248-1971; fax 407-248-1971; flgrn@aol.com

Jamerson. Kim Jamerson is a media relations specialist, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; 850-488-1638; fax 850-488-1961; www.myfwc.com

Kieffer. Larry Kieffer is executive editor, Janlark Communications Inc.; 863-398-4057; publications@janlark.com

Mackay. Jean Mackay is director of educational services, Audubon International; 518-767-9051; fax 518-767-9076; jmackay@audubonintl.org

Maguire. Andy Maguire is superintendent, Marsh Creek CC; 904-471-5212; fax 904-461-6729

Ondo. Joe Ondo, CGCS is superintendent, Winter Pines GC; 407-657-7565; fax 407-671-3420

Pantaleo. Joe Pantaleo is superintendent, Indian Creek CC; 305-866-7224; fax 305-861-2673; jpantaleo@earthlink.net

Stiles. Carol Stiles, Ph.D. is assistant professor of plant pathology, UF/IFAS; 352-392-3631 x 382; fax 352-392-6532; cstiles@mail.ifas.ufl.edu

Walker. Jim Walker is superintendent, Greynolds Park Golf Course; 305-945-3425; fax 305-945-3428

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Looking to Score an Ace

After an unusual year of weather here in Florida, the advent of our active growing season could not have arrived soon enough. The year of hurricane activity was widespread, leaving no portion of the state untouched. Followed by a cool and dry winter, most of us are excited about the opportunity to strengthen our turf through our much-needed spring turf renovation programs. Those close to last year's hurricane

damage are probably planning those necessary tree-trimming chores that sometimes get overlooked. Everyone should have learned valuable lessons on managing our

golf facilities from our not-so-pleasant experiences in 2004. Hopefully, we are all taking steps to stay ahead of the game this spring, summer and beyond.

One of our goals for the year is to improve communication and coordination throughout our 12 chapters, with our national association — GCSAA — and other allied groups within our industry. This goal could not have gotten a bigger kick-start than from our recently completed, first ever Golf Industry Show held in Orlando in February. As most of you may be aware, this hugely attended event (23,000

included participation from the American Society of Golf Course Architects, Golf Course Builders Association and Golf Course Owners Association. Soon to be included in 2007 will be the Club Managers Association.

This was a bold attempt by the GCSAA to recognize the importance of including these most influential pieces of our industry at our own conference and show. We have always felt that the more golf's importance in Florida is understood, the better the chance of improving our varied public perception.

By involving more allied groups in our business, we hope to score an ace this year and in the future through awareness of the issues, communication of facts and information and engagement on finding solutions so we become a bigger, stronger group. Everyone doing a little bit is better than waiting for a select few to carry the torch.

A few of our own members received wonderful recognition at the recently completed Golf Industry Show. Bob Randquist, CGCS, from the Boca Rio Golf Club was elected to the GCSAA Board of Directors. Not only is Bob well known around the country, but has quickly gained respect here in Florida since his arrival from Oklahoma. We are very excited to have Bob serve on the national board and are confident he will promote the importance of golf in our state through his future contacts and travels.

Also recognized was Stuart Leventhal, CGCS, from Interlachen Country Club for receiving the Superintendent of the Year Award from Golfweek/Superintendent News. Only one superintendent from America can win this prestigious award, and we are very

proud to have him here in our own state. Don't look now, Stuart, but we may need to harness some of your talent at the state association level.

With more than 1,300 golf courses around the state, you would think that a few of us would be able to golf a bit even with our busy maintenance schedules. Well, golf he did! Seth Strickland from Miami Shores Country Club recently walked away with the coveted National Superintendents Tournament trophy at two fine Orlando venues. As far as we can tell, Seth is only the third Florida superintendent to ever come away with such an honor in the 50 or so years in this championship history. Seth wasn't the only one who played well. The No. 1 Florida Team of Bob Harper, Mark Henderson and Joe Ondo joined Seth to capture the much-sought-after team trophy as well. Congratulations to them and all that participated for representing our state so well!

On a different note, the need for turf research continues to loom as one of our biggest challenges for the future. A couple of very important projects are ongoing while many others are in need for the near future. Our most popular product used for controlling Nematodes is being phased out in 2007, and we are very concerned for future viable alternative products. Dr. William Crow from the University of Florida is currently engaged in a study to look for another way to control this widespread pest. There seems to be some light at the end of the tunnel as 2007 quickly approaches.

Also involved in a current research project is Dr. Lawrence Datnoff from the University of Florida. He is studying the relatively new ultradwarf putting green turf varieties. His particular area of concern is the disease pressure we are seeing with these relatively new grasses. So much is yet to be learned about these exciting turf strains, and we are hopeful we receive some valuable information on managing them in the near future.

One of our most important products, methyl bromide, is in imminent danger of being removed from the market. This soil sterilant is used on nearly every course in the state as well as the entire agricultural industry in an effort to achieve clean soil prior to the planting of hybrid turf and crops. Our suppliers are working hard at protecting our use of this product with federal regulators, using scientific data to prove its safety, importance and effectiveness. There are no viable alternatives for methyl bromide at this time and all that is being done to retain it is much appreciated.

There are many more pending research projects that need to be tackled. Alternative water use sources and the development of turf types that may need less irrigation, fertilizer and chemicals are high on the list for short-term development. If you can share insights on these or have any other ideas for future research projects, we would love to hear from you.

As I mentioned earlier, golf is a huge business in Florida. We could use just a little help from everyone on these and other issues. We are confident, that with our newly included segments of the industry, the sky is the limit for future turfgrass advancements.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Joe Pantaleo
FGCSA President



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Leventhal Named SuperNews Superintendent of the Year

Stuart Leventhal, CGCS and the Interlachen Country Club have made news in this magazine before. As one of the first certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries



Stuart Leventhal is in the driver's seat of his new Club Car Carryall and is joined by his wife, Roz and Mike Packer of Club Car as he was named Superintendent of the Year at the Golf Industry Show in Orlando. Photo by Joel Jackson.

in the central Florida area, Leventhal has long distinguished himself as a consummate professional in the golf industry.

He and his club have hosted 17 consecutive Florida Turfgrass Association turf research fundraising tournaments each January. The club waives any golf fees and provides a sumptuous lunch at cost in order to maximize the net proceeds for research. There is always a guest speaker to educate the gathering of superintendents and club officials.

Those of us lucky enough to call Leventhal friend and to putt on his lightning-fast greens know how dedicated he is to his family, his club and golf course and to his profession. So we were doubly pleased when he was named by *Golfweek's SuperNews* as its 2005

Superintendent of the Year. He was nominated by his general manager, Don Emery, who was impressed with his total control and organization in the face of the disastrous hurricane damage to the course. The award is sponsored by Club Car, a leading manufacturer of golf, transportation and utility vehicles for the golf industry.

Besides his grass-growing and course-management ac-

men, Leventhal has volunteered to serve his profession and industry as a Central Florida GCSA board member and officer including the chapter presidency. He also serves on the Mid-Florida Turf Advisory Board for the Orange County Extension Service and the annual CFGCSA Larry Kamphaus Crowfoot Open Committee.

All the hoopla surrounding this award is a little unsettling for Leventhal who knows that mother nature giveth and mother nature taketh away at the drop of a hat. While he is deeply touched by his club's outpouring of congratulations and recognition, he tries to not let the highs get too high or the lows get too low. "This is a humbling business," he said, "You can't take anything for granted."

According to the Club

Car news release in *SuperNews*, Leventhal doesn't hesitate when asked if the summer of 2004 was the most difficult period in his 25 years of taking care of golf courses.

"It was a rough summer, by far the toughest I've been through," said Leventhal who led restoration efforts to reopen the Interlachen golf course after it was devastated by Hurricanes Charley, Frances and Jeanne in August and September.

Hurricane Charley leveled more than 1,500 trees and left the private course outside Orlando under ankle-deep water. Entire fairways were buried under trees and debris on some holes, and the road to the clubhouse was impassable. Leventhal and his staff had the course ready for play in less than two weeks only to face the aftermath of two additional hurricanes in the next six weeks.

"It was hard work and we put in a lot of hours, but emotionally it was even harder," said Leventhal. "The word I use was, 'overwhelmed.' The good thing, though, was that the members never asked, 'When are you going to have it ready?' They never put any pressure on us."

Mike Packer, Club Car vice president for utility and international sales, who presented the winner with keys to a Club Car Carryall 294 all-wheel drive vehicle, said Leventhal "epitomizes the qualities that make superintendents such a vital part of our industry.

"Throughout his career, Stuart has shown tireless devotion to his course and his members. Last year was exceptional in terms of the challenges he faced, but the leadership and dedication Stuart showed are the characteristics he's built his reputation on."

Leventhal was selected from 90 superintendents who were nominated by employers, co-workers, golfers and friends. Editors of *SuperNEWS* narrowed the nominations to nine finalists before making the final selection.

Chapter Round Up Education Tops Superintendents' Early Spring Agenda

Calusa

Deep Creek GC hosted our annual Yellow Ball Tournament. This fun event consists of four team players each taking turns playing a yellow ball on a hole. The score of the yellow ball counts as one of the two "best ball" scores on that hole. Lots of strategy involved in who plays the ball and what hole they should play it on, and whatever you do, don't lose the ball!

Central Florida

Stuart Leventhal, CGCS hosted the 17th Annual FTGA Research Tournament at the Interlachen CC in January. Florida Turfgrass Association President Tom Wells and FGCSA Director of Communications Joel Jackson, CGCS Retired, gave the gathering of superintendents and club officials an update on projects, and superintendent initiatives in fund raising and government relations. Guest speaker Steve Smyers showed how architects try to use the natural lay of the land for environmental, aesthetic and shot-making reasons in the design of a golf course. After lunch the group played a two-man scramble event with Nancy Henderson and John Lammrigh from LPGA International winning top honors. \$5,000 was raised for turf research.

First Flight: Gross – Nancy Henderson and John Lammrigh, LPGA International; **Net** – Jay Jamison and Dennis Pickavance.

Second Flight: Gross – Steve Wright and Robert Anderson, Boca West G&CC; **Net** – Andy Ragsdale and Doug Devries.

Third Flight: Gross – Gene Stys and John Raycroft, Indian River Colony Club; **Net** – Tom Alex and Joel Jackson.

Leventhal was to be in



From left: golf course architect and guest speaker Steve Smyers, FTGA President Tom Wells, host Stuart Leventhal, CGCS and Central Florida GCSA President Chris Cartin at the 2005 CFGCSA Research Tournament at Interlachen C.C. Photo by Joel Jackson.

the limelight again in February as Golfweek's SuperNews magazine, in conjunction with Club Car, selected him as Superintendent of the Year at the Golf Industry Show in Orlando. See the related article elsewhere in Spotlight.

We held our annual Superintendent/Vendor scramble at the Club at Cypress Head in Port Orange. Thanks to new superintendent Dennis Pickavance for having the

bership drive to enable superintendents in Florida's Panhandle west of Tallahassee to overcome geographic travel limitations and make it easier for them to be part of the Florida GCSA, which serves all state superintendents through its initiatives. Jeff has volunteered to travel west and provide regular FGCSA Board reports on state issues to the group. Shane Bass, CGCS will assist Jeff in this effort.



USGA Green Section gives Regional Talk to Everglades Chapter. From left: John Foy, director USGA Florida Region, Jim Snow, national director of the USGA Green Section (seated), host Mark Black, CGCS, Quail West G&CC and Todd Lowe, agronomist USGA Florida Region. Photo by Joel Jackson.

course in great shape for the event. Kudos to Hal Richburg and his Victoria Hills Club for being named No. 7 public course in Florida on Golfweek's list of America's Best Courses.

Coastal Plains

Congratulations to Eddie Snipes, CGCS and the SouthWood Golf Club for being named to Golf Digest's list of America's Best New Courses.

External Vice President Jeff Heggen is spearheading a mem-

The Gulf Coast GCSA territory stretches nearly 200 miles from Panama City to Pensacola. Their chapter is subdivided into three zones: East, Central and West to accommodate its members. Dr. Brian Unruh has been serving the chapter as a liaison for FGCSA news for many years and he hosts the Gulf Coast Turf Expo at the West Florida REC at Milton every June.

And speaking of our Panhandle peers, congratulations to Larry Livingston,



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"Hey Mom! I'm going to be in the Florida Green," says Roy Wilshire, CGCS as he celebrated a hole-in-one on the 7th hole of his course during the 2005 Ridge Invitational. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Tom Egnaczyk, the 61-year old former assistant superintendent at the Links of Boynton got an unexpected retirement bonus when he won the Florida Lottery. Photo by Scott Wahlin.

CGCS and his Camp Creek G.C. in Panama City for being selected to the No. 8 spot on Golfweek's Florida list of America's Best Courses.



At the FGCSA Winter Board meeting in Bradenton, President Joe Pantaleo accepted a \$1,000 check for the FGCSA Benevolent Fund from Ridge GCSA External Vice President Jeff Brown. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Everglades

After another successful Christmas Tournament held at Mark Black's Quail West G&CC that benefited the Children's Home Society, the busy winter golf season began and included an education break in the form of a USGA

Regional Talk also held at Quail West. The target audience for these regional talks is the superintendent and club officials and the topics are universal hot button issues at clubs: green speed, overseeding, transition, trees and shade. Jim Snow, national director of the USGA

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From left, Jack Harrell, Jr. presents winner Steve Bernard with portrait of his father, Jack Harrell, Sr., drawn by David Purcell, at the 14th Ridge GCSA Jack Harrell, Sr. Invitational.

Green Section gave also gave an interesting history of the USGA and turfgrass research to introduce the program. He was ably assisted by our two Florida Section agronomists, John Foy and Todd Lowe.

In March we will take a dinner cruise on the Naples Princess for a social outing and we have entered the March 12 St. Patrick's Day parade in Naples. We will have a fleet of golf carts and vehicles with trailers to carry our members, spouses, kids and guests to help promote our profession and industry.

Springtime education and social events will continue as the chapter and the Naples Beach Club host the annual Everglades Spring Symposium in April and the 35th Annual Poa Annua Classic in May. This year two golf courses will be used so that no players will be turned away. Medalist golfers will play the Naples Grande course and fun seekers will play a scramble format event at the Naples Beach Club.

North Florida

Our 13th Annual Mike Richards Tournament will be history by the time this Florida Green goes to press, but we are looking forward to this year's event at the Jacksonville G&CC. Guest speakers this year will be Bob Randquist, CGCS our first GCSAA director from Florida since our own late John Hayden was a director some 22 years ago. Bob will talk about GCSAA projects. Also on the agenda will be FGCSA Director of Communications Joel Jackson giving us an update on government relations issues.

Some of our meetings, events and elections have been getting reported in the "Golf News" published here in Jacksonville. Good to let the golf community know that we exist and contribute to the game. "Golf News" has also been running a series of short golf maintenance articles written by Joel Jackson. The articles are designed



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Golfweek's Best Public Access Courses in Florida and their superintendents

1. TPC at Sawgrass (Stadium Course): Fred Klauk, Jim Abate
2. World Woods (Pine Barrens): Jim Rawlings & Cory Bell
3. Ocean Hammock: Todd McKibben
4. World Woods (Rolling Oaks): Jim Rawlings & Brad Barbee
5. Bay Hill Club: John Anderson

6. Southern Dunes: Ward Pepperman
7. Victoria Hills, Hal Richburg, CGCS
8. Camp Creek, Larry Livingston, CGCS
9. Innisbrook (Copperhead): Keith Einwag
10. Doral Resort & Spa (Blue), Eric Von Hofen & Lukus Harvey
11. El Diablo: Darren Irwin
12. Amelia Island Plantation (Long Point), Ron Hill & Bruce Blanchard

13. PGA National (Champion): John Lee
14. Lake Jovita (South): Tony Disano
15. Grand Cypress Resort (New Course): Tom Alex & David Hill

Other Florida Courses in Golfweek's Top 100 National Rankings

Classic Courses

15. Seminole GC: Hal Hicks
69. Mountain Lake Club: Scott Scamerhorn, CGCS

Modern Courses (Built since 1960)

14. TPC at Sawgrass: Fred Klauk
26. Pine Barrens at World Woods: Cory Bell
32. Black Diamond Ranch, John Cunningham, CGCS
33. Calusa Pines GC: Jim Whalen
62. Jupiter Hills: Dick Gray
71. Old Memorial: Trent Inman, CGCS
80. Bear's Club: John Katterheinrich
92. John's Island Club: Greg Phenegeer, CGCS
97. Pine Tree GC: Talbott Denny

to educate the public about the whys and wherefores of some of our cultural practices.

Palm Beach

Congratulations and happy retirement wishes go out to Tom Egnaczyk, assistant superintendent at the Links at Boynton Beach. Tom is 61 years young and doesn't qualify for early Social Security (age 62) just yet, but he says he'll manage somehow. Tom has been in the Palm Beach area since 1975 and has served as superintendent and/or assistant superintendent at many area courses over his 30-year career. His latest gig as the assistant at Boynton Beach was an effort to scale back just a bit and transition into retirement. His plans got an unexpected boost recently when his wife Sylvia picked up a couple of Florida Lottery quick picks on a second trip to Publix on a fateful Saturday.

Like the true professional that he is, he reported for work the next day after picking up his winnings in Tallahassee. Since retirement now was on a fast track, he gave his club a month's notice

and hung up his boots Feb. 27. Tom says that his top priority is making sure he protects this new-found legacy for his four kids and eight grandchildren – and there's another on the way. He and Sylvia will enjoy their new freedom by traveling to Alaska, the Panama Canal, Scotland, Ireland and finally Poland the land of his ancestors. Tom says, "It has been great to be in this business, but at 60-plus I'm ready to pass it on to the next generation."

Egnaczyk's boss, Scott Wahlin, CGCS, says this stroke of good fortune couldn't have happened to a more deserving gentleman, although he quipped, "Tom had started saying, 'That's Mister Egnaczyk to you' during his final weeks on the job." Joe Dougherty will take over as the Assistant Superintendent.

Ridge

We were pleased to make a \$1,000 donation to the FGCSA Benevolent Fund at the Winter Board Meeting in Bradenton. The 14th Annual Ridge GCSA Jack Harrell, Sr. Invitational came off without a hitch at the

Grasslands CC in Lakeland, and even though it was a windy as ever, the sun was out and Roy Wilshire, CGCS had the greens rolling as fast and true as ever. So true in fact that Roy had a hole-in-one on the seventh hole. Says Wilshire about the shot, "It was a precise knock-down 6-iron executed into the teeth of a howling wind. Steve Bernard from the Adios Club in Palm Beach won the low gross honors and a framed David Purcell portrait of Jack Harrell as the winner's trophy.

Alan Puckett and the Club at Eaglebrooke will be the cover story for the summer issue of the Florida Green magazine, and kudos to Tony Disano and the staff at Lake Jovita G.C. for making the Top 15 list of Golfweek magazine's Best Public Access Courses in their 2005 rankings.

Seven Rivers

Congratulations to Jimbo Rawlings, Corey Bell and Brad Barbee for having the Pine Barrens and Rolling Oaks courses at World Woods ranking 4th and 5th in Golfweek's 2005 list of best public access courses in Florida. What

a treat for all the folks teeing it up in our 13th Annual Jeff Hayden Envirotron Classic at Worlds Woods on April 18th.

We are also proud to note that Darren Irwin and his El Diablo Club also made the Golfweek Florida list coming in at No. 11, and in the national private course division for the Top 100 Best Modern Courses built since 1960, our own John Cunningham and the Black Diamond Ranch placed No. 32.

South Florida

What a wild shootout between Phil Mickelson and Tiger Woods at the Ford Doral Open. The course looked absolutely fantastic on television. Hats off to Doral's Director of Grounds and Maintenance Eric Von Hofen and Blue Course Superintendent Lukus Harvey and the whole Doral crew for a job well done. We couldn't help but notice that NBC's Johnny Miller goofed again calling the overseeding Poa annua instead of Poa trivialis. Johnny must be thinking of California greens. That's the second time Mr. Grain has made

that faux pas. Last year Bob Murphy bailed him out. Susi and Jim Walker organized the spotters for NBC. Bet there was some wheeling and dealing among the group to see who was going to work with the Woods-Mickelson pairing.

Suncoast

The Bradenton CC hosted the Florida GCSA Fall Board Meeting in October as President Joe Pantaleo is trying something new by moving some of the state board meetings around the state this year. We will be changing our old habits too by moving our traditional March Suncoast Scramble to the Jacaranda West C. C. in Venice for our 2005 event. We didn't meet in February due to the G.I.S. in Orlando, and we will not be meeting in April. Our next big gathering will be at our annual meeting and golf tournament in May at the Sara Bay CC. This tournament will be

the second of three qualifiers to determine the Suncoast Champion for entry into the 2006 GCSAA Golf Championships.

Treasure Coast

With spring upon us, our thoughts turn to hosting the 2005 Blue Pearl Tournament on May 9th at The Medalist Club in Hobe Sound. This is our big fundraising event that generates research dollars as well as supporting local school turf and environmental programs. Recently, members Ralph Cessna and Craig Weyandt took part in a state sponsored workshop that was focused on updating the Pesticide License process and examination. Thanks for donating your time and energy to participate on issues affecting your fellow professionals.

West Coast

The year 2005 is off to a fast start coming on the heels of our Vendor Appreciation Day held at the

University of South Florida in Tampa. Thanks to our hosts Mike Wilcox and Mike Grace and cooking sensation Ray "The Griller" Miller for the good eats. In January we unveiled our new website and also announced we would accept credit card payments for meeting registrations. The Board of Directors is looking at holding a GCSAA Regional Seminar in July of this year.

Florida GCSA

To recap some of the communications advances statewide the following chapters now have websites in operation or under construction: Calusa, Central Florida, Everglades, Florida GCSA, Suncoast and West Coast.

Our 2005 Government Relations Delegation traveled to Tallahassee in March during this year's Legislative Session to lobby for support of our turf research matching funds proposal that Mike Goldie, our

legislative consultant, has been putting together with the help and support of several key legislators. In addition we will be promoting our Golf BMP manual that we are working on in conjunction with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the USGA, and environmental and industry representatives.

If you missed the 2005 GIS in Orlando and the FGCSA reception then you missed good ones. The new format certainly was a change for many, but should have great longterm benefits for our profession. Paul Crawford, the reception chairman, organized a "rocking" good time for more than 1,000 FGCSA members, sponsors and guests. One of the new traditions at our reception is a Benevolent Fund drawing to raise money for superintendents in need of assistance. We raised \$5,100 in Orlando and John Johnson from the South Seas Plantation on Captiva Island won the cash prize.

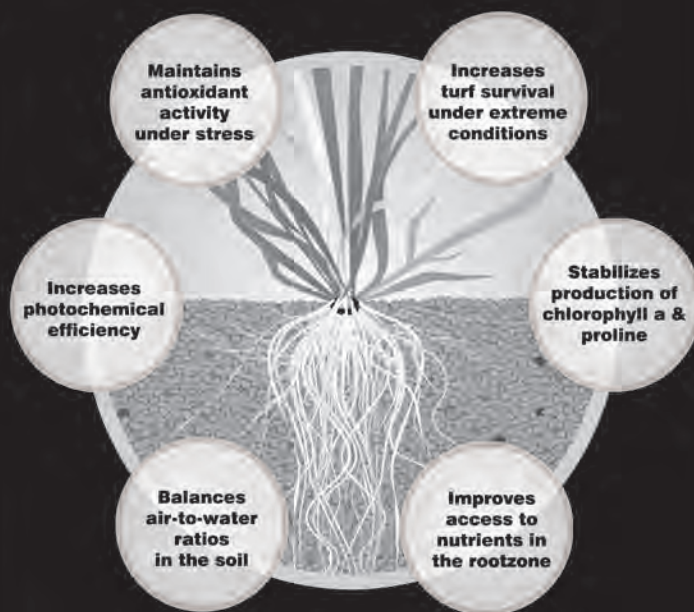


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Analysis

Floridians Take Seat on Board, National Title

By Joel Jackson

The 2005 Golf Industry Show was a success in its debut this past February in Orlando as the combined conference and show for both the Golf Course Owners Association and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. It succeeded on a variety of levels.

As an attendee to most of the conferences since 1985 let me say that I have never been to an unsuccessful conference and show. There is always something that I take away from each event: powerful opening session speakers, classroom knowledge, new professional contacts, and peer networking. Some years one area may be stronger than the other, but it is never a waste of time. So like many of you, I wondered what the new-fangled "Golf Industry Show" was going to be like.

The 2005 event was like any other conference and show and I mean that in a good way. Except for the practice range, artificial putting green and Pro Shop Solutions areas, it looked just like a normal superintendents' trade show experience. The Solution Centers concept



Colorful decorations created a festive tropical island backdrop for the 2005 FGCSA Reception. Photo by Larry Kieffer.

New Golf Industry Show's Orlando Debut Successful



Samantha and Greg Kriesch from the Calusa GCSA staff the Benevolent Fund Table. Photo by Larry Kieffer.

is a good idea I think, especially if they can group suppliers related to the topic around them. It sure makes sense for walking the floor and visiting booths. Some superintendents said the Building the Green Center was perhaps a novel curiosity that appealed more to the owners and others who don't see the inner workings of green like they do. The fast pace and ingenuity was applauded, but the educational impact was maybe a little low on their scale. To view a slide show of the whole process log on to www.gcsaa.org and check the Golf Industry Show link for Building the



Seth Strickland, Miami Shores CC, shot a two-under 142 to win the individual trophy and lead the Florida No. 1 Team to victory in the team event at the 2005 GCSAA Golf Championship. Strickland's boyhood golf idol Jack Nicklaus presented him with the trophy. Photo by Joel Jackson

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Green. It was a novel idea to say the least.

The main thing about the show is that I didn't see or feel any loss of superintendent identity or ownership of the event that some people either feared or predicted. As for our industry partners who help support us at the national level all the way down to the local chapters, I know this combined show concept has to be very welcome from a financial as well as practical standpoint. The future of trade shows was hanging in the balance and this reorganization is a good thing for all concerned. So, on with the show!

Opening Session

Our President Joe Pantaleo did a fine job welcoming our national brethren to Orlando with some Florida golf industry facts, and you couldn't find a more enthusiastic GCSAA Golf Champion than Seth Strickland, who had his dream come true when his childhood golf idol Jack Nicklaus presented him with the winner's trophy.

Then golf legend (and longtime Floridian) Jack Nicklaus took the podium to receive the 2005



Huge logo projected over the dais at the Opening Session.

Old Tom Morris Award. His remarks showed the depth of his intensity for playing the game and for his commitment to golf course design. But I still couldn't find that spark, that personal charisma that would let me warm up to him. I think he is such a private person that only those who work closely with him can truly appreciate his genius. He certainly has earned my respect for his accomplishments, and he did say repeatedly that

bringing a superintendent on a new project is a priority of his in order to complete the team needed for bringing a project on line.

His presentation and the Opening Session suffered when they tried to do a taped interview for the Golf Channel and it ran long, causing some people to have to leave to attend other conflicting classes and sessions. But as we all know when you try something new, you learn from your mistakes.

General Session

I had the pleasure of hearing Peter Kessler speak at a USGA Regional Conference in Orlando a few years ago. That golden baritone, broadcaster's voice of his is a gift he uses well. When I last heard him he was the top dog at the Golf Channel; this time he was a former employee and unfortunately he zinged his former employer a couple of times, which I thought detracted from his presentation. But he did deliver some



Networking and socializing are valuable benefits of attending the Golf Industry Show. Photo by Larry Kieffer.

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Powerhouse was the name of the band at the FGCSA Reception and they put on a great show. Photo by Joel Jackson.

poignant and humorous golf anecdotes as only he can.

It's all about numbers

For those bean counters who have to keep score, the 2005 GIS was a measurable success in terms of

overall attendance (22,723), seminar seats sold (7,329), exhibitors (826), qualified buyers (8,149) and exhibit space (270,360 square feet). It was a nice rebound from the recent economic slowdown that had the numbers flat

or slightly depressed in recent years. I heard a lot of positive comments from folks taking seminars. The push by GCSAA to grade and evaluate sessions and speakers has generally paid off and most everyone gave high

marks to their instructors.

One other high number that was typical when the GCSAA comes to Orlando was the over 900 people who attended the FGCSA Reception on Thursday night at the



At last count over 900 people attended the FGCSA Reception at the 2005 GIS in Orlando. Photo by Joel Jackson

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John Johnson (left) was the lucky winner of the Benevolent Fundraiser Drawing. FGCSA President Joe Pantaleo offers his congratulations to John and announced the Benevolent Fund was increased by \$5,100 through the donations at the FGCSA Reception. Photo by Joel Jackson

Rosen Centre Hotel next door to the convention center. Paul Crawford, CGCS made a triumphant return as Reception Chairman by organizing, with the generous help and support of

our sponsors. It was a great evening of food and entertainment for FGCSA members and guests. A new conference tradition got a terrific shot in the arm as our Benevolent Fund received more

than \$5,000 in donations. Many thanks to Samantha and Greg Kriesch and other board members for manning the Benevolent Fund table. John Johnson from the South Seas Plantation G. C.

won the cash prize in the fundraising raffle.

Multiple food and drink stations made wait times for refreshments very short and the tropical island

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Several GCSAA staff members accepted FGCSA Reception Chairman Paul Crawford's invitation to join us for some food and fun at the Orlando party. Photo by Joel Jackson

themed decorations provided a festive background for the band Powerhouse from the southwest Florida area, and many in the crowd danced the night away including several GCSAA staff members who were our guests courtesy of an invitation idea from Crawford, "Hey why not invite these folks? They are on the road, working long hours to put on a good conference for us. They

shouldn't have to go back to the hotel and order room service at the end of the day. Why not give them an opportunity for a special night out on us as a way of saying thanks for what they do this week and all year?" From the thank-you card they sent after the conference, it was obvious that they really appreciated the gesture on our part. Hey gang! See you next year in New Orleans.



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Building the Green



From piles of dirt on a tarp on the concrete floor of the convention center to a finished green holding a putting contest, the volunteers from the Golf Course Builders Association and GCSAA out did themselves in the five day marathon project. Photos by Larry Kieffer and Joel Jackson.



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■ *Number 1, Par 4, 400 yard, Marsh Creek CC*
Photo by Daniel Zelazek



Marsh Creek C.C.

Take the Fork in the Road To the Middle of the Island

By Joel Jackson

I can't remember if it was New York Yankee baseball legends Casey Stengel or Yogi Berra who said, "If you come to a fork in the road, take it!" It doesn't really matter which one said it, I took the fork in the road in order to find the Marsh Creek Country Club just south of downtown St.

Augustine on Anastasia Island on Florida's northeast coast.

North of Ormond Beach, Highway A1A hugs Florida's east coast and, in this part of the state, few high-rise condos block the ocean view. The windswept palmettos, oaks and sabal palms are interspersed with scattered enclaves of single-family beach homes. It is a laid back atmosphere.

Four or five miles south of the historic city of St. Augustine, A1A veers right to stay along the beach and County Road 3 continues straight ahead, leading to the entrance of Marsh Creek, which is a country club community that opened its gates almost 20 years ago.

Marsh Creek is situated almost in the center of the widest part of Anastasia Island and oak



Much of the course winds through a riverine hardwood forest seen here on the 195 yard, par-3, 7th hole. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.



Communication is the key as the signage at the first tee guides golfers to a pleasant golfing experience. Photo by Joel Jackson.

forest on the eastern side of the community transitions into an extensive network of tidal creeks and sloughs that cut through almost 10 square miles of marsh habitat on the western side of the island along the Matanzas River, the name given to the Intracoastal Waterway in this area. It is in this setting that Roger Osteen and Greg Barbour built Marsh Creek back in 1987 and they still enjoy taking an active role in the operation and success of the club which has 380 golfing members and 900 members overall.

In such a location one might expect to find wildlife in abundance, and head superintendent Andy McGuire, CGCS said, “We have deer, osprey, great horned owls, rosette spoonbills, red-tailed hawks, mallard ducks, cattle egrets, snowy egrets. We also get visits from bald eagles from time to

time, which causes lots of excitement when they are sighted. Besides McGuire’s inventory a wide variety of typical perching songbirds and other small mammals inhabit the area and the Anastasia State Recreation Area is just up the road a mile or so.

McGuire has been at Marsh Creek since 1998 and he enjoys the camaraderie of the members almost as much as the teamwork of his own crew that has a very low turnover rate. Says McGuire, “One of the key missions of our owners and staff is to find ways to improve membership satisfaction. For example, one of the most unusual yet rewarding parts of my job has been the periodic member bus trips and outings to sporting events in Jacksonville and even the dog races. As a golf course superintendent I never thought I’d be a tour guide or trip planner, but these outings give me a chance to inter-

act with our members on a one-on-one social basis away from the golf course. We get to know each other as people and not just in the context of golf — even though that is our common bond.”

Head golf professional Cary Splane also commented on the friendly atmosphere at Marsh Creek, “This is a great members’ course. You get the sense that they really enjoy being here and they are proud of the golf course and the club. There is a laid-back ambience here and maybe it’s the relaxed beach setting. There just don’t seem to be a lot of hidden agendas or pressures. Oh sure, there are a few complaints from time to time, but they usually relate to pace of play on a busy day. I very seldom ever hear a complaint related to course conditions.”

McGuire chimed in, “Most of the time the golfers look out for us. If they see or hear something they let us know about it. They want things to go smoothly and so do we. We’re only here because of and for them. You learn what the hot button issues are and you stay ahead of them. It’s really pretty simple.”

Of course it’s “simple” when you work hard, communicate with others, strive to be a team player and make sure you know the business. McGuire tries to do all of those things and his longevity at Marsh Creek has enabled him to learn how to manage the challenges on growing turf in this particular environment.

McGuire listed some of the idiosyncrasies that come with the property, “Since we are in a marsh environment, we tend to have heavy or fine soils, so we have to manage our irrigation closely. We are in a coastal area with salt water all around us and we use reclaimed water, so we have to monitor



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The lake guarding the 375-yard 12th hole is one of 13 bodies of water on the course. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.



The 431-yard 10th hole runs along the Matanzas River marsh and is the number-one handicap hole. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

and manage our sodium levels to keep the turf healthy. During this past hurricane season and at other times when we have endured tropical force winds, we can get salt spray from the Atlantic drift over onto the course which will “burn” or “brown-out” the turf temporarily. And last but not least, we have 18-year-old greens and an aging irrigation system.”

The overriding issue of high sodium levels in the soil and irrigation water has become a lit-

tle more manageable according to McGuire through the use of SoluCal and slow-release Polyon-coated potassium. The last two items have been addressed recently with the installation of new Flowtronex pump station and Toro Osmac controls and plans are on the table for a greens renovation project in the near future. McGuire would like also to address sprinkler-head spacing and locations to improve the irrigation coverage. He can’t wait to install some new grass on the greens to improve the putting sur-

faces. He reports the grass of choice is a Tifdwarf variety from the Randy Jones turf farm, which reportedly has been performing very well at other courses.

They say that behind every cloud is a silver lining and in this case the heavy soils at Marsh Creek don’t leach nutrients readily, so McGuire uses lower nitrogen rates annually in the 6-8 pound range on greens and 4-5 pounds on fairways. But moisture levels can also be harder to

Course Facts



Marsh Creek Country Club Maintenance Staff.

Marsh Creek Country Club

Location: St. Augustine

Ownership: Parc Group – Roger Osteen and Greg Barbour

Playing policy: Private

Number of holes: 18. 6,883 yards. par 72.

Course Rating/Slope: 73.4/144

Designed by: Mark McCumber. Constructed by McCumber Golf.

Opened: 1987

Management Team: John Hewins, club manager; Hugh Peters, board of governors; Cary Splane, head golf professional; Marianne Messler, membership; Sandy Mills, food and beverage manager; Joe Abdulghani, head chef; Julie Ronan, events; Andy Maguire, golf course superintendent

Planned projects: 1) Greens renovation (Summer 2005). Regrassing with Tifdwarf from Randy Jones

Grassing; 2) Bunker touch-up with new 37-M sand; 3) Laser level par-3 tees and the driving range tee.

Total acreage under maintenance: 105.

Greens: Tifdwarf bermudagrass; avg. size, 5,000 sq.ft.; total, 2.4 acres; HOC, .125-.140 in summer and .100-.140 in winter; Overseeding, Cypress Poa trivialis; Green speed goals: 8.0-10.0 depending on events.

Tees: Tifway II bermudagrass; 3.5 acres; HOC, .400-.500; Overseeding, Paragon ryegrass @ 600 lbs/acre.

Fairways: Tifway II bermudagrass; 28 acres; HOC,.400-.500; Overseeding, Paragon ryegrass @ 400 lbs/acre

Roughs: Tifway II bermudagrass; HOC, 1.50–2.00; No overseeding; Increase HOC through busy season into fall to help offset cart traffic damage.

Bunkers: 28, sand type: 37-M. Hand rake small greenside bunkers. Machine rake others with Toro 2020 Sand Pro.

Waste/native areas: One small bunker subject to tidal dampness. It is filled with crushed red coquina and maintained with the Sand Pro. The coquina makes it quite playable even when wet. All beds and under-tree areas are mulched with a hardwood mulch rather than pine straw. We find it holds up longer than the straw.

Waterways/Lakes: 13 lakes and ponds maintained by outside contractor under the home owners association. The front nine waterways have tidal connections and the back nine are used for drainage/runoff control.

Irrigation: Source, reclaimed water. New Flowtronex VFD pump station installed in 2004. Toro Osmac/hydraulic controls. 70-ft. spacing on mostly Toro 670 heads. Our fertigation systems is mainly used for applying wetting agents during dry spells.

Water management/conservation: Since we are on reclaimed water we are not under restrictions. We are on a Florida Power & Light non-peak time-of-use plan for energy efficiency.

Staff: Total including superintendent, 13 full time, 4 part time. Scheduled 40 hrs straight time with overtime as needed. We do not have a formal OJT program, but we have employed OJT turf students from Daytona Beach CC and Lake City CC in the past.

Leadership: Assistant Superintendent/Pest Control/Irrigation Matt Glaser, Equipment Technician Paul Kane; Irrigation/Pest Control Technician Steve Forrester

Communications: Morning crew meeting to start the day. Monthly safety meetings. Weekly department head staff meetings. Monthly executive committee meetings with all the chairman at the club. Bi-monthly meeting with the Men's Golf Association. Quarterly Board of Governors meeting.

Management Challenges: High sodium levels in the soil and reclaimed water. 18-year old greens and an aging irrigation system.

manage during dry spells, so the fertigation system is used to apply wetting agents more often than liquid fertilizer.

Longevity at Marsh Creek — or at any club, for that matter — gives a superintendent a feel for the golf course in times of stress. You have to work the land to understand it. McGuire says, “I’ve been here long enough to know the 12-14 spots where the mole crickets are going to pop-up each year. On holes 8 and 9, which have sandier soil than the others, we will have to watch out for some local-

ized nematode damage. And then there will be our regular irrigation hot spots that show up during dry weather periods.”

It was a foggy, misty February day when I visited Marsh, so I asked McGuire about the micro-environment and weather in North Florida and how it affected his course management routines. He said, “Well, in the winter it can get overcast, wet, cold and windy. January and February are the worst months for sure. Being close to the ocean does have a moderating effect in the summer. We only have

three or four weeks when it gets truly hot. We are generally 8-10 degrees cooler than, say, along the I-95 corridor approximately six miles to the west. Fall and spring are no problem and the weather is just great. When we get some powerful northeaster storms and the winds get over 30 mph, we can get some foliar burn from the salt spray.

McGuire also deals with some shade issues on the par-3, 7th hole. He said, “The hole has a great look with a creek in front and guarded by the oak trees, but we have to go in and root prune the trees

Superintendent Facts

Andy Maguire



Andy Maguire, CGCS

Originally from: Salem, Mass. Grew up in Boca Raton.

Family: Wife of 10 years, Kristi. Two daughters,

Sierra (7) and Samantha (4)

Education: B.S. in landscape and horticulture from Florida A&M.

Employment history: 1998-Present Marsh Creek C.C., superintendent; 1996-98 Matanzas Woods GC, superintendent; 1995-96 Matanzas Woods, assistant superintendent; 1995 Falcon's Fire G.C., spray & irrigation Tech; 1992-95 Summerbrooke GC, crew member up to assistant superintendent; 1985 – 1991 worked summers as a crew member at Boca Grove G.C., Myacoo CC, Breakers West CC, and Wycliff CC.

Professional affiliations and awards: GCSAA, FGCSA and North Florida GCSA. Earned CGCS status in March 2004. Served in all offices of the North Florida GCSA from 1999 to 2004, president in 2004.

How did you get into the business? I started working on courses in the summers while in high school and fell in love with the business. Every superin-

tendent I worked for involved me to some degree which fed my passion for the industry.

Mentors: My dad would have to be number one. He taught me a good solid work ethic at a young age. Then all the superintendents who helped me learn the business: Steve Pearson, Steve Schroeder, John Baute, Craig Foley, Al Sims, Alan Steichen and Brigid Braun.

Goals: To have a long and prosperous career in the golf business.

Work philosophy: Always work hard and love what you do. Be a team player. Work well with all the staff and managers in all the other departments.

Memorable moments: The firestorms of 1998 that hit the Matanzas Woods GC in Palm Coast. We lost all the trees on 11 holes on the course. It was quiet an experience for my first superintendent's job.

Hobbies/Interests: Family, sports and golf, although I'm not very good. I love FSU football.



Crushed coquina is used successfully in this fairway waste bunker that can get wet when the moon is full and the tide is high. Photo by Joel Jackson.

because they are encroaching into the green and the shifting shade patterns keep the turf weaker than it should be. We had to do some storm damage thin-

ning and we've been able to open it up for some sunshine and air circulation."

When dealing with course management issues, McGuire's best tool is communication starting with daily morning crew meetings all the way to formal monthly and quarterly club association and committee meetings. He says, "We didn't always do the morning meetings with the crew, but it just makes sense. Number one we greet everybody and say 'Good Morning', then we can discuss the schedule for the day, talk about second jobs after the course prep, announce upcoming events, check attendance and get crew feedback on jobs."

McGuire has learned how to work with people and turfgrass from a host of mentors in the business including former bosses Steve Pearson, Steve Schroeder, John Baute, Craig Foley, Al Sims, Alan Steichen and Brigid Braun. He got one of his first career-humbling experiences as a rookie superintendent at the Matanzas Woods G.C. in Palm Coast.

It was 1998, the year of the fire storms and the trees on 11 holes were destroyed. "We were halfway through a Men's Day event when the first alarms went out," he said, "We had no idea what was happening. The wind changed direction and before long you could literally hear it coming as it jumped across the tree tops. It was an amazing experience for my first superintendent's position. You may find it hard to find a silver lining in that



Hardwood mulch is used under all the trees on the course and seems to last longer than pine-needle mulch. Photo by Joel Jackson.

scenario, but McGuire said, "With the course closed to clean up all the tree debris, we ended up having the best stand of overseeding I've ever seen."

The Moorings Club - Vero Beach FL
Craig Weyandt, Golf Course Superintendent



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Homeowners enjoy the view of the 498-yard 3rd hole in the foreground and the par-3, 4th hole in the background. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

Since then McGuire says the birth of his two daughters and being a dad are his most humbling experiences. “I feel lucky to have learned at a relatively early age that happiness is the key to life. It’s not all about the money. If you work hard and strive to be a team player and help out the other department heads and staff at your club, everyone will be happier in their work. What’s better than that? My goal is to have a long prosperous career in the industry.”

McGuire started out as a business major in college, but he had already developed a fairly severe case of “green thumb” working outdoor landscape jobs in high school and on golf courses while attending college. While working his way up from crew member to spray tech to assistant superintendent at the Summerbrooke G.C. in Tallahassee, he switched his major to a B.S. in landscape and horticulture and graduated from Florida A&M University.

McGuire describes himself as a “hands-on” type of superintendent who doesn’t mind hand mowing greens or jumping into the hole to make irrigation repairs. He said, “I understand I am a manager and the person who has to understand the big picture, but in this business I depend on my crew to make me and the course to look good. I don’t think it’s a bad thing for them to realize that I am willing to tackle the dirty work to get the job done. I can’t expect them to be team players if I don’t lead by example.”

Marsh Creek appears to be a positive example of what a good members’ club should be — a gathering of friendly people enjoying good golf and each other with a “Don’t Worry. Be Happy” attitude.

Fun Facts



Andy Maguire with a former resident of Marsh Creek. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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

1. Car: 2003 Toyota Tundra 4x4

2. The last good movie I saw: “Friday Night Lights”

3. I stay home to watch: FSU Football

4. The book I’ve been reading: Keeper of the Green

5. Favorite meal: Ribeye steak, baked potato and salad

6. Favorite performers: All types of music, but I especially like sports talk radio

7. Prized possessions: My two daughters Sierra and Samantha

8. Personal Heroes: My mom, dad and wife Kristi. She never complains about the demands of my profession.

9. Nobody knows that I: Dislike the Florida Gators

10. I’m better than anyone else when it comes to: I’ll take the Fifth Amendment on that one.

11. I’d give anything to meet: Bobby Bowden

13. My fantasy is: It came true – The Boston Red Sox won the World Series

14. The one thing I can’t stand: Complacency

15. If I could change one thing about myself: I’d be more patient

16. My most irrational act: Whenever I lose my patience


17. My most humbling experience: The birth of my daughters

18. The words that best describe me: A highly motivated, ambitious team player.



From the companies that supply and service the Marsh Creek Country Club:

*Congratulations to Andy Maguire, CGCS and his club for being selected
by The North Florida GCSA as the Spring 2005 Florida Green Cover Story*



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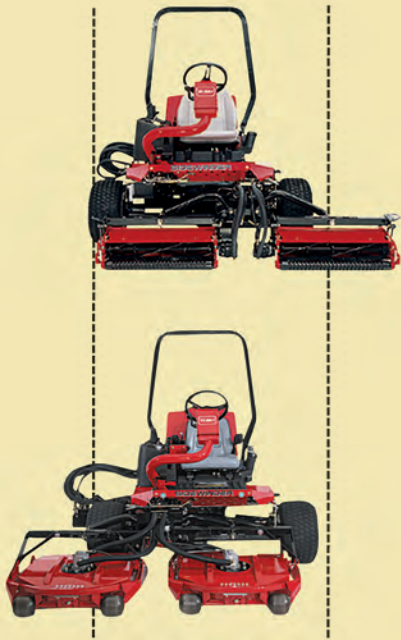
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Planning is the Key

In-House Projects

As we emerge from the busy winter golf season, when Florida golf courses make hay at the cash register, superintendents go through the spring rituals of turf renovation and managing the transition

phase owners, superintendents and members need to consider all the pros and cons of doing the project to make sure they get the desired results. It may look good on paper to use people already on staff with the thought of an immediate cost savings, but while the staff is digging ditches, laying pipe or installing

rainy season. What effect will weather delays have in the project?

Another key consideration is the expertise of the staff to handle overly ambitious projects. Not everyone was born a civil engineer or golf course architect and that goes for the



Removal of stumps and sodding the gaps left by storm-damaged oak trees became the Winter Pines G.C. unplanned, in-house project for 2004

from overseed back to the bermudagrass base. But in a state with a 365-24-7 turf season, the impending warm summer months mean only that we will be making hay in the fairways and roughs. And while play slows down the grass growth speeds up. What better time to consider major projects for the golf course? I'm being a tad sarcastic, but in reality from a customer-service standpoint, it is probably the best time to take on major projects. The next question is how: In-house, outside contractor or a combination of the two?

The key to any major project on a golf course is the planning of course, and during this

drainage, coring out bunkers and hauling sand, striping and grading tees, laying truckloads of sod, cutting down trees, planting trees — you name it — the growing turfgrass still needs mowing, edging and fertilizing.

Then there is the question of closing the course or working in play. Both approaches have their pluses and minuses in course conditioning for the players and disruption of the progress of the work. The main thing is to make sure everyone is on the same page so the customer isn't surprised if things aren't up to usual expectations. And of course the summer is our

armchair experts in the clubhouse too. Hiring at least a consultant to oversee the more technical aspects of a major project is well worth the cost.

In general, superintendents are innovative and creative people, but they may not know all the intricacies of land planning and construction engineering. That's why people major in other fields besides turf management.

Taking on and successfully completing an in-house project can be an extremely rewarding and team building endeavor. Just make sure you do your due diligence before you break ground. Good luck.

In House Projects

Building One Project at a Time

By Joe Ondo, CGCS

When I first started at Winter Pines in April 1979, the owners had just built five new holes. They installed new irrigation on those holes and on parts of the other four holes on the front nine. The rest of the course had some automatic controls on greens and tees and all quick couplers in the fairways.

When the new owner bought the course, the decision was made to add automatic irrigation to one or two holes at a time to keep the course open and minimize disruption to play. We basically duplicated what had been done on the other holes. All the work was conducted during normal play and by our own crew.



Winter Pines has been selectively rebuilding the old push-up greens over the years to improve drainage and performance and to replace contaminated putting surfaces. Photo by Joel Jackson.



New 7-foot wide concrete paths replace and re-route the old asphalt paths. The crew often led by the owner Ed McMillin pours the new path in 110-foot long sections, which equals one truck load of concrete. Photo by Joel Jackson.

The city of Winter Park built a new water treatment plant in 1983 and offered the effluent water to us in 1984. They also offered to help pay to finish the last hole and the driving range so they could use the course to dispose of the treated water. We had our old well capped and sold our pump and have been using the effluent ever since.

This project allowed us to install lots of isolation valves and group our sprinkler heads to run

together either on high mounds or low areas needing less watering time. We installed Griswold valves and controls and they have worked well managing the effluent water.

Besides the irrigation system upgrade, we also engaged in a long-term greens-rebuilding program. All of the greens were native soil, push-up construction with no internal drainage. Some we could fix by installing drainage, but some of the

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One of eight new bridges installed by the Winter Pines staff. Photo by Joel Jackson.



The project to lower a high bunker lip was a snap compared to some of the long-range, in-house projects accomplished at Winter Pines. Photo by Joel Jackson.

greens also suffered from some of the typical off-type contamination/mutation prevalent in that era and some gave us problems at different times of the year.

Some we fixed by re-sodding, but we knew that was just a short-term solution.

We decided to hire someone to help us rebuild a green – still using our own crew. After doing one and seeing the results, we decided to continue doing one green a year. We'd mow a temporary green in the fairway for our players, and then strip the old sod off the green, add drainage haul in some good greens mix, do a rough shaping, have it fumigated, pack it and then plant sprigs and grow it in.

This system worked well but it took 9-10 weeks before we could reopen the green. We are a public course and most of the players didn't mind because they could see we were making improvements to the course.

After doing five greens this way, we heard about Rapid Turf and decided to give it a try. Everything was prepared just about the same way as before, and then the Rapid Turf folks brought in and installed the 50-foot-long by 4-foot-wide rolls of Tifdwarf sod. It was unrolled, packed and top-dressed. Even if it wasn't fully rooted down, the green was useable in three weeks. It was better than putting on a temporary green for another seven weeks. We made the green's size approximately 5,000 square feet with lots of cupping areas to handle traffic since we do around 80,000 rounds per year.

We built six greens using this method and even added on to some smaller greens to make them bigger. The new Tifdwarf closely matched our good old greens and has stayed pretty clean so far and putts pretty well. We didn't do a green this year, and with all the hurricane-clean up, I'm glad we didn't. We will consider doing more greens as we see ones that start giving us trouble.

Another in-house project we tackled was replacing our asphalt cart paths with concrete and extending the ending points to higher and drier ground. Most of the black-top paths had lots of holes and patches and were built in too many low areas or just in the wrong place for the play of the hole. We came up with a plan of doing 110 feet of path, 7 feet wide at a time.

This allowed us to demolish the old path, lay out the new path route formed up with two-by-fours and pour a ten-yard truckload of concrete at a time. Most of the course did not have access for a fully loaded cement truck, so we hauled most of the concrete ourselves using our dump-body EZ-Go utility vehicles, a third of a yard per trip,



Railroad-tie curbing is installed along the new paths at the tee boxes. Non-skid rubber mat runners are installed to prevent golfer slips and falls. Photo by Joel Jackson.

until we emptied the truck.

We have done more than 6,000 feet of concrete path along our greens and tees and installed railroad ties for curbing along the tee slopes. We also poured an additional 250 yards of concrete to enlarge our customer parking lot and create a pad around our maintenance building and made three storage bins for topdressing, sand, gravel and golf course landscape/storm debris that needed to be hauled away.

We also replaced the bridges on the course. Most of them were 30-inch corrugated pipe covered with limerock and asphalt. The pipes and fill were dug out and a concrete pad poured on each bank. Three steel beams were welded in place and 10-foot-long, 4x6 pressure-treated planks were installed on the beams with lag bolts. Twelve-foot-long 6x6 beams were used as side rails. We have done eight bridges over the years.

And last but not least we have installed more than two miles of drain pipe in low wet areas to keep the course open and more playable during the rainy season.

As you can see, we have successfully completed many in-house projects. Our owner, Ed McMillin and his son Jon, are always striving to make improvements to Winter Pines to give area golfers an enjoyable place to play golf at affordable prices. Once we fully recover from the effects of the 2004 hurricane season, I'm sure we will have more projects in the works.

Editor's Note: Recovering completely from the hurricane damage is requiring Ondo and his crew to cut down damaged trees, remove stumps and clear extensive areas of surface roots from decades-old oak trees and then backfill, grade and sod the scores of bare areas.

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Super Tips

Whistling While You Rake - at the Straits

By Darren J. Davis

Whistling Straits, located one-hour north of Milwaukee in the village of Kohler, Wis., was host to the 86th PGA Championship this past August. While Vijay Singh was crowned the tournament champion, in my eyes Golf Course Superintendent David Swift and Director of Golf Course Operations Mike Lee were the true champions of the event.

If you have the opportunity to visit Kohler, I would strongly urge you to do so. The area

is home to world-class accommodations, dining, shopping and four of my favorite golf courses, all owned by Herb Kohler, Jr., chairman of the board and president of Kohler Company. Kohler is a company that undoubtedly many of our clubs do a significant amount of business with.

Of the four courses at Kohler, 36 holes are located at Blackwolf Run. Blackwolf Run, designed by legendary architect Pete Dye, opened for play in June 1988. The remaining 36 holes are located at Whistling Straits. Whistling Straits opened in 1998, and was also designed by Pete Dye.



The open, rugged and windswept terrain at Whistling Straits translates into often deep, steep-faced challenging bunkers to maintain. Photo by Darren Davis.

At Whistling Straits, Dye sculpted a bit of Ireland and a touch of Scotland on the 560-acre parcel of flat land along two miles of Lake Michigan shoreline. "Open, rugged and windswept terrain" are words often used to define the courses at Whistling Straits. This translates to deep, steep-faced bunkers.

Steep bunker faces that are a challenge to maintain, are not unique to Whistling Straits. I can vividly recall the same challenge while employed as a crew member at the Augusta National Golf Club. The strategy employed at Augusta is similar to that at Whistling Straits. The employee starts the process outside of the bunker, reaching as far down as possible with the rake, so once inside the bunker, they know how far up the slope to climb in order to rake every inch of the sand face. The challenge once inside the bunker is to rake the entire slope without digging your feet into the sand on the slope, creating indentations. This is the same problem that Lee and Swift faced at Whistling Straits.

Lee and Swift used some old-fashioned ingenuity to solve the problem on their course. To add length to the leaf rake without drastically increasing the weight of the tool, a 20-foot section of 1-inch PVC was bolted to the existing handle of a leaf rake. To create the tool, 1-inch PVC is slid over the rake handle and two holes are drilled through the PVC and the rake handle. The pipe is then secured to the rake handle with a nut and bolt. The result is a lightweight, inexpensive, easy-to-store and transport tool that decreases the time and effort involved in raking steep bunker slopes. If a 20-foot rake is slightly larger than what you desire, the PVC pipe can be cut to fit the needs at your golf course.



Whistling Straits Superintendent David Swift shows a standard bunker rake and one of the long-handled hybrids he developed to maintain the bunkers. Photo by Darren Davis.



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USGA Report Counting Down The Days

By John H. Foy



For golf courses throughout Central and South Florida, a basic management objective during the initial part of the winter season is to survive until mid-February and then to the first of March. Once we get past Valentine's Day, along with a steady increase in day

length, the potential for cold fronts making their way down the peninsula becomes progressively less. As nighttime temperatures climb back into the high 50-60-degree range, the base bermudagrass begins to wake up, and it is possible to produce a degree of recovery from "golfer blight."

As discussed by Todd Lowe, USGA Agronomist covering Florida's west coast, in an ear-

lier regional update, all courses suffer from "golfer blight" because peak play occurs when bermudagrass growth has essentially come to a stop. Significantly increased evidence of ball-mark damage on putting surfaces, tight fairway lies, and a loss of definition between the fairway and rough cuts because the turf has become beat down by moderate to heavy cart traffic are all signs of "golfer blight."

Further complicating matters this winter was the very active hurricane season, which resulted in a six- to eight-week setback in accomplishing routine management programs and fall preparations. There have been a few S-O-S calls, but for the most part everyone survived the first part of the winter play season in acceptable condition. Superintendents are counting down the days until the winter play officially comes to an end so that they can begin growing grass again.

For the interim, continue to aggressively manage cart traffic and aerate high traffic areas followed by an application of 0.25 to 0.5 lbs of actual nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. from a readily available source. This will minimize further deterioration and help initiate the recovery process. While it can be a real challenge to get any work accomplished with peak winter season play, supplemental non-disruptive

aeration of putting surface is strongly encouraged.

Water injection cultivation or aeration with small-diameter solid tines or star tines does not affect surface smoothness, and is very beneficial to maintain good moisture and oxygen infiltration into the upper rootzones of the greens. The very dense canopy of the ultradwarf bermudagrasses, as well as the normal buildup of compaction, can severely restrict infiltration. Periodic supplemental non-disruptive aeration treatments need to be preformed through the winter, and it will be very important to closely monitor all turf areas for the rapid onset of drought stress.

Based on visits to courses throughout the state, cleanup and recovery from the hurricanes is 80 to 90 percent complete. Debris piles in out-of-play areas are still common, and plans are in place at many courses to begin bunker sand refurbishment or removal and replacement of contaminated material. Another common finding is a continuing loss of pine trees. With the onset of hot weather, tree loss will likely increase due to environmental stresses or outbreaks of pine bark beetles that are attracted to damaged trees. Unfortunately, we will continue to be plagued by the lingering effects of last year's very active hurricane season for quite some time.

Plants of the Year

The Florida Nursery Growers and Lawn Care Association (FNGLA) is proud to announce the 2005 Plants of the Year. 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 flowering shrubs for your consideration.



Common name: Princess Flower
Botanical name: *Tibouchina urvilleana*
Hardiness: Zones 8b-11
Mature height and spread: 5-8 ft
Classification: Large flowering shrub in South and Central Florida, Perennial in North Florida
Landscape use: Flowering shrub for informal hedge or mixed border used as an accent or in masses
Characteristics: The silver-green foliage on the Princess Flower shows off 5-petaled purple flowers that open 3-4 inches across from red-tinged buds through the warm season.



Common name: Yellow Elder
Botanical name: *Tecoma stans*
Hardiness: Zones 8-11
Mature height and spread: Can be kept 5-10 ft. tall by 4-6 ft wide
Classification: Large flowering shrub
Landscape use: Specimen for long-lasting blooms
Characteristics: The Yellow Elder's light green compound pinnate leaves are complete with large yellow bell-shaped flowers at growing tips. It blooms almost constantly during warm weather and is a hummingbird attractor. This shrub may die to the ground in North Florida, but emerges in the spring. A type called 'Gold Star' has been found to be a very reliable, free-flowering small shrub with a mass of golden-yellow flowers through much of the year.

SeaIsle1 Keeps Your Irrigation Options Open



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SeaIsle 1 will produce high quality fairways and roughs with high quality water. It also thrives when irrigated with many medium-to-poor quality water sources. As with all turfgrass, management practices will vary depending on water quality, rainfall and season.



Option B

Recycled Water, Gray Water and Effluent Water Sources

Recycled water usually varies by location, season, quality and nutrient content. Depending on the uniformity of your source, you may need to monitor water quality daily, weekly or monthly. SeaIsle will do quite well with up to 4, 5, even 8 thousand TDS.



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Multiple Objectives Highlight Hill Trip

The 2005 Florida GCSA delegation of FGCSA officers Joe Pantaleo and Greg Pheneger, Coastal Plains GCSA director Shane Bass and



FGCSA's 2005 legislative delegation from left, Scott Sewell, Gulf Coast GCSA; Joe Pantaleo FGCSA president; Mike Goldie, FGCSA lobbyist; Greg Pheneger, FGCSA past president and Shane Bass, Coastal Plains GCSA. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Director of Communications Joel Jackson were joined by Gulf Coast GCSA director Scott Sewell and FGCSA lobbyist Mike Goldie on March 21, 2005 when they called on legislators to garner support for a matching funds proposal for statewide donations made for turfgrass research.

Lobbyist Mike Goldie has been working on language for the proposal that will be in an upcoming appropriations bill, and he has been working key leaders in both the house and senate to get their support for the proposal. Our mission was to put a face on the end users and talk about why it is important not only for our industry but for the Florida environment and economy.

We met with Senators David Aronberg, Michael Bennett, Rod Smith and Ken Pruitt and Representatives Don Davis, Ken Littlefield, and Chris Smith. Senator Smith may be running for governor and he is currently the chairman of the Agriculture Committee. All the rest have either key committee positions or have recognized golf's contributions to the state and are willing to support our matching-funds initiative.

On Tuesday morning, the group met with Dr. Dennis Howard and Dale Dubberly of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDOACS) to discuss the latest news from the regulatory agencies. The MSMA Groundwater Study negotiations are proceeding slowly while at the federal level, re-registration proceedings are moving along on schedule. There may be some label changes coming that will restrict use in some vulnerable soil locations.

FDOACS referred us to the Bayer

Environmental Sciences website for information on soils maps for Namacur use after May. We also asked about Curfew being reinstated in Dade County when Namacur runs out. They referred us to Dow AgroSciences since they voluntarily pulled Dade off the list in order to expedite the labeling for the rest of the state. They are continuing the Amnesty Milk Run program for the pickup of obso-

lete or expired chemicals and alerted us to possible concerns over the disposal of old containers.

We also met with Commissioner of Agriculture Charles Bronson, who expressed his support for the golf business saying it has more to do with agriculture than most people realize. But in a hopefully overly conservative warning, he gave us a heads-up on the pending litigation being brought by farm workers over a cluster of birth defects that they are claiming have been caused by pesticide exposure. The commissioner had concerns that this situation might escalate to all commodities using pesticides. So he just wanted to make sure all applicators were up to date on their safety and training programs.

During the trip we hosted Scott Sewell from the Emerald Bay Plantation Club in Destin. We wanted Scott to see that the FGCSA works for the benefit of all Florida superintendents. We hope the Gulf Coast GCSA will find a way to join the state's other 12 local chapters to unite all our efforts under one banner.

RISE Supports Nomination of EPA Administrator

RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment) announced its pleasure with the nomination of Stephen Johnson to be the administrator of

the Environmental Protection Agency by President Bush on March 4.

"Over the years, we at RISE have found Steve Johnson to be a fair regulator who takes into consideration comments from all organizations, NGOs as well as industry, when making a decision," Allen James, president of RISE said. "We believe he makes balanced and responsible decisions for our industry."

"RISE looks forward to working with Steve on issues such as ESA counterpart regulations, pesticide rule-making, and maintaining FIFRA as the federal pesticide standard," James said.

According to the White House when confirmed, Johnson will become the first professional scientist to lead the EPA. During his 24-year career with the agency, he has advanced through many management positions to his most recent position of deputy administrator of the EPA.



Stephen Johnson, EPA acting administrator

RISE is the national association representing the manufacturers, formulators, distributors and other industry leaders involved with pesticide products used in turf, ornamental, pest control, aquatic and terrestrial vegetation and other non-food/fiber applications. Visit the RISE website at www.pestfacts.org.

Editor's note: It will be interesting to finally have a science-based person leading the agency instead of political appointee. What a concept.

FGCSA Government Relations Notes and Comments

New EPA Administrator

It is refreshing to see a scientist who has seen a lot of history at EPA to be named to head the agency for a change instead of another politician. I have heard nothing but good things about Mr. Johnson from members of our allied associations who also deal with numerous pesticide issues and registrations.

When I saw the above news release I called Carrie Riordan, director of government relations at GCSAA. Carrie said that GCSAA also supports Johnson's appointment. She added that they have met with him personally in the past on issues



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and found him to be very fair and open-minded.

It has also been my experience that once we establish contact and a sound working relationship with EPA officials and case workers, that they generally appreciate our honest and open communications on the issues. For the most part, the regulators who have science backgrounds can see through the hype and rhetoric and put the facts and issues into perspective. That is not to say that politics doesn't get involved in final decision making, but we have made tremendous advances with EPA and state agencies. I think our issues will get a fair hearing under Mr. Johnson's administration.

Lobbying Legislators

When I get to represent the FGCSA and various allied association meetings like the Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association, I always plan to attend the Legislative Breakfast Meetings to hear the guest legislator speak to ag-related issues and their positions. Last year I met Senator Nancy Argenziano, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee and found out Sen. Argenziano came from a farming family in upstate New York. Her awareness of the needs of



While attending the 2005 Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association Winter Meeting in Sarasota, FGCSA's Joel Jackson found out Representative Bill Galvano comes from a family of golf professionals. Photo by Mary Hartney.

people who work the land is a good thing for the Ag and Green industries in Florida. She organizes farm tours for freshmen legislators who think that beef comes from Winn-Dixie and produce

comes from Publix.

This year in Sarasota I met Rep. Bill Galvano (R-68) from the Suncoast area. He is chairman of the Florida Families and Choice and Innovation Committees this year, but the clincher is that his siblings are all golf professionals and his late father was one of the first golf professionals to become a star as a teaching pro. We had a chance to chat and he is keenly aware of importance of the golf industry – it fed, housed, clothed and educated him. He also knows golf takes unfair shots in the media. Chalk up another ally in the Florida legislature if and when we need him on our side.

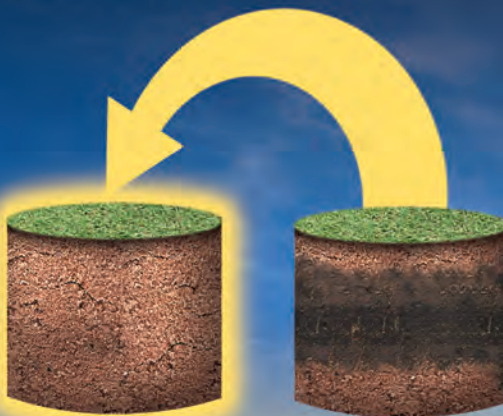
Every chapter external vice president recently received a 2005 Know Your Legislature directory. I encourage each chapter to make plans to invite your senators and representatives to speak at a monthly meeting when they are out of session. They say, "it's who you know" that counts; in our case it's, "Who knows you?" You pay their salaries. Let them know you're out there and what you do for the economy and the environment, and take the time to find out a little more about the person who represents your interests.

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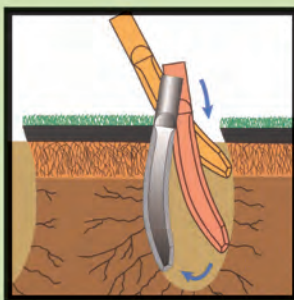
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Algae Control Project Becomes Case Study for ACSP Certification

By Jonathan Charpinsky

ACSP CASE STUDY

Project Title:	No. 9 Pond Algae Removal
Property Name:	Card Sound Golf Club
Location:	Key Largo, Florida
Project Coordinator:	Jonathan Charpinsky, Assistant Superintendent
Phone Number:	305-367-3088
Type of Course:	Private Golf Club

Project Description: Give an overview of the project. Why did you choose it? What were the conditions like before and after implementing the project?

The ponds at Card Sound Golf Club are saltwater and fluctuate with the ocean tides. The



No. 9 pond at Card Sound G. C. after implementing algae control project using biocontrol technology. Photo courtesy of Audubon International.

pond on No. 9 always had a large amount of algae throughout the entire pond and it looked terrible. Dephosphate water clarifiers and bacterial concentrates were applied to the pond on a monthly basis and it was very expensive. They seemed to have very little effect on the algae and we needed a better, cheaper way to handle this situation.

My superintendent heard of a BioAmp machine from ECO Bionics that produced trillions of bacterial cells on a daily basis. We decided to rent a machine and install it on the pond bank and have the bacteria drain into the pond every day. Since installing the BioAmp, there has been a large decline in the amount of algae (a very small amount is still present). The pond is much cleaner and we

are not spending as much money on removing algae.

Goals: Please list your goals for the project.

Remove algae in pond located on No. 9.

Reduce cost of maintenance for No. 9 pond.

Implementation and Maintenance: What specific steps did you take to implement it? What kind of ongoing maintenance will it require?

Rented machine from ECO Bionics.

Installed it on the bank of the pond (out of the way of play).

Hooked up electricity and a fresh water source to machine.

Hooked up a drain for the bacteria that goes into the pond.

Filled it with food for the microorganisms to develop.

Turned it on.

Checked machine every 7-10 days for alarms or lack of food.

Fill machine once every month with food.

Results: Describe the results you achieved. What are the environmental benefits? Please be as specific as possible about any tangible results.

Far less algae is currently present in the pond and it doesn't seem to come back as it did when we were not using the BioAmp machine.

Considerably less money is being spent on controlling the algae. Less labor is used for algae removal. All we do now is check the machine for alarms or food.

We are not putting any chemicals into the pond anymore; we are only using natural bacteria.

Golfer/Employee Response: How did golfers respond to this project? How did you communicate your actions?

The maintenance staff and the pro shop have received many compliments on how good the pond looks without all the algae. The Board of Directors is made up of all golfers at the club, and they have told other members about this project by word of mouth. Also, members have asked the maintenance staff and pro shop about what the machine was near the pond and they were told it was a bacteria manufacturer to remove algae.

Perspective and Recommendations: What, if anything, would you do differently if you were to do this project again? What would you recommend

to others implementing this project?

I would not have changed anything with this project due to the results we have achieved. My recommendation to others is to give this a try instead of using chemicals to clear up an algae problem. This is obviously better for the environment, less costly, and almost no maintenance is needed after installing the machine.

Economic Costs and Benefits: How much did it cost to implement this project?

Lease of machine: \$537.50/month

Installation of machine: \$810.00

Total: \$1347.50

Average cost in our old methods: \$2000.00/month

Monthly maintenance and feeding now: \$537.50

Average Savings: \$1462.50/month

Jonathan Charpinsky, is assistant superintendent, Card Sound Golf Club

Florida Sustainable Communities Summit Explores Resource Efficiency in the Built Environment

By Jean Mackay

Audubon International and the University of Florida's Program for Resource Efficient Communities co-hosted the Florida Sustainable Communities Summit at Walt Disney World Feb. 8 During the Golf Industry Show in Orlando. The event brought together a variety of stakeholders — including more than 100 municipal planners, developers, architects, builders, natural resource managers, and representatives from regulatory agencies, universities, and conservation organizations — to strengthen efforts to foster sustainable development in Florida.

The day-long summit provided opportunities to discuss critical issues associated with sustainable community siting, design, development, and management. Four panel discussions also showcased a number of success stories, including golf courses that are helping to meet community conservation and development goals.

"Florida's explosive growth is putting pressure not only on the environment, but on community services, such as transportation, schools, and affordable housing," says Kevin Fletcher, Audubon International director of programs and administration. "The summit gave us the opportunity to network with each other and explore ways to build upon successful efforts to build better in Florida."

The summit was held at Walt Disney World's Osprey Ridge and Eagle Pines Golf Courses, who generously donated meeting space.



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Photographs of wildlife and natural areas on the golf courses taken by superintendent Bob Karnes graced the walls and provided the perfect backdrop for the meeting. All five of Disney's golf courses are Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries. The event was generously sponsored by WCI Communities, Inc. and Harmony Homes (Birchwood Acres, LLC), with additional support from the Bonita Bay Group and The Old Collier Golf Club.

For more information or to request summit proceedings, contact Jean Mackay at Audubon International at jmackay@audubonintl.org.

Background on Florida's Growth

From 1990-2000 Florida's population grew by 23.5 percent with an increase of three million people. Approximately 6,000 people move to Florida each week. Now number four in population among the 50 states, Florida is poised to pass New York for the number-three spot by 2024, behind only California and Texas.

Residential construction is a primary driver of Florida's economy. Over the last decade, approximately 100,000 new single-family, detached



Tim Hiers, CGCS (fourth from right) representing Collier Enterprises sits on the sponsor's summary panel with representatives from Harmony, Fla., The Bonita Bay Group, WCI Communities and Walt Disney Corporation. At the podium is Ron Dodson, President and CEO of Audubon International. Photo by Jean McKay

homes have been built each year in Florida.

Most of Florida's larger new residential developments are master planned communities that begin with basic land-use planning activities and end with homes constructed on finished lots. In addition, these communities frequently involve the design and construction of major amenities, such as golf courses and other shared open spaces.

Issues including declining water supplies, increasing energy demands, traffic congestion,

overcrowded schools, and the loss of natural areas are intimately tied to Florida's growth.

Such pressing concerns make Florida an excellent target for introducing sustainability as an integrated approach to addressing the state's environmental, economic, and social needs.

(Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census; State of Florida.com, Florida Quick Facts, 2-1-05; University of Florida, Program for Resource Efficient Communities, 2005)

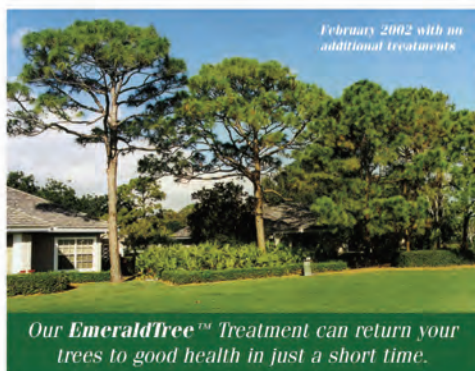
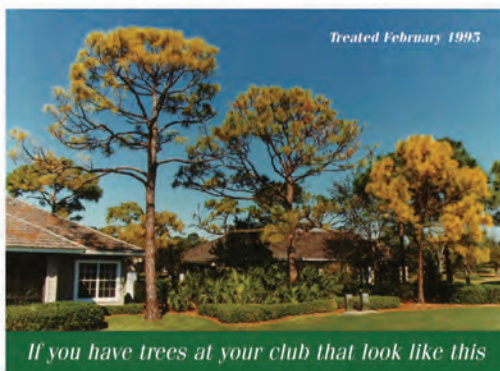
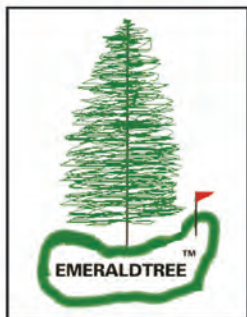
Florida Mottled Duck Population at Risk from Domestic Mallards:

Good intentions can lead to extinction of native sub species

By Kim Jamerson

If it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, then it must be a duck. That may be a catchy phrase, but it doesn't represent the diversity that exists in nature. In fact, this adage is giving Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)

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ACSP Member Update

We have a long way to go to register 50 percent of our golf courses in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, but the list is growing. Congratulations to these courses working on certification and new member courses for their commitment to documenting and practicing positive environmental practices:

Pelican's Nest Golf Club, Naples
 Ritz Carlton GC, Jupiter
 Tiburon Golf Club, Naples
 TPC at Eagle Trace, Coral Springs
 TPC of Tampa Bay, Lutz
 Victoria Hills Golf Club, DeLand
 World Woods GC, Brooksville

Courses with certifications awarded

Bonita Bay: Island Course, Bonita Springs
 Bonita Bay: Creekside, Bonita Springs
 Bonita Bay: Marsh, Bonita Springs
 Broken Sound GC, Boca Raton
 Card Sound Golf Club, Key Largo
 Crown Colony Golf and Country Club, Ft. Myers
 Glades Country Club, Naples
 Grand Harbor Club, Vero Beach
 Gulf Harbour G&CC, Ft. Myers
 Harmony Golf Preserve, Harmony
 High Ridge Country Club, Ft. Lauderdale
 IGM - Sandridge Golf Club, Melbourne
 Ironwood GC, Gainesville
 John's Island Club West Course, Vero Beach
 Lakewood Ranch G&CC, Bradenton
 Links at Boynton Beach, Boynton Beach
 Meadowbrook GC, Gainesville
 Plantation at Leesburg, Leesburg
 Orchid Island Golf & Beach Club, Vero Beach
 Outdoor Resort, Kissimmee
 Palencia Golf Club, St. Augustine

Welcome to these new ACSP members

Bay Palms GC, MacDill AFB
 Bobby Jones G.C., Sarasota
 Bonaventure Country Club, Weston
 Breckenridge Golf and Tennis, Estero
 Club @ Renaissance, Ft. Myers
 Cove Cay Country Club, Clearwater
 Duran G.C., Melbourne
 Golden Bear Club at Keene's Point, Windermere
 Heron Creek G&CC, North Port
 Hideout Golf Club, Naples
 Isleworth G&CC, Windermere
 Northdale Golf & Tennis Club, Tampa
 Palm Beach Gardens GC, Palm Beach Gardens
 Palmetto Pines G.C., Cape Coral
 Plantation of Leesburg, Leesburg
 Poinciana Country Club, Lake Worth
 Shell Point Golf Club, Ft. Myers
 St. Stephens International, Tampa
 The Club Course, Broken Sound Club, Boca Raton
 The Hideaway, Ft. Myers
 Viera East Golf Course, Viera

biologists headaches when it comes to protecting a native subspecies found nowhere else in the world – the Florida mottled duck.

“People love ducks. They like seeing them in their lakes and ponds, and feeding them is often a form of family entertainment,” FWC biolo-

gist Diane Eggeman said. “The problem is that desire to have ducks around often leads people to buy and artificially stock our waterways with domestic mallards. That’s illegal and can have devastating effects on native wildlife.”

Eggeman says released domestic ducks



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Male and female mottled ducks both look similar to female mallards, but have lighter colored heads and bills.

transmit diseases and compete with all wild ducks for food and habitat. Additionally, domestic mallards pose a specific risk to the Florida mottled duck — the threat of extinction through hybridization. Unlike wild mallards, which migrate north in the spring to breed, captive-reared mallards have become established as year-round residents that are

breeding here.

“These birds are closely related and similar in appearance to the mottled duck and are crossbreeding with that species. Left unchecked, the crossbreeding could completely swamp the mottled duck population to the point of extinction,” Eggeman said. “We might be left with only mallards and hybrids.”

Other communities around the world have experienced similar hybridization problems. In New Zealand, captive-reared mallards, which were released to provide hunting stock, have nearly wiped out local grey duck populations. Ninety-five percent of grey ducks in that country are now hybrids. The Hawaiian duck is thought to be completely hybridized on the island of Oahu and genetically intact only on the island of Kauai.

While the biological threats facing the Florida mottled duck may seem complex, the steps you can take to protect the subspecies are simple:

- Don't release any new mallards onto your golf course.
- Don't support mallards that already call your golf course home by feeding or sheltering them.
- Do spread the word about how releasing and sup-

porting domestic mallards threatens the Florida mottled duck.

The Florida mottled duck breeding population is relatively small, approximately 30,000-40,000 birds, and FWC biologists estimate that as many as 12 percent of those birds are hybrids. Eggeman says those are frightening numbers, but there is still hope.

“We have a real opportunity to save a valued part of our state's native wildlife,” Eggeman said. “The Florida mottled duck has lived here for thousands of years, and with the help and support of Florida residents we can conserve it well into the future.”

In recognition of the threats domestic mallards pose to the mottled duck, the FWC has established rules that make it illegal to release these birds and require permits to buy and sell them. Also, the agency has partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to allow removal of artificially introduced mallards by people with special permits.

You can learn more about the mottled duck and what you can do to help by visiting www.myfwc.com/duck or by calling the FWC's waterfowl offices at 850-488-5878 or 321-726-2862.

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Ecology, pathogenicity and management of *Bipolaris* and *Curvularia* fungal species associated with decline of ultradwarf bermudagrasses in Florida.

By Dr. Lawrence E. Datnoff, Dr. Carol Stiles, Dr. John Cisar and Matthew O. Brecht, Ph.D. Candidate, Principal Investigators

Rationale/description of problem:

In the Southeast, an increasing number of putting greens consist of the new ultradwarf

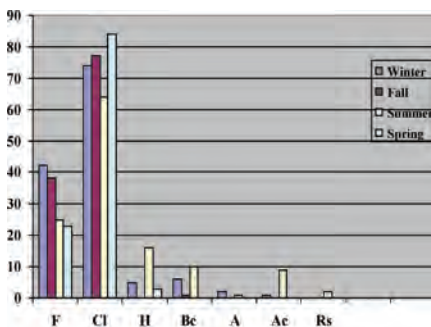


Figure 3. Incidence of selected fungi by season. Fungal abbreviations are as follows: F=*Fusarium*, Cl= *Curvularia lunata*, H=*Hansfordia*, Bc=*Bipolaris cynodontis*, A=*Alternaria*, Ac=*Acremonium*, and Rs=*Ramichloridium subulatum*. Bars with the same letter do not differ significantly at $P \leq 0.05$ as determined by the Fisher's Protected LSD.

bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon* X *C. tenuisvaalensis*) cultivars, including Champion, Floradwarf, and TiffEagle. These grasses rival traditional creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis palustris*) greens in part because of their higher shoot densities, faster ball roll and tolerance to lower mowing heights (Hanna, 1998).

Recently in the Gulf Coast region (Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi), more than 70 golf courses in 2000 and 130 golf courses in 2001 reported significant disease problems in their ultradwarf bermudagrass putting greens (Unruh and Davis, 2001). Diagnostic labs, which received turfgrass from the diseased greens, attributed the damage to spring dead spot (*Ophiosphaerella* spp.) and *Curvularia* blight (*Curvularia* spp.). Damage in some

of the samples was attributed to *Bipolaris* species. *Curvularia* blight was the most prevalent reported disease from late spring to late fall.

The fungus was isolated off of the major-

ity of turfgrass samples brought into the labs (Stowell, personal comm.; Unruh and Davis, 2001). While *Curvularia* species were frequently recovered from both healthy and diseased ultradwarf bermudagrass tissue, it is often unclear whether the fungus is the primary cause of the turfgrass symptoms or a saprophytic secondary organism (Stowell, personal comm.). An accurate diagnosis is important to the superintendent

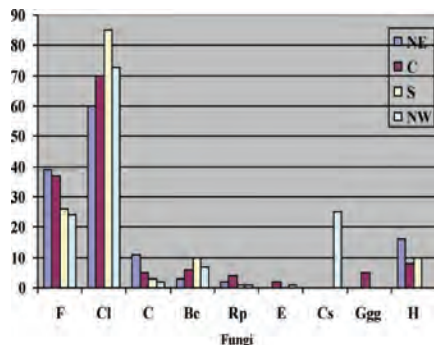


Figure 4. Incidence of selected fungi by location (NE=northeast, C=central, S=south, NW=northwest) in Florida. Fungal abbreviations are as follows: F=*Fusarium*, Cl= *Curvularia lunata*, C=*Codinaea*, Bc=*Bipolaris cynodontis*, Rp=*Robillarda phragmites*, E=*Epicocum*, Cs=*Curvularia geniculatus*, Ggg=*Gaeumannomyces graminis* var. *graminis*, and H=*Hansfordia*. Bars with the same letter do not differ significantly at $P \leq 0.05$ as determined by the Fisher's Protected LSD.

since management of certain diseases by fungicides and cultural methods are often specific for that type of fungus.

Although *Curvularia* species are frequently obtained from ultradwarf putting green samples in Florida, they are not routinely diagnosed as pathogens by university diagnostic laboratories. One reason for this is the ongoing debate about the pathogenicity of *Curvularia* species (Kim et al., 2000). Brown et al. (1972) demonstrated that various *Curvularia* species could cause disease in cultivars of Kentucky bluegrass, creeping red fescue, and bentgrass from 24 to 35° C. In Korea, Kim et al. (2000) recently showed that *Curvularia inaequalis*, isolated

from zoysia with blight symptoms, was pathogenic at 30° C in zoysia, bentgrass, and bermudagrass.

Turfgrass canopies in Florida consistently reach these temperatures used for the previous pathogenicity

studies from late spring through the fall.

While *Bipolaris* species are more often attributed to causing a disease in turfgrass (Couch 1995), little information is available about the role these fungi play in affecting ultradwarf bermudagrasses (Pratt, 2001). In fact, very little is known about the pathogenicity, etiology, and ecology of *Bipolaris* and *Curvularia* species and no disease research has been conducted on the ultradwarf bermudagrasses.

Basic information on the biology and ability to cause disease by *Bipolaris* and *Curvularia* species in the ultradwarf cultivars is critical for developing accurate and rapid diagnostic procedures and for creating optimum, long-term integrated disease-management strategies that the superintendents can use to please their membership.

Benefits of research to golf course superintendents:

This research will determine whether or not *Bipolaris* and *Curvularia* species are directly responsible for the disease problems in putting greens comprised of ultradwarf bermudagrasses in Florida. By understanding which fungi are pathogenic, diagnostic procedures can be developed to more accurately identify the true cause of disease, and allow superintendents to correctly manage the situation. Integrated disease management strategies that included cultural (such as mowing heights) and chemical approaches can then be developed for superintendents, giving them more options for prevention and control of the disease problem.

Objective 1: Determine the influence of mowing heights and fungicides on the decline of ultradwarf bermudagrass.

(Editor's note: The report on objective one can be found in the March/April 2005 Issue of the Florida Turf Digest. Dr. Datnoff was gracious enough to let us publish his update report on the other two objectives of the overall project as a timely follow up.)

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Objective 2: Determine the occurrence of *Bipolaris* and *Curvularia* on ultradwarf bermudagrass greens in Florida golf courses.

A statewide systematic study was undertaken to determine the true extent of *Bipolaris* and *Curvularia* and other fungi associated with disease problems on golf courses with ultradwarf bermudagrass greens (TifEagle, Champion and Floradwarf) in Florida. Every other month samples were collected from eight golf course greens located in four geographical regions of Florida, USA (northeast, northwest, central, southeast), with each region having a Floradwarf and TifEagle cultivar. This research actually began in 2003 and is ongoing in 2004. The data shown herein are from 2003 and a portion of 2004.

Twenty different species of fungi and one actinomycete were recovered from the two ultradwarf cultivars, including *Alternaria* sp., *Acremonium* sp., *Biplaris cynodontis*, *Bipolaris hawaiiensis*, *Codinaea* sp., *Choanephora* sp., *Curvularia lunata*, *Curvularia geniculatus*, *Cylindrocarpon* sp., *Epicoccum* sp., *Fusarium* spp., *Gaeumannomyces graminis* var. *graminis*, *Hansfordia* sp., *Leptosphaerulina trifolii*, *Myrothecium leucotrichum*, *Pestalotia* sp., *Penicillium* sp., *Pythium* sp., *Robillarda phragmites*, *Ramicladium subulatum*, *Rhizoctonia zeae* and a *Streptomyces* species. The incidence of *Fusarium* sp., *Curvularia lunata*, *Hansfordia* sp., *Bipolaris cynodontis*, *Alternaria* sp., *Acremonium* sp., and *Ramicladium subulatum* was significantly different depending on the season ($P < 0.05$) (Figure 3.). *Fusarium* and *Alternaria* species were recovered significantly ($P < 0.05$) more often on leaves during the winter and spring months than on other plant parts and times of the year (data not shown). *Acremonium* sp. were recovered significantly ($P < 0.05$) more often on leaves during the spring than on other plant parts and times of the year (data not shown).

The incidence of *Biplaris cynodontis*, *Codinaea* sp., *Curvularia lunata*, *Curvularia geniculatus*, *Epicoccum* sp., *Fusarium* sp., *Gaeumannomyces graminis* var. *graminis*, *Hansfordia* sp., and *Robillarda phragmites* was influenced significantly by the location of the turfgrass in the state of Florida ($P < 0.05$) (Figure 4).

Objective 3: Ascertain which isolates of *Bipolaris* and *Curvularia* obtained from the statewide survey are pathogenic and determine disease develop-

ment. Isolates of *Bipolaris* and *Curvularia* species obtained from the statewide survey will be used to test their ability to cause both foliar and root disease in Champion, Floradwarf, and Tifeagle. These tests are currently under way.

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Bill Davidson, GCS at Naples Grande G.C. organized an Everglades GCSA entry for the Naples St. Patrick's Day Parade. Bill's son Trace rides with dad. Brian Beckner, LaPlaya G.C. is in the background and his son Preston is in the back of "Keeping it Green" cart. Photo by Romie Davidson.

A St. Patrick's Day Adventure

Nobody Does Green Better Than Superintendents

By Bill Davidson

An annual adventure in March is for my family to go to the Naples St. Patrick's Day parade. Last year, after seeing the local Republican Club march by, the local boating store promoting its business with a shiny new boat being towed down the parade route, and my good friend's Mommy Club pass by; I thought there is nobody that is greener than golf course superintendents and we should be out there promoting ourselves as well. After a few minutes on our local government's Web site, I found all of the contact information I needed. Signing up for the parade was simply a phone call and a small entry fee of \$100.

My original thought was to get some fairway mowers and triplexes to ride down the parade route, but logistics made that too difficult so we used carts and trucksters. In promoting what we do, I wanted to come up with something that brought the recognition of our hard work right to

the community's door step and to let people know who we are. To accomplish this, I had two 4x4-foot signs made — one said, "If you like playing your golf course, thank your Superintendent" and the other had the Everglades chapter's name & logo and attached them to our ride.

A quick stop at a local party supply shop for decorations and we had bona fide mobile floats. Some phone calls to friends and I had a small group organized in no time. I wanted this to be a family event for the kids as well (who else is better to promote you than your kids?) and when they found out there were golf carts and candy involved (It's a tradition at the Naples parade to throw candy to the crowd as you pass) it was an easy sell.

The reception we got from the crowd was fantastic! I think most were even surprised to see us. If you think about it, a large percentage of the people who are here this time of year play golf or have something to do with a golfing community. One thing most people don't do well is to promote themselves. This was a great, inexpensive opportunity to promote our profession, our association and the game of golf. It cost less than \$800 for signs and supplies. Plus, we had a great time with our kids doing it!

Let's face it: On St. Patrick's Day nobody does green better than superintendents.

2004 Photo Contest Results



First Place - "Hole No. 2, View from the Tee" by Jim Mandeville, Bear's Club, North Palm Beach



Second Place - "13th Tee Wildflower Bed" by Scott Hornish, Royal Poinciana Club, Naples

Native areas on golf course require less water and other maintenance inputs. They also provide food and cover for wildlife and visual contrast to the turf. Congratulations to the winners of Category 3 – Native Areas:

2005 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

Color prints or slides. Prefer prints. Only one entry per category. Digital images: Digital image entries must be taken at a resolution setting of 300 dpi or higher and saved as Jpeg or Tif format images. Images taken, saved and sent at lower resolutions will not qualify for the contest. If you're not sure. Send a print instead. Photo must be taken on an FGCSA member's course. Photo must be taken by an FGCSA member or a member of his staff.

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.

A caption identifying the category, course and photographer should be typed or printed on the sheet of paper below the mounted print.

Judging will be done by a panel of FGCSA members not participating in the contest.

Mail entries in a bend proof package marked "PHOTOS DO NOT BEND" to Joel Jackson, 6780 Tamarind Circle, Orlando, 32819. Entries postmarked after August 1, 2005 will be automatically entered in the 2006 Photo Contest.

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As It Lies Who is Number One?

By Jim Walker

Being number one in a lot of things in this world is very important: Number-one-ranked player in the world, World Series champs, Super Bowl champs, NBA champs, NCAA



champs in football and basketball — all can have life-changing ramifications. The list goes on and on.

There are exceptions, however, to being number one. It is not cool to be the first one to arrive at a party, or the first one to leave. It is not polite to be the first one finished with a meal at the dinner table, an act which can draw looks and whispers from others dining with you. There may be more delicate situations in which a man might not want to finish first, but I digress.

All of this leads me to a discussion of being the number-one person to tee off each morning at my golf course. I know many people like early tee times so they can finish and have a good deal of the day remaining

for other activities like having a nap on the sofa accompanied by the soft murmur of the television. I also like to get out early on a golf course if it is going to be a crowded, slow-moving affair. My wife on the other hand thinks an early tee time is anything prior to 10 a.m.

My golf course has a long-standing tradition that the first 10 tee times are given to the first 10 people who arrive at the course each morning. No one knows how long this policy has been in effect. Not one player or employee knows when it started or why.

When I arrived five years ago, I discussed the concept of doing away with this goofy situation with my assistant and many of the greyhounds who comprised this group. My idea was to let people reserve these times in a more civilized manner like on the phone or in person. It was not something I considered long because the hangman's noose was quickly thrown over a large limb of an oak tree adjacent to the putting green. Being a perceptive person and having gone further in school than Jethro Bodine, I knew that the rope was for me and the tradition was not to be trifled with.

Having been dealt a hand of lemons, I decided to make lemonade. Since I failed in my attempt to change tradition, I paid very close attention to the ins and outs, whys and wherefores, and studied the psychological profiles of the greyhounds. Keeping score for these people seems to be measured in how fast they play,

not how well they played.

But, let me begin at the beginning of the day, which for these people begins at 4:30 a.m. That's correct. I know because I am at the course before 4:30 a.m. each day because we host 70,000 rounds a year, and every piece of equipment with wheels on it also is equipped with lights. Mowing greens, tees, fairways, roughs, slopes, and even spraying projects are done "under the lights." My crew reports between 4 and 5 a.m. each day, and everybody hits the ground running.

If we don't stay ahead of the first group, we'll get buried in players and not be able to mow anything.

And there's another phenomenon at Greynolds Park: early bird joggers and cyclists. People run and bike in the dark. They also wear very dark clothes so they are difficult to see and that keeps you on your toes as you enter the park each morning before your first wake-up cup of coffee.

The other day I arrived at 4:10 a.m. and Tin Cup Jr. "aka" Sneaky Pete was already in the parking lot. How the heck he got in is a mystery because I use the back gate, and the security guard doesn't open the front gate until 4:30 a.m. When I inquired, the early bird said he left his car there overnight and entered through one of the pedestrian gates which are never locked.

Half of these people are millionaires who should be members at one of several nice private clubs in

the area and could have civilized tee times. We have a former owner of a trash-hauling company in New York, a nice Italian gentleman. In the winter we have the largest importer and exporter of chocolate in Canada, yes, all of Canada. There's a retired hairdresser and owner of several upscale salons in Connecticut, and a retired jockey and thoroughbred trainer from Saratoga, who retired before age 50. I could go on and on, but I think you get the picture.

These people are in the parking lot before the milk is delivered and last call is made at the local watering holes. What in the name of God do they do for the rest of the day? I'm telling you, shouting matches have occurred over who was first, third or sixth on any particular day, since this is all done on the honor system.

Evidently none of the previous managers felt this Greek drama in three acts was worth monitoring. Can you imagine? What do you do at work? Well, I monitor the first ten cars in the parking lot so they don't kill each other. Keeping track of who is number one at Greynolds Park is a dirty job, but somebody has to do it.

In my 30 plus years of running golf courses, this is the most bizarre behavior I have ever seen. Maybe you have some goofy goings-on at your course too. If so, I would like to hear from you. Just remember, all the guys I'm talking about are retired, so they don't have anything else to do each day except go home.

GREEN SIDE UP



Joel Jackson, CGCS

Rules of the Game

By Joel Jackson, CGCS

I'm not talking about knowing the USGA Rules of Golf verbatim, like Rule 36 — immovable hazards. Although knowing that rule did allow Tiger Woods to have the gallery move a

boulder for him in the Phoenix Open a few years ago. I'm talking about some common-sense rules to avoid obstacles in our career path.

The Human Condition

Tirades, tantrums and termi-

nations are not substitutes for training, coaching, discipline and self control. Treat others as you would have them treat you — including suppliers — and do it with respect.

One rotten apple spoils the whole barrel, and we're all in the barrel.

Always give credit to others: the crew for doing the work, a peer for providing problem-solving information, the green chairman for spearheading the approval for a project, a supplier for

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Working superintendents don't have to wear blue jeans and a Copenhagen cap to a local chapter meeting. A polo shirt, sport coat and Dockers from Sears are perfectly fine attire when visiting another course's clubhouse as a guest.

The curse of Casual Friday is that it is now Casual Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, etc. Wearing shorts and boat shoes at work doesn't mean you can't grow healthy turfgrass, provide excellent playing conditions or manage a multi-million dollar asset. After all, a fishing guide is trained professional too. It's OK to jump in the hole and fix the leak if you have to. Just don't go to the clubhouse looking like a ditch digger or a fishing guide — you are the superintendent.

Communicate or Abdicate

Don't let the rumor mill do your talking. Tell the truth and tell it often to everyone on the staff from the pro shop, valet parker and waitress in the restaurant. Then tell your boss, committee chairman, the influential golfers and even the "squeaky wheels." If you don't spread the facts, someone will offer to fill the void with their opinions.

Example: "With the cloudy, rainy weather the greens are a little thin right now. I've raised the height of cut, which is recommended by the USGA Green Section as a first response to thinning. I've sent out soil samples to check for nematode levels and soil pathogens. I'm going to solid-tine aerify and lightly topdress and fertilize them also. If they don't perk up, I'd like to have Bill Smith and Tom Jones, the superintendents at Posh Hills CC and the Platinum Club, come over and take a look and see if I've missed something. It would really help if the sun would come out."

Don't miss the chance to post announcements in the clubhouse or write an article for the club newsletter. You don't have to be a novelist. There are boiler plate articles you can copy from GCSAA and others to spread the word about what's going on in your department and on the course. Just remember to tell who, what, why, when and how and you'll be fine.

Business Savvy

Run your operation like a business, not a bottomless money pit. Don't covet the newest bells and whistles without showing the cost and benefit of everything... from purchasing new equipment to using new products. Have a plan in hand, not your hand out every year for more dollars. The devil is in the details. If you were the owner, wouldn't you want to know where every dime was going? Be creative in finding ways to lower costs, like reducing out-of-play turf areas and multi-tasking employees.

Continuing education

If you aren't learning something new, you are falling behind. The best scenario is being able to go to conferences, seminars and chapter meetings. Regardless of the formal education, the networking is worth the effort. Being around other superintendents always raised my spirits and my intelligence on growing good turf. After you go to a conference or even a local meeting, write a short report or note to your boss and tell him something you learned that will help you do your job. They might get the idea that it's good for you to go to these things.

Public Relations

It's harder for a club to fire a nice, friendly and positive person who is seen often and participates in club functions or at least shows his or her face around the course.

"Good morning Mr. Smith. How are you hitting them? I know you often bring guests out to the course. I just wanted to let you know we will be doing our spring aerification next week.

"Hello Ms. Jones. Did you see the new butterfly garden on No. 6? We just joined the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System and we are working on becoming certified. Would you like to serve on our Resource Committee?"

Health and Fitness - You Are What You Eat

Coffee, donuts, soda, burgers and fries or cereal, fruit, juice and salad?

You don't have to deny yourself treats. Just consider variety and moderation in all things, especially alcohol at your club and local chapter functions. Find a way to exercise. It relieves stress and keeps you around for your family.

Perceptions

It may look like a barn. It may smell like a barn. But in reality, it is the turf management operations center. A broom, a blower and a couple of gallons of paint may be all the tools you need to make your shop look organized and efficient. Sloppy is as sloppy does from clutter to record-keeping.

Mix/load and/or equipment-wash areas that drain directly into ditches, creeks and wetlands look exactly like what they are, pollution generators. Pour some concrete. Recycle the rinsate. It isn't rocket science. It's called stewardship and gives the perception that you and your club care about the environment.

Ethics

Resist the temptation to respond to comments or questions about another superintendent's golf course condition, practices or even problems when asked. You may or may not know all the facts. Usually you don't and their comments are often uneducated hearsay. Don't agree to make a visit to that course if they invite you without calling that superintendent first. It looks real bad if the other superintendent gets fired, and you end up somehow involved in that operation.

Don't get caught in clandestine poaching of your neighbor's employees. Good equipment managers and technicians are in demand. It's a free country and everyone has a right to seek the best deal they can get. However, the industry is too small and your reputation is at stake if you don't give your professional peers at least a heads-up on pending negotiations. He may not like it but at least it wasn't done on the sly.

Follow these rules and stay in the game. The score you earn here is more than just a number.

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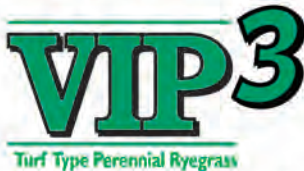
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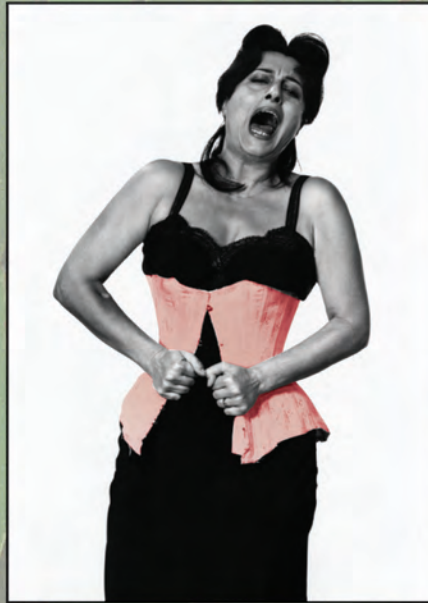
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