



The Florida Green

Spring 2006



Number 15
The Falls Country Club
Lake Worth
Photo by Daniel Zelazek



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COVER STORY: THE FALLS CC

The magnificent falls at The Falls Country Club are the club's trademark, but its biggest attraction may be an equally magnificent avian population, including a female snow goose who winters at the course every year.

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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: POWER POINT PRESENTATIONS

An invitation to address an environmental-issues group on Shell Point's achieving certification in environmental planning and water management by Audubon International gave Mike Mongoven, CGCS, the impetus to learn one of the most useful tools in his computer: Power Point.

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HANDS ON: TREE PROGRAM

Architect Bobby Weed removed 800 trees when he renovated Timuquana CC in Jacksonville in 1996. That made only a slight dent in the forest that had grown up in and around the 1923 Donald Ross classic. With determination and fact-based persuasion, superintendent Chris Neff has convinced the club to remove more trees in a long-term tree-management program.

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An essay by a noted hydrologist points out how a lawsuit in Illinois involving atrazine may seriously threaten the nation's food supply... and turfgrass may be next.

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STEWARDSHIP: ENHANCING WILDLIFE HABITAT

Enhancing wildlife habitat on your golf course can actually enhance playability and golfer enjoyment if you think through the issues carefully and follow some sensible guidelines.

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The Florida Green

SPRING 2006

Published four times a year:
On the 25th of January, April, July and October

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SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$20 for four issues. Contact the FGCSA office.

ADVERTISING: For rates and information, contact the FGCSA office at 800-732-6053

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

CALL FOR ARTICLES

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

Summer 2006 - Managing Vertebrate Pests: Alligators to Moles

Fall 2006 - GPS: Bell, Whistle or Tool?

Winter 2007 - Fertility Programs - Using Organics

Spring 2007 - Nematode Management without Nema-cur

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.

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Don't you just love spring? The temperatures have warmed up and grass is growing consistently again, the birds are singing, only to be drowned out by the sound of hammers and construction equipment re-building the members' clubhouse that got destroyed in the hurricanes of 2004. Yes, you are not in that boat alone.

Like many others we are still recovering from the storms in 2004 and '05. I do hope everyone has recovered as best as possible. Just

Get Proactive On Fertilizer Regulation

think, it won't be long and you will be able to sit back and reflect on how you and your staff were able to overcome these challenges to make a terrific golfing season.

Speaking of challenges, another storm is brewing out there and it's not a hurricane.

This ill wind is coming from the activists who always blame golf courses and lawns for pollution. The recent trend is to blame phosphorus and nitrate pollution on turfgrass fertilizers. Ok, it's not new but you know what I mean. I'm hearing and seeing stories of county officials trying to ban synthetic fertilizers, trying to ban soluble fertilizers, trying to ban fertilizers totally.

We have to remind them again and again that properly applied fertilizers do not leach. Present them with the facts and help dispel the myths. Tell them how you really do it. Remind them that it is a business and that wasteful practices just don't make sense. Tell them how you properly apply products and do so with restraint in regards to water bodies and potential weather events. Tell them how you send in soil samples to labs that and match your fertilizer to the needs of your soils. Tell them how you watch the weather. I haven't met a superintendent yet who couldn't tell me the weather forecast for the next few days.

We have to know this information. It's our job. The problem is that most people don't know that we know and what we do.

You can sit back and wait until this blows over and try to repair the damage after it has been done. Remember the hurricanes? Or maybe, just maybe, you can do something about it. You know, take a little pre-

In other words, don't just talk the talk, but walk the walk. There are 67 counties and 440 municipalities out there that potentially could make laws regulating fertilizer use. Let's be proactive and combine our efforts to let everyone know about the true positive benefits of golf courses.

ventive action.

When you hear someone talking about all the alleged misuse of fertilizers and pesticides on golf courses or home lawns, or see a one-sided newspaper article, correct them! Write a letter to the editor. Tell the facts. If you have kids, go to their schools and talk to the students and teachers; get involved in the Audubon Program. Go to your local chapter meeting. Continue your education and reach out and educate others as well.

In other words, don't just talk the talk, but walk the walk. There are 67 counties and 440 municipalities out there that potentially could make laws regulating fertilizer use. Let's be proactive and combine our efforts to let everyone know about the true positive benefits of golf courses.



Craig Weyandt
FGCSA President

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Calusa GCSA's Greg Kriesch presents Jennifer Benton of the Abuse Counseling and Treatment Center of Lee County with a check for \$1,500 from the Calusa Christmas Tournament.

CHAPTER ROUNDUP
Winter's The Season of Hyperactivity

CALUSA

On Dec. 6, the Calusa CGCSA held its third annual Christmas charity golf tournament at Kelly Greens Country Club in Fort Myers. The CGCSA is comprised of golf course superintendents from Lee, Charlotte, Hendry and Collier counties. As in the past, all proceeds from the tournament were donated to the Abuse Counseling and Treatment Center of Lee County Inc. ACT provides safe shelter, food and clothing for the victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and their children. ACT also attempts to break the cycle of violence through educational programs in local schools and in our community. This year the Calusa GCSA was able to raise \$1,750. External Vice

President Greg Kriesch presented the check to Jennifer Benton of ACT at the conclusion of the event.

CENTRAL FLORIDA

Tom Alex, director of golf and grounds of the Grand Cypress Resort,

was the guest speaker at our annual FTGA Research Tournament held at the Interlachen CC. The event has raised over \$60,000 for turf research over the years. The team of Nancy Henderson and John Lammrigh from LPGA International Club in Daytona Beach repeated as tournament winners.

Chapter President Chris Cartin hosted our annual superintendent/vendor meeting and golf tournament in February. The event took on a new name in honor of Duane Camps, who died last April. Duane was a sales rep from WescoTurf, the local Toro



In March, more than 50 Central Florida technicians and superintendents toured three local golf course equipment maintenance operations. Photo by Frank Eckert.

distributor. The event was renamed the Duane Camps Supt/Vendor Shootout. It was then altogether fitting and touching when Duane's son won the special Long Drive contest sponsored by Lake Masters and Mike Martin, and he also teamed up with Alaqua CC superintendent Jay Buccelato to win the Low Gross division in the Shoot-out. After golf and over a chicken wing dinner, the band Supt Up performed a song list of classic rock tunes.

Congratulations go out to Bob Karnes of Disney for pulling down a 2005 ELGA Merit Award in the Resorts Division up in Atlanta at the GCSAA Conference.

Our chapter and the Central Florida TESTA association of Equipment Technicians co-hosted a shop tour of three golf courses in March. A group of over fifty technicians and superintendents visited Orange Lake, Orange County National and Grande Lakes shops. Each stop was sponsored in order by Coastal Equipment/John Deere, Toro Dealers and Jacobsen dealers. The tour has grown in scope and size each year.



It was a repeat victory at the 2006 Central Florida FTGA Research Tournament for Nancy Henderson and John Lammrigh, CGCS from the LPGA International Golf Club. Photo by Joel Jackson.



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The Supt Up Band, aka Uncle Freddy, entertained players and guests following the Central Florida supt/vendor “Duane Camps Shoot-out” at the Tuscawilla C.C. Band members from left: Steve Kulka, Mike Dean, John Kopak, Brett Harris and Steve Kress. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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SPOTLIGHT



Notables at the Central Florida FTGA Research Tournament from left: FTGA Vice President Jay McCord; host superintendent Stu Leventhal, Interlachen C.C.; guest speaker Tom Alex, Grand Cypress Resort; and CFGCSA President Chris Cartin, Tusawilla C.C. Photo by Joel Jackson



Bob Karnes, Walt Disney World (second from left), received an Environmental Leaders in Golf Merit Award in the Resort Division at the GCSAA Conference in Atlanta. The presenters, from left, GCSAA Director Mark Kuhns, CGCS, Barbara Booth, Golf Division director for Rainbird and Syngenta's Joe DiPaola. Photo by Joe DiPaola.

COASTAL PLAINS

Don Glaser hosted our January meeting at the Capitol City CC. Jeff Heggen did the honors in March at his Hilaman Park GC.

EVERGLADES

Our members kicked off the 2006 educational calendar by attending the FTGA Regional Seminar at the TECO Arena in January and then trekking up to Atlanta for the GIS. We held a joint meeting with the Calusa chapter in March at Edison College to visit Dr. Lee Berndt's golf operations program. In April we will have our annual Spring Symposium and Matt Taylor has lined up another spectacular lineup of speakers. We are also in full action

mode getting ready for the Poa Annuia Classic in May at the Naples Beach Club. Meanwhile Bill Davidson is planning to leverage our second appearance in the Naples St. Patrick's Day parade into another positive public relations event.

NORTH FLORIDA

Thanks to Paul Hammrick for organizing our chapter volunteers to work for NBC Sports covering the TPC Championship. March will be a busy month as Glen Klauk will be hosting our annual Research Tournament at Pablo Creek CC on the 13th. Then in April we will all gather at our annual Mike Richards Scholarship Tournament at the Jacksonville G&CC.

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improved pest resistance. And while it might green up a little later than some bermudas come spring, once it takes off it's very aggressive. Many superintendents feel this is a big plus when they're dealing with fluctuating spring temperatures. TifSport. Specify it by name for your new course or renovation project.

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PALM BEACH

We fielded a team of spotters and scorers to work with NBC Sports to broadcast the Honda Classic at Mirasol. March will be a busy month with our monthly meeting at Aberdeen CC and the South Florida Turf Expo a few days later. Plenty of PDI point opportunities.

We are currently supporting a membership drive by the Palm Beach Equipment Technicians Association. Encourage your technician to join. Contact Hass Mengloi, president at 561-541-9140 or 561-951-3767 or email to hassmengloi@adelphia.net.

RIDGE

The Ridge Invitational

was held March 6 at the Grassland CC. Thanks Roy Wilshire, CGCS for another great event.

SEVEN RIVERS

President Mark Kann hosted the third FGCSA Assistant Superintendent Seminar at the Plantation Inn in Crystal River in February. Tom Ginnetti and Ed Suarez from Intergrated Employer Resources, Inc. teamed up to give morning and afternoon sessions on hiring, communications, interviewing and leadership topics.

SOUTH FLORIDA

Our “spring thing” as always is a busy March with Doral Open — oops, I mean the Ford Championship at Doral — and Jim and Susi

Walker rounding up a team of spotters to work with NBC Sports. Tiger hung on for a repeat victory as a windy Blue Monster had the pros chipping out from behind the banyan trees. And soon after the tournament we will be hosting the South Florida Turf Expo at the UF/IFAS Research and Education Station in Ft. Lauderdale.

SUNCOAST

Thanks to Renze Berg and the Bradenton CC for hosting our January Superintendent/Vendor Appreciation Day meeting and to Mel Hallack of Golf Ventures for the great barbecue spread. Mike McCulloch is ready for our return to Jacaranda West CC for the

2006 Suncoast Scramble in March. This is one of our major turf research fundraisers and we appreciate everyone’s support. We will be changing the site of our annual meeting and chapter championship to Imperial Lakewoods GC since Bob Gwodz will be busy with a reconstruction project at our traditional venue at the Sara Bay CC.

TREASURE COAST

First we are happy to report that we retained possession of the Cavanaugh & Wagner Cup from our joint meeting and golf match with the Palm Beach Chapter. Thanks Rob Kloska for hosting the event once again at Jupiter Island. Our January meeting was a dinner

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meeting with a roundtable discussion. The topic on the agenda was “Managing Ultradwarfs: type, mowing practices, cultural practices, chemical controls, fertility, diseases, insects and no till.” Our March meeting will be at Jim Hill’s Links at Pointe West and our speaker, Mickey Hester, will talk about personal finance. At our February Board meeting we approved the following donations to worthy causes: Citrus Elementary School Audubon Program, \$300; South Fork HS Summer Intern Program, \$3,120; FGCSA Turf Research, \$3,000. Mark your calendars for our annual Blue Pearl Tournament to be held at the Loxahatchee Club June 15.

WEST COAST

Congratulations to our own Jason Kubel from the TPC of Tampa Bay. Jason was one of the 2005 ELGA Chapter winners for Public Facilities presented at the GCSAA Conference in



From the left: GCSAA Director Mark Kuhns, CGCS presents Jason Kubel of the TPC at Tampa Bay with an Environmental Leaders in Golf Award for Public Courses in the Chapter Division. Co-presenters were Barbara Booth of Rain Bird and Joe DiPaola of Syngenta. Photo by Joel Jackson

Atlanta. Jason also recently hosted the Champions Tour’s Outback Steakhouse Pro-Am at his TPC at Tampa Bay course. Check out Jason’s letter in the Superintendent Journal section.

Thanks to Aaron Cook for hosting our January meeting at the Tampa Bay G&CC and for speaker Jim Mendenhall for his educational presentation on snakes. The granddaddy of all FWCGCSA meeting sites is Gerald Marquardt’s

Largo GC annual February meeting. Thanks, Gerald, for hosting this meeting for 20 years. We are hoping for a big turnout at our annual Benevolent Fund tournament in March being held at Kirk Sowers’ Wentworth Golf Club.

FGCSA

Congratulations to the following sons and daughters of FGCSA members who were 2005 Legacy Award winners. They each will receive \$1,500 scholarships from the GCSAA:

- **Ashley Bittner**, University

of Florida, daughter of Bob Bittner, CGCS, Pelican Bay, Everglades GCSA

- **Kevin Klauk**, University of Florida, Son of Glen Klauk (A), Pablo Creek GC, North Florida GCSA

- **Kelly Mongoven**, Florida State University, daughter of Mike Mongoven, CGCS, Shell Point GC, Calusa GCSA

- **Casey Wright**, Baylor University, daughter of Steve Wright, CGCS, Boca West CC, Palm Beach GCSA

So far in 2006, five FGCSA members have completed the requirements to become certified golf course superintendents. Our congratulations go out to:

- **Bryan Cannan**, CGCS, Worthington CC, Everglades GCSA

- **Lynn Davis III**, CGCS, Palatka Municipal GC, North Florida GCSA

- **Kevin Frost**, CGCS, Diplomat/Troon Golf, South Florida GCSA

- **Russ Myers**, CGCS, Card Sound GC, South Florida GCSA

- **Kyle Nygaard**, CGCS, Royal Wood G&CC, Everglades GCSA



It’s not as easy as it looks. Instructor Ed Suarez (standing) puts assistants through their paces as he asks them to build a “working model of a team” using Lego blocks. Photo by Joel Jackson.



The first day of spring at GCSAA Headquarters in Lawrence, Kan. Marie Roberts and Joel Jackson got to see snow while attending a Chapter Leaders/Executives Symposium. Photo by Roger Goettsch, CGCS

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No. 16 The Falls Hole
No. 18 Green in Foreground
The Falls C.C.
Photo by Daniel Zelazek



THE FALLS CC

Birds in Paradise

By Joel Jackson, CGCS

The next best thing to being a golf course superintendent and seeing the wildlife on your own golf course is being the editor of this magazine and getting to visit golf courses and see the diverse wildlife inhabiting our state's golf links. The Falls Country Club has provided me (and the members) with two bird sightings not normally afforded most golfers.

A few years back we did a story on a flock of flamingoes that inhabited this southeastern Palm Beach County golf course. I got to see them while playing in one of the Palm Beach Chapter's Future of Golf tournaments held annually to raise money for junior golf programs and for turf research. Superintendent Steve Pearson, CGCS jumped through all sorts of hoops to make the exotic tropical wading birds at home, but after a few

years they moved on.

But this year a new rare visitor has taken up residence in the big lake fed by the namesake waterfalls: a female snow goose. Steve doesn't know if she is a widow on the wing or a divorcee getting away to Palm Beach for the winter. Whatever her marital status, she is ruling the roost in the lake.

Steve comes down to the lake to feed her every day and she honks at him as if to com-

Facts About The Falls



The Falls Country Club

Location: Lake Worth

Ownership: Private, member owned, non-profit corporation

Playing policy: Private. Members and guests only

Number of holes and USGA rating: 18 holes; championship tees 6,800 yards, rating/slope 72.8/136

Designed by: Joe Lee, opened for play 1987.

Management Team: Club President Robert Rachesky; Green Chairman Keith Jampolis; Club Manager Dominic Zeoli; Head Golf Professional Bill Levi; Golf Course Superintendent Steve Pearson

Major Renovations/Ongoing

Projects: In the summer of 2000 we regrassed the greens, laser-leveled and regrassed the tees, and enlarged and reshaped the fairway bunkers. We have

added a lot of new bulkheads around the lakes as time and resources permitted.

Total acreage under maintenance: 135
Greens: Tifdwarf average size 5,340 SF, 2.87 total acres, HOC .130 -.140 inches from November to May. Green Speeds: Nov - May 9.0 –10.0; medium speed in summer - not much play.

Tees: Tifway 419, 2.23 total acres tee tops only, HOC .375 inches all year, no overseeding. We resodded the ladies tee on No. 5 with Celebration bermudagrass in 2004.

Fairways: Tifway 419, 32 total acres, HOC .375 inches, no overseeding.

Roughs: Tifway 419, 64 total acres HOC 2.0 inches most of the year, no overseeding.

Bunkers: 76, 212,000 sq. ft., sand type: FS 100, machine-raked with Toro Sand Pro with cultivators and fan rakes and Cushman with steel plate rakes. Both machines can be set up with brushes only – beautiful job.

Native/Waste areas: Three “no touch” native areas for wildlife cover. 60,000 sq. ft. of crushed concrete screenings for waste areas and about one acre of landscaped beds with perennial plant material.

Waterways: 10 lakes covering 25 acres; maintained with grass carp exclusively, no chemicals added to the water. Lake-bank grass growth controlled by spraying Rodeo every two months.

Irrigation: Surface water from the lakes. PSI pump station with cl-valve controls. Toro Osmac satellites control system with Site Pro software. 688 heads on the course with variable spacing. Watering limited to our CUP issued by SFWMD. We are on a Florida Power Time-of-Use Program so irrigation times are limited to off-peak hours (9 p.m. to noon April to October, 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. November to March).

Water Management/Conservation: Watering times are adjusted daily

based on weather data input and visual observations. We don't water any more than we have to considering the amount of rainfall we get.

Staff: Total including superintendent is 15, not counting part time administrative assistant (20 hr/week) and a landscape foreman and two temporary helpers. Weekly budget per person 40 hours straight time and 3 hours overtime 6 months of the year.

Key personnel: Assistant Superintendent Malvir Gomez; Head Mechanic Leandro Sanchez; Assistant Mechanic Edgar Ardila; Pest Control Technician Steve Popp; Landscape Foreman Ernesto Barajas; Lead Trainer Vernance Paul and Admin Assistant Debbie Jacobs.

Communications: Crew meeting daily; club management meets every two weeks (Nov – March). Calendars and function sheets sent out weekly. Green committee meets twice per year, but I visit with the green chairman whenever he comes out to play. I make it a point to talk to all committee members whenever I see them around the clubhouse or out playing. I interact with a lot of members every day.

CULTURAL PROGRAMS

Greens – Aerify 4x year May to September with a variety of tine sizes. This year started hydro-aerifying monthly November to April. Verticut as needed in the summer. Fertilization depends on weather and growing conditions: Average 1 lb of Nitrogen and 1.5 lbs of Potassium per month from granular, fertigation and foliar spraying Topdressing: Heavy topdressing following each of the four summer aerifications (May to September) and light dusting topdressings every 2-3 weeks during the winter season

Tees – Aerify 3x during the summer months with topdressing; verticut heavily in August. Fertility 1 lb N and K per month, granular.

Green Slopes – Mowed and maintained the same as tees except we

don't verticut the slopes. We have player/caddy walkways from tee to fairway maintained the same way. Fairways – Aerify 3x in summer, heavily in August when closed. In past years we have verticut fairways (outside contractor), but did not this past year due to budget constraints and hurricane cleanup. We mow fairways at 3/8-inch all year, striping September to May and multiple directions June to August. Fertility - bulk granular applications May and August (1 lb N & K). First week in October bulk granular (1.5 lbs N and 2.0 lbs K) with lots of slow release material. Liquid fertilizer Dec to Feb/Mar (8-0-8 and 24-0-0 with minors). Depending on turf conditions in Feb/Mar (seldom needed), bulk granular (1 lb N & K) with 50 percent slow release.

Roughs – Aerify 2x in summer, no verticutting. Try to scalp down to 1 inch HOC during August when closed. Same fertility program as fairways but never a Feb/March application.

Pest Control/IPM – Varies annually according to budget and mole cricket pressure. We try to plan on treating tees, green slopes and fairways for grubs and mole crickets for year-round control. A spring/early-summer application is made and then again in August/September after aerification. Roughs are done as needed. Nematodes: Greens are spot treated in the spring on the usual hot spots only. No other nematode treatments made on the course.

Turf management challenges – Non-USGA-spec greens can go through periods of disease pressure in August/September.

Special events and Interesting/unusual facts: We have hosted the Palm Beach GCSA's Future of Golf tournament the past seven years. Our waterfalls are a unique feature. Hurricanes have taken their toll on our tree population: 1999 Irene – 125; 2004 Frances and Jeanne – 434; and 2005 Wilma – 313.

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A young female snow goose is a rare winter visitor to southeast Florida. These birds breed on the tundra and usually winter in the coastal marshes of the Mid-Atlantic or Western Gulf of Mexico. Photo by Joel Jackson.

plain about the water temperature or some noisy neighbors. Her matter of fact demeanor has made her the natural leader of the waterfowl contingent in the lake and a flock of native mottled ducks follows her around all day.

Being in the city, The Falls' wildlife population isn't big on many of the larger critters that find homes on the outlying courses, but the bird inventory is something else. Pearson says, "We

have an osprey that owns the place and is very territorial while fishing our lakes. We occasionally get a visit by a bald eagle also. We have the full complement of wading birds including blue, white, and green herons and various egrets. Then there are the coots, moorhens, anhingas and cormorants. Pelicans and seagulls also like to hang out here.

"Besides the mottled ducks that hang with Mother Goose, we have



One of three "No Touch Areas" on the course. This simple native area, just the length of the tee complex on the 11th hole, provides cover to over 200 wood ducks and several dozen black crested night herons. Photo by Joel Jackson.

around 200 wood ducks that hang out in one of our 'No Touch' areas in the lake adjacent to the 11th tee. We have a wood duck nest box there and we produce several fledglings every year. That particular area also provides cover for a bunch of black crested night herons."

Pearson says The Falls is also home to the normal array of native perching and songbirds commonly found in this part of the state, and they could be seen flying from tree to tree or hopping about in the roughs looking for a meal as we toured the course. But as prolific as the winged birds are at The Falls, there are other birdies that must be attended to.

The Falls Country Club is another Gentleman Joe Lee design and opened for play nineteen years ago. Pearson has been managing the turf here for the past 15 years, and perhaps the past two years have been the toughest to handle. They have been tough because hurricanes Frances, Jeanne in 2004 and Wilma in 2005 destroyed more than 700 trees outright and the lingering effects on the surviving trees have been a constant concern as they struggle to re-establish and flourish again.

Don't misunderstand, the course looked wonderful as we toured the grounds in late February. The telltale sign of staked up trees told the story of the storms' impact and many trees, like others around the state, had been defoliated to some degree and were in the process of coming back. Only those who intimately know the course and



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COVER STORY

what it looked like before the storms could appreciate the blows dealt by the hurricanes. It was evident that Pearson felt the shock and awe of how the course had changed in overall appearance as he pointed out various areas that had lost key trees and limbs that changed the familiar appearance of the course.

The club made a significant investment in restoring many trees lost in the 2004 season only to have many of the large specimen trees uprooted again by Wilma in 2005. But Pearson and staff are back at it and keeping an eye on which trees are making it and which ones may have to be removed. The point is that The Falls is not alone in having to deal with the damage that has changed the appearance of many courses.

Of course behind every dark cloud is a silver lining. Many trees that had perhaps been placed inappropriately and were causing turf shade problems were also victims of the storms and now once-bare-and-thin areas are again growing healthy turf. Clubs have been given a second chance in many locations to put a premium on turf-grass for golf instead of growing forests of trees to fall down in another storm and cost tons of clean-up money that spiraling insurance premiums no longer cover.

As Pearson and the club recover from the storm damage, he is looking forward to a possible major renovation of the greens complexes and course layout in general which may begin in



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Vehicle: 2005

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I stay home to
watch: Sports
– all of them,
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**The book I've
been read-
ing:** *Rules of
Prey* by John
Sanford



Favorite meal: Steak – medium
rare

Favorite performers: Johnny
Mathis

Prized possessions: Opening-game
ticket – Marlins vs. Dodgers, April
5, 1993

Personal Heroes: My son's cardiac
surgeon and his pediatric cardiolo-
gist, Dr. Grace Wolff

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**I'm better than anyone else when it
comes to:** Coaching at third base
I'd give anything to meet: Nobody
in particular. Met a lot of people in
my career

My fantasy is: Play golf at Cypress
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The one thing I can't stand: Slow
fast-food places

**If I could change one thing about
myself:** Lose weight and keep it off

Most humbling experience:
Realizing the importance of being a
good parent

The words that best describe me:
Organized. Sports nut. Impatient

My most irrational act: Buying a
new car and then trading it in after
one month. Couldn't stand it.

My dream foursome would be:
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son and me.

My best fish story: Winning the
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Steve Pearson, CGCS

Originally From: Michigan. Born in Detroit. Love all Detroit sports teams.

Family: Wife: Wendy (married 33 years). Children: Adrienne and Garrett. Two grandchildren: Morgan (4) and Colette (18 months)

Employment History: 1971 assistant superintendent, Fountains of Palm Beach; 1971-72 assistant superintendent, Johns Island Club; 1972 assistant superintendent Sheoah (now Winter Springs) GC; 1972-77 assistant superintendent, Fountains of Palm Beach, 45 holes (oversaw building of South Course and irrigation system installation; 1977-80 superintendent Mayacoo Lakes; 1980-81 superintendent Boca Lago CC; 1981-89 Superintendent Boca Grove G&TC; 1989-91 superintendent Woodfield CC; 1991 to present superintendent The Falls CC.

Professional Affiliations: 25 year member of the GCSAA, certified since 1990. Florida Turfgrass Association – 35-year member. Served on numerous committees – Scholarship and Research the longest – editor of the Florida Turf Digest for seven years. 2004 Wreath of Grass recipient. Palm Beach GCSA – member since inception in 1978. All board positions, president 1986-87. Currently serving as vice president and will become president for second time in 2006-07. Florida GCSA member since inception in 1980, research committee, Presidents Award for Lifetime Achievement in 1999.

How did you get into the business? Played golf on high school and junior college teams. Majoring in architecture but higher math did me in. Worked one summer at the Fountains and decided to transfer to UF in Turf Management. Worked with Dr. G.C. Horn. Came back to the Fountains after college and worked for Felix Paguaga at the Fountains.

Mentors: G.C. Horn really got me enthusiastic about turf management on the technical and educational side. Felix Paguaga – my mentor in the beginning. I learned a lot about turf but more importantly I learned how to deal with members. I have also learned a lot from my peers in the industry. The friendships that I have developed over the years have been phenomenal. Everyone has helped me over the years. You can learn so much just by networking with other superintendents.

Goals/Accomplishments: I'm very proud to be recognized for my contributions to the industry with the Wreath of Grass and Presidents Awards. I'm also proud of our work with the Florida Turfgrass Association. It was difficult but rewarding to work on the Florida Turf Digest magazine and watch it grow over the years. One goal I'd like to see would be to oversee the eventual renovation of the greens to USGA specs and irrigation system upgrades and new aesthetics for the course.



Steve Pearson poses with a replacement specimen oak tree from the 2004 storms that got hammered in 2005. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Philosophy of work/advice: Not uncommon to others in the industry, I try to do the very best for my club with the resources provided. I think I am very efficient and organized. I believe in getting the most “bang for the buck.” My advice to prospective superintendents: Work hard. Be studious and sincere in your approach to being a superintendent. Be willing to be patient and learn how to be a better people manager. There is a lot more to being a superintendent than growing turfgrass. Listen, read and become involved with your superintendent organizations.

Personal memorable moments: Outside of golf – Coaching my daughter, Adrienne, in her younger days in slow-pitch softball and eventually being part of teams winning two national championships and seven state championships and lots of tournaments. Golf related – playing in Father/Son tournaments with my son Garrett and watching sporting events with him. He's a sports nut just like I am. Playing Pebble Beach and hitting my tee shot in almost total darkness on the par 3, 17th hole to 18 inches. What a birdie! They had to kick us off the 18th hole that day.

Hobbies and interests: My wife is also a baseball nut. We really enjoyed watching all the Marlins' divisional, National League championship and Worlds Series games in 2003 and 2007 in person. In general: Sports! Marlins baseball, golf, any UF Gators sports. Fishing. Listening to audio books and watching my grandchildren grow up.



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Here's an idea for a colorful, attractive alternative to plain old bridge railings that often serve as messy bird roosts. Photo by Joel Jackson.

ing greens reconstruction or regrassing. Do a test site and make comparisons first hand before jumping into something you may regret later. Pearson said, "The USGA profile allows the greens to breathe. It isn't unusual for our old greens to run into problems late in the summer during periods of heavy rain-

next year."

Pearson had already upgraded his irrigation pump station and control system in 2000. Most of the work was done in-house to install the Toro Site Pro system. Interestingly enough his old cla-valve system, the piping and heads have not had to be replaced. Pearson says

with the new computer controls he can stagger watering times and volumes so effectively he hasn't seen the need yet for a VFD pump.

Pearson said, "We have been lucky that the original system was installed properly. We have had maybe 1-2 leaks a year at most, and we seldom have to replace a head." Pearson thinks that the 4,000-gallon-per-minute pump that supplies the trademark waterfall feature on the 16th hole is part of the reason. He said, "All of the lakes are interconnected and the irrigation pump is on a small cove on the waterfall lake. I think the constant circulation prevents stagnation and algae formation which keeps junk from building up in the head and causing problems." He also cites the critical positioning and construction of the wet well for the pump intake that does not suck up any sediment to erode the pipes and heads.

And the aquatic weed control program in his lakes is very simple

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The 535-yard, par-5, 8th hole wraps around a lakeside bunker. Photo by Daniel Zelazek

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There are five bird species in this group on the 17th hole. Appearing in alphabetical order: Brown pelicans, cormorants, sea gull, snowy egret and white ibis. Photo by Joel Jackson.

– grass carp. He said, “We don’t put anything into our lakes for weed control except the fish. We spray the lake banks with Rodeo every couple of months to control the grass growth on the lake banks.” It works. The only thing you see in the lakes besides the bottom along the edges is the broad back of the carp as they forage in shallow water.

The irrigation water for The Falls

is strictly surface water from rainfall and from an adjacent canal that Pearson can access if his lake levels fall too low. Pearson is on a Florida Power Non-Peak Hours plan so he irrigates during periods when the rates are lower.

If the course renovation project takes place next year, Pearson and the club are considering replacing the Tifdwarf with a new variety and the

jury is still out on which one they may choose, but TifEagle is among the top candidates. As far as the remainder of the turf on the course, Pearson has been very pleased with the Tifway 419 and has harvested his own sprigs from the driving range to re-grass areas on the course in the past. The only variation he may consider is using Celebration bermudagrass on some shady tees. Pearson added, “We had a shade problem on the forward tee on hole #5 and we tried Celebration there and are liking what we see. Once we see how the new layout starts shaping up we may install more on any tees that look they will have shade issues.”

Pearson, like so many other superintendents I have interviewed recently, is taking a holistic approach to turf management. They are keeping a wary eye on the weather especially in the late summer and early fall when the heat and humidity and cloudy days can affect growing conditions. They are backing off fixed schedules for cultural practices and instead operate in a more prescription-management mode to avoid unnecessarily stressing the turfgrass. Pearson is lucky to be able to shut down the course in August, one of the most stressful periods in South Florida, to take advantage of very low play to get work done on the course to get ready for the fall season.

All work and no play would make Steve a dull fellow if I didn’t already know him from our joint work on the FTGA’s Florida Turf Digest magazine when Steve was the editor and his years of service on committee and boards for the Palm Beach GCSA, the Florida GCSA and the FTGA. He has been Mr. Volunteer for decades and even now he is on his second time around the Palm Beach GCSA board. He will reprise his role as president again next year. When asked why he was doing a second stint, he replied, “We have a great crop of younger folks coming along, but they needed a little more experience and seasoning before they felt ready to move into the officer rotation. The chapter needed someone to fill in the gap and I agreed.” He added with a grin, “I am the vice president this year and president

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Short but dangerous. The 323-yard 15th hole invites a second shot over water to a well-bunkered green. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

next year. My seniority meant I didn't have to spend two years as secretary and treasurer."

Pearson is also an avid sportsman and sports fan. He is pretty fair golfer having played on high school and

junior college teams. He is also a trophy-winning fisherman taking Biggest Snook and Redfish prizes at the 2005 FTGA Fishing Tournament in Bonita Springs. Before becoming Grandpa Pearson, he helped coach his daughter's slow-pitch team to seven state titles and two national championships.

He and his wife Wendy are baseball nuts and enjoy going to Florida Marlins games. They were in hog heaven in 2003 and 2007 when the Marlins were in the World Championships. Pearson also bleeds University of Florida orange and blue as a 1971 graduate with his BS in agriculture specializing in turf management.

Good superintendents take pride and virtual ownership of their golf courses, and Pearson is no exception. The hard work and long hours of dealing with storm damage have paid off and while some of the old familiar views have changed, the joyful sights and sounds of birds and birdies are being seen and heard in paradise once again.



New landscape plantings brightened up the old storm damaged plantings around the course. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Congratulations to **Steve Pearson**
and his club for being selected by
the **Palm Beach GCSA** as the
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ENVIRONMENTAL-ISSUES
GROUP PRESENTATION

Learning To Use Power Point

By Mike Mongoven, CGCS

Recently I answered the phone and it was a Mr. Smith calling. He identified himself as the chairman of the local residents' Environmental Issues Group. With a touch of skepticism I wondered why Mr. Smith was calling me. He said he wanted me to be the speaker for their February meeting. I agreed and realized that this was an opportunity to reach out to the community, but I was also a bit nervous.

This scenario took place at my Shell Point Golf Club. The invitation was initiated by the group after they read the press release from Audubon International recognizing Shell Point for achieving certification in Environmental Planning and Water Conservation. The invitation was for a 30-40 minute presentation with questions to follow. I was excited for the opportunity, but at the same time anxious about how and what I was going to do.

My first course of action was to ask for help and I did that liberally. The first e-mail I sent was to Joel Jackson, director of communications for the Florida Golf Course Superintendents. He was both helpful and encouraging. He also gave me several other potential contacts including Mark Johnson, GCSAA; Shelly Foy, USGA; and Joellen Zeh, Audubon International. Joel also sent me a packet



Microsoft PowerPoint turned out to be an excellent tool for creating a presentation about water conservation and other environmental issues on golf course. PowerPoint slide by Mike Mongoven.

of information called the Environmental and Economic Facts about Florida Golf. I also spoke with Dick Bessire and John Houchens of Waste2Water.

When I spoke with Mark Johnson of GCSAA he was very helpful. He was the first person who suggested the potential of using a Power Point presentation. Mark also spoke to me about using the Environmental Institute for Golf link on the GCSAA Web site and pointed me in a direction regarding the presentation. My initial thoughts were to have some type of field trip for the group to the golf maintenance facility. I had never done a Power Point presentation, but had seen many of them. It sounded like a good idea because I could show slides of our recycled water system and not worry about transporting a large group of people.

Shelly Foy and Joellen Zeh were both encouraging. Joellen e-mailed me a prepared Power Point presentation that is used by Audubon International to promote the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. She also gave me some ideas about the structure of the presentation.

I decided to highlight the steps we take on the golf course and at the main-

tenance facility to conserve water and also to review IPM and our Waste2Water system. Setting up the presentation was really very simple. I had help from Dan Dula, one of the Shell Point computer department staff members. He spent about 75 minutes showing me how to set up the program, run the program and even gave me some presentation ideas. It really was a very simple process to add slides and to put pictures on slides.

I gave the oral presentation, but it truly was a cooperative group effort. I'd be remiss if I didn't give credit and thanks to our current golf course superintendent, Mark Jacobs, and former superintendent, Terry Stroyer, now at the City of Ft. Myers G.C., for their hands-on efforts in our programs. Along with Jim Carpenter, our golf professional, they all took pictures of scouting, hand watering, water recycle system and others used for the presentation. I moved the pictures to the slides and then added up to 3 bullet points that would prompt me to discuss related ideas and concepts as the pictures appeared on the screen.

The presentation ended up containing 27 slides. I started and ended with a "Beauty Shot" of the course. Developing the presentation took less

than four hours, which was broken into two days. I continued to tweak the slides until the day before the presentation. When I finished the presentation I e-mailed it to several people including those listed above and to other friends. The comments I got back were very helpful. You can set up the presentation so that the presenter can check notes when showing a slide and these notes will not be obvious to people in the audience. I practiced my script in front of my wife the night before and twice the day of the presentation.

The day of the presentation I got to the meeting room 30 minutes early to make sure everything was set up, including the microphone. I tried to relieve some of my nervousness by greeting people as they entered the room. About 50-55 people attended the meeting. The presentation lasted about 35 minutes and there were about 20 minutes of questions that followed. Most of the questions were positive in nature and I believe that most people were surprised and impressed with our efforts.

The next time you get that call with an opportunity to speak with a group remember all of the people that are willing to help and all of the resources available. Power Point is a great way to communicate to a group and it is very easy to use.

Author's Note: *The group I spoke with is the Environmental Issues Group. It is a Shell Point resident-led group. They are an active group that does things such as pick up trash along a 1.5-mile stretch of a local road, maintain the bike path, many are active in bird watching and counting, most volunteer at John Ding Darling Wildlife Preserve on Sanibel Island. They also lobby the local administration for more native plants and other issues.*



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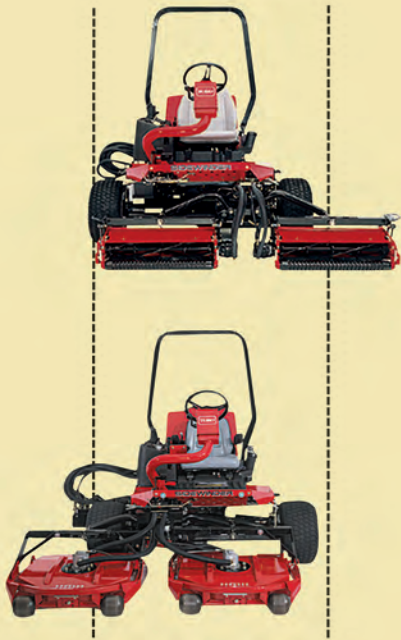
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Managing a tree program at Timuquana CC has been a very challenging task. Numerous members have grown to love the lush forest that was planted by the membership in the 1960s, but this has put a tremendous amount of pressure on the golf maintenance staff.

Limb trimming and tree thinning is done in-house with a rented lift. The work is done on Mondays when the course is closed and in the winter when the turf is dormant and mowing hours are minimized. Photo by Chris Neff.

Beating the Shade!

By Chris Neff the golf course turf and keep the membership happy and satisfied with the program.

Timuquana Country Club is a private country club in Jacksonville. The golf course was built in 1923 by Donald Ross and restored by Bobby Weed in 1996. I have been the superintendent at Timuquana CC since September 2001.

Managing a tree program at Timuquana CC has been a very challenging task. Numerous members have grown to love the lush forest that was planted by the membership in the 1960s, but this has put a tremendous amount of pressure on the golf maintenance staff at Timuquana to manage

When the golf course was renovated in 1996, architect Weed found three different sets of 150-yard markers (cedar trees and ligustrum shrubs) in the overgrown forest that had changed the design of Donald Ross over 70 years. More than 800 trees were taken out throughout the golf course during the renovation in 1996. This cleared some of the forest and alleviated some of the shaded turf issues... but only for a short time.

In 2002, Timuquana CC hosted

the U.S. Senior Amateur. Once the Senior Amateur was over, I wanted to bring the golf course to another level of conditioning. I knew the only way to accomplish this was to establish a formal tree program.

The program was started in June of 2003 and still continues to be a feature in our maintenance plan throughout the year. Elements in this tree program include not only eliminating shade issues from the golf course, but also trimming limbs of the pines and oaks and brush clearing of vines and scrubby plant material.

HOW DID I SELL THE TREE PROGRAM?

Selling the tree program was not easy by any means. The Green Committee was the first group I had to convince. I drew a detailed map from our base map to show where the detrimental shaded areas actually occurred on the golf course and then I showed how the golf course was affected by the shade in those areas.

When I showed the map of the shade areas, I also brought out old aerial photos of the golf course from the 1940s through the renovation in 1996 and this showed Donald Ross's original design philosophy and then how the golf course quickly got overgrown through the years. This raised many eyebrows and got the attention of the committee.

The Green Committee accepted my ideas and I was told to put a dollar amount on the program and a time-frame. Once I completed the proposed plan, I then had to sell the Board of Governors.

After many meetings on the golf course with the board and my tree surgeon, approval was finally given. We were budgeted \$50,000 and a month to finish the two holes of tree work that just happened to be the worst shade and overgrown areas on the course.

This was done and was accepted by the majority of the membership. The biggest difference was the difference of growth in the turfgrass over that month. This created a new line item in the budget and they committed at least five years to the tree program.



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WORK APPROVAL AND AUTHORITY

All work is approved by the Board of Governors and Green Committee. If the areas are related to shade, the approval is normally very easy but sometimes the membership doesn't want to part with a certain tree, and the shade damage and results are understood and tolerated. Most times digital pictures are taken throughout the day and shown at meetings. Then we go to the specific areas to show the shade and decisions are then made. Same thing goes for removing brush or limbing trees. Approval comes first from the Board of Governors and the Green Committee and then work proceeds. Removing dead trees is completely up to me and then I report the work back to the Green Committee.

HOW AND WHEN IS THE TREE WORK DONE?

An outside contractor does most of the work. We have used the same tree company for the five years I've been here. This contractor specializes in golf courses and realizes the importance of the trees and how we manage them. It really helps having the same company because they know the golf course and how to move around the course without doing any damage. This contractor is at Timuquana on average three to five days



Forty years of unmanaged tree planting was causing serious shade problems on the golf course. Photo by Chris Neff.

a month all year long.

Our staff performs all brush clearing and limbing of pines and oaks. This work is performed with a rented high-reach lift at various times of the year. We have a large inventory of chain saws, pruning saws, and Bush Hogs to help remove this excess foliage. Most large work that may affect play or cause disruption is done on closed Mondays. This also lets us perform the work without being seen during the day and doesn't cause 19th Hole talk. We perform all this work during the winter when the golf course and grounds are dormant, and we don't overseed fairways or roughs, which would require lots of mowing.

STORM EFFECTS

We lost about 100 trees in the storms of 2004. Most of the trees were out of play but a few affected some areas. The trimming of the pines and oaks benefited the course tremendously as the amount of debris on the course was minimal and very easy to clean up. Since the storms, we have experienced many issues in certain areas of the course where the pine bark beetle has infested many pine trees. We have managed this problem by removing the trees immediately after identifying that the beetle has affected a tree. This pest damage has caused about another 75 trees to be lost throughout the golf course and grounds. We are hoping that the winter temperatures will slow this infestation and let us concentrate on working on more needed areas that are causing shade to the turf.

GUIDELINES AND POLICY FOR MEMORIAL AND BEAUTIFICATION TREES.

Timuquana has a very strict policy when it comes to planting memorial trees or donated plant material on the grounds! After the renovation in 1996, the Green Committee proposed to the Board of Governors to make a policy in the club bylaws to not allow anyone to plant trees or ornamentals for beautification or memorials without the approval of a golf course architect. This helps my answer when I'm constantly asked to plant something for a certain person or for a committee. Also, this keeps the character of the golf course intact from the original designer without getting crazy with plant material that doesn't keep the same character or may cause serious shade problems when the trees mature.

Each year the tree program gets a little bit easier. Now we're in our third year of the program and I feel like the accomplishments are finally showing their benefits for themselves. The turf is performing better in these areas and aesthetically the golf course has a different feel and look that really shows off the true beauty of the property. I'm hopeful that this program will be continued in the future. As we prepare for a potential renovation in 2008 we accomplished a lot that will help that project be successful.

I would like to thank the membership of Timuquana CC for the continued support of this program and most important to my staff for going above and beyond the call of duty during this time. Thanks!



Shade maps and old aerial photos showed the Green Committee and the Board of Governors how trees had changed the golf course design. Photo by Chris Neff.

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



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USGA UPDATE

Long-Range Planning for Florida Greens

By Todd Lowe
USGA Consulting Agronomist

Many recent visits throughout the region have focused on long-range planning projects such as putting-green regrassing, tee leveling, and bunker refurbishment. These are important projects that should be undertaken at some point for successful golf courses in our region; and we enjoy assisting golf courses by sharing our knowledge and insights.



A particularly important issue with many courses is selecting the proper turfgrass for putting greens. Tifdwarf has been the standard for Florida putting greens for nearly 40 years, but advancements in turfgrass genetics now allow improved putting conditions.

The ultradwarfs have a finer leaf texture, increased shoot density, and are able to tolerate lower heights of cut compared to Tifdwarf. This in turn provides significantly better playing conditions consistently. TifEagle and Champion are the most common ultradwarf bermudagrasses in the region, but Mini-Verde is a new variety that provides similar playing conditions.

These newer grasses often require increased grooming, aeration, and sand topdressing to maintain high standards. There are no set guidelines for ultradwarf putting green management, and the intensity is governed by the expectations at each particular course. There must be a commitment by the course to provide the necessary maintenance practices to achieve the expected performance standards.

There are a variety of construction techniques for golf course putting greens, but no technique has received as much research and scrutiny as the "USGA Recommendations for a Method of Putting Green Construction." Drainage is particularly

important for Florida golf courses as they receive more rainfall than other regions, particularly heavy rainfall with frequent summer thunderstorms.

A new technique that has been implemented on some golf courses is "no-till" construction, where new turfgrass sprigs are planted directly into the existing putting green following herbicide treatments. This method is less expensive and disruptive than reconstruction; but there is significant apprehension with no-till construction concerning reduced drainage and genetic purity. Time will tell whether the no-till method is a viable alternative.

Regardless of bermudagrass variety or construction method, a good growing environment is vital to provide quality putting greens throughout the year. No grass or construction method can overcome problems caused by lack of sunlight or airflow, inadequate surface area, inadequate entry or exit points, improper surface drainage or irrigation coverage/quality. These are important factors that must be addressed prior to renovation for the project to be successful. For more information, refer to the article at: http://www.usga.org/turf/articles/management/greens/helping_your_greens.html.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for help in evaluating each of these factors with your next project.

Hanna Receives TPI Membership Award At 2006 Mid-Winter Conference

Internationally renowned turfgrass breeder Dr. Wayne Hanna was awarded the Turfgrass Producers International Honorary Member Award at the 2006 TPI Midwinter Conference in Savannah, Ga., Feb. 14-17.

Dr. Hanna, famous for his breeding work throughout a 30-year career with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service, is now retired, but continues to work full-time as a professor and



Wayne Hanna, Ph.D.
USGA Turfgrass Breeder, retired

turfgrass breeder with the University of Georgia.

The TPI Foundation's Honorary Member Award is presented to individuals who have improved the turfgrass industry in a significant way. It is the highest honor the organization can bestow. Hanna joins 23 previous recipients over the last 33 years. Ben Copeland, Sr., a past president of TPI who has known Dr. Hanna for 32 years, introduced him and praised his "tremendous contribution to the turfgrass industry throughout his career," noting that "he has been responsible for the breeding and release of TifSport and TifEagle bermudagrass and TifBlair centipedegrass, which are all the leading warm-season turfgrasses."

Dr. Hanna's achievements are well known to the industry. His TifSport bermudagrass, which he released in 1996, is a grass to consider for golf course fairways, tees and roughs. As Dr. Hanna recalls, "My main goal was to develop a new variety that was superior to Tifway 419. We wanted a grass with superior color, cold-hardiness and disease resistance. We concentrated on turf density, turf strength and turf quality, and we wanted TifSport to be able to tolerate frequent lower mowing heights."

You can see TifSport in action at venues as varied as the Redskin's FedEx

Field in Landover Md., the Georgia Governor's Mansion, and the lush fairways of the Sunset Course at Mirasola Golf Club in Palm Beach Gardens, home of this year's Honda Classic.

TifEagle bermudagrass, which Dr. Hanna released in the spring of 1998, is the third generation of bermudagrass varieties developed exclusively for golf greens at the Coastal Plains Experiment Station in Tifton, Ga. While Tifdwarf had been the warm-season standard for putting greens during the last three decades of the 20th century, TifEagle was bred to meet the challenges faced by today's golf superintendents and the expectations of a new generation of golfers. It can tolerate the intense management program necessary to deliver the putting speed and consistency even club players have come to expect. Traditional grasses, and even many of the new superdwarfs, can't stand up to the physical stress of the lower mowing heights and frequent verticuttings

required to control thatch build-up. TifEagle recovers quickly from mechanical injury, has excellent color, and is extremely cold hardy, drought tolerant and disease resistant.

Dr. Hanna has another legacy, perhaps just as important as his meticulous breeding work. From the beginning, he has insisted that stringent oversight protocols be established for all of his new grasses. TifSport, TifEagle and TifBlair are patented varieties that can only be sold as certified sod, sprigs or seed (TifBlair), and only by licensed sod producers who are required to become members of carefully monitored growers associations. In short, Dr. Hanna has made sure his grasses are grown, inspected and sold under a rigorous set of rules and guidelines designed to promote ongoing purity and uniformity. This concern for the maintenance of varietal purity was a major factor leading to the development of the International Turfgrass Genetic

Assurance Program (ITGAP), the first-of-its-kind effort to maintain the integrity of certified varieties in international turfgrass markets.

Dr. Hanna is currently working on a new shade-tolerant bermudagrass, which he hopes to release in 2007.

GCSAA UPDATE

Kuehner Picks Winners in GCSAA Elections

In this year with a slate of very strong and qualified candidates, it is amazing that the FGCSA voting delegate, Dale Kuehner, CGCS, was able to handicap the field so accurately. Kuehner's recommendation to support Pat Finlen and Sanford "Sandy" Queen was prophetic as they emerged as winners of the two director seats out of five candidates. See election results below.



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Meanwhile, Sean A. Hoolehan, certified golf course superintendent at Wildhorse Resort and Casino in Pendleton, Ore., was elected the 70th president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America at the association's annual meeting, Feb. 10 in Atlanta.

The annual meeting was among the activities conducted during the 2006 GCSAA Education Conference, Feb. 6-11. The conference is the education complement to the Golf Industry Show held Feb. 9 - 11.

Elected vice president was Ricky D. Heine, CGCS, general manager and director of grounds at The Golf Club Star Ranch in Austin, Texas, while David S. Downing II, CGCS at Rivers Edge Golf Club in Shallotte, N.C., was elected as secretary/treasurer.

Two new directors were elected to the board: Patrick R. Finlen, CGCS, director of golf maintenance operations, Olympic Club, San Francisco, Calif.



Sean Hoolehan, CGCS elected president of GCSAA in Atlanta.

Sanford G. Queen, CGCS, manager of golf course operations, Overland Park (Kan.) Golf Club

Those remaining on the board and fulfilling their terms include

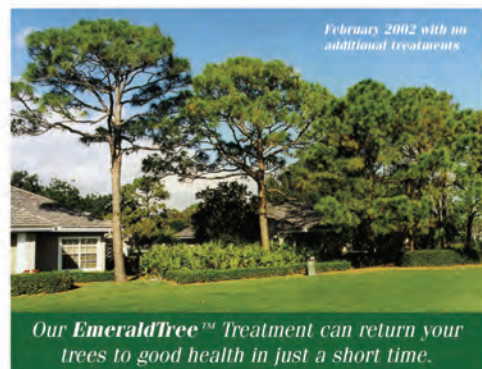
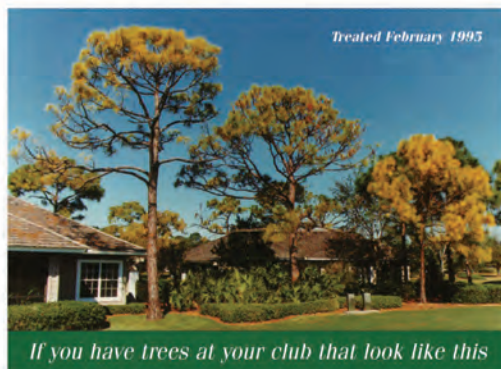
Mark D. Kuhns, CGCS, director of grounds, Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, N.J.; James R. Fitzroy, CGCS, director Wollaston Recreational Facility/Presidents Golf Course, North Quincy, Mass; and our own Robert M. Randquist, CGCS, director of golf course and grounds, Boca Rio Golf Club, Boca Raton.

Timothy T. O'Neill, CGCS at the Country Club of Darien (Conn.), also remains on the board as immediate past president.

METHYL BROMIDE TOPIC DISCUSSED IN ATLANTA

A special meeting of GCSAA staff, including CEO Steve Mona, GCSAA directors, industry officials and a delegation from Florida including Dr. Bryan Unruh and FGCSA members met Feb. 11 to discuss the methyl bromide issue and the possibility of re-submitting a critical-use exemption application. The group achieved a consensus to

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work together to address the two main EPA objections to previous applications (1) No evidence of a significant market disruption if golf doesn't have MeBr and (2) the technical feasibility of some alternatives to MeBr. A task group will be formed to coordinate efforts to submit a more compelling application.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY TO BEGIN THIS SPRING

Editor's note: Given the growing trend for counties and municipalities to consider a patchwork of individual ordinances to deal with perceived problems with fertilizers and pesticides, it behooves every golf course to participate in the GCSAA's series of baseline data surveys to solidify and document the true scope and nature of what we do on golf courses. Make it a point to go out of your way to support this data collection effort. It's only your job and golf course at stake.

Despite a growing database available to aid the golf industry in making

decisions, GCSAA is aiming to fill a significant void by embarking on a project this spring that will evaluate golf course environmental performance.

This multi-year project, the Golf Course Environmental Profile, is designed to collect information that will ultimately allow golf course superintendents and others to become better managers, help facilities operate more efficiently and lead to GCSAA developing more valuable programs and services. Such information will include details about playing surfaces, natural resources, environmental stewardship efforts and maintenance practices. The project is being funded by the Environmental Institute for Golf, thanks in large part to a grant from the Toro Foundation.

"Organizations such as the USGA Green Section, GCSAA, universities and private industry have funded and administered research that has been invaluable for the game," said outgoing GCSAA President Timothy O'Neill,

CGCS. "We know that golf courses are compatible with the environment, but we also know that there are gaps in the data, especially in the collection of aggregate golf course information. We believe the data will be helpful on many fronts."

The most glaring absence comes in collective golf course performance data. Existing data is limited and not complete, uniform or centralized. GCSAA officials contend that this multi-year initiative will not only benefit superintendents and golf facilities, but communities and golfers as well.

Blue Tag Rebate Program Nets Donation to FGCSA

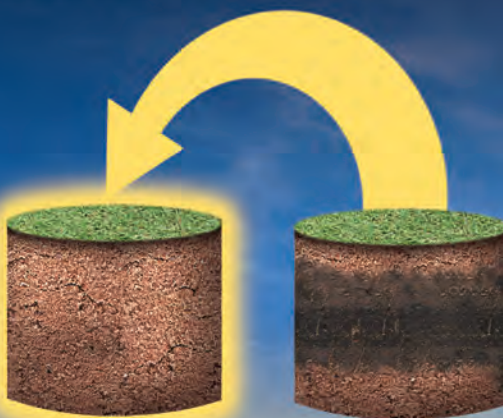
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...Thousands of dollars could have been dispersed to the FGCSA if the courses were better informed of this program.

Inc. earning a \$788 rebate check for the FGCSA Research Fund. Unfortunately that was the only club in the state to take advantage of the Blue Tag program last year.

Greg Freyermuth of Turf-Seed said, "We feel that there were several thousands of dollars that could have been dispersed to the FGCSA if the courses were better informed of this program."

The program was advertised in the FGCSA Green Sheet last fall and Freyermuth made a presentation to the FGCSA at the spring board meeting in Naples last year. Distributors are also aware of the program and should be bringing it to the attention of the golf-course customers.

Turf-Seed and Tee-2-Green pledge to contribute 50 cents for every Turf-Seed variety or mixture blue tag and/or \$1 for every Tee-2-Green PennPals variety or mixture blue tag turned in.

The blue tags are sewn on the bag to signify that each seed is certified. The tags must be removed from the bag and sent to Turf-Seed, Inc. with the name and location of the golf course. These funds are distributed to the state chapter to be used for research endowments and educational advancements.

"I would like to look into some way we could promote this program more vigorously," says Freyermuth. It has been in place for 10 years now.

FGCSA President Craig Weyandt agreed that we must come up with a way to create more awareness of this program, which is an easy way to benefit the industry.

If you have any questions about the program, contact Greg at 407-257-7325 or email at greg@turf-seed.com.



Terminator Meets Caddy Shack

New propane-oxygen injection systems like the Rodenator Pro units shown here have become very popular for controlling moles and other rodents on golf courses around the country. Oxygen mixed with propane is heavier than air and sinks into the rodents' tunnels and dens. When it's ignited it produces an expanding force traveling at 5,000 feet per second. The concussion collapses the tunnel network and produces first-pass kill rates up to 90 percent. The exterminator then follows up with trapping to get the surviving stragglers.

Plants of the Year

The first in the Plants of the Year series for 2006. The plants selected for this program have been found to be good performers in the Florida environment and require less maintenance and inputs. Here are two specimens for your consideration. Go to www.fngla.org for more information and suppliers who carry these plants.



Common name: African Blue Basil
Botanical name: *Ocimum kilimandscharicum* X *O. basilicum purpurascens*
Hardiness: Zones 8-10
Mature height and spread: 24-36 in.
Classification: annual, herb
Landscape use: Herb garden or as a fragrant ornamental
Characteristics: Developed by crossing camphor basil (*O. kilimandscharicum*) with purple basil (*O. basilicum purpurascens*), this herb prefers full sun and moist soil with erect purple blooms with a soft extruding flower. Its fragrant leaves can be used for culinary purposes.



Common name: Phalaenopsis Kaleidoscope
Botanical name: *Phalaenopsis* Baldan's Kaleidoscope 'Golden Treasure'
Hardiness: Zones 10-11
Mature height and spread: 15 in. and up
Classification: Tropical foliage
Landscape use: Accent plant for baskets, typically used indoors
Characteristics: Noted for its stunning coloring and abundant blooming, the flowers have red lips, reddish purple striping and a pale yellow background that starts as strong yellow and lightens as the bloom matures. This *Phalaenopsis* produces multiple flower spikes as it matures.

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Illinois Lawsuit Threatens U.S. Food Supply, Says Hydrologist

Editor's Note: *Turfgrass is not far behind. Atrazine is a key herbicide for weeds in St. Augustinegrass. Already several local governments have banned pesticides for aesthetic use. This advisory is being presented as a classic example of the use or misuse of junk science to challenge in courts the overwhelming peer-reviewed studies on the lack of environmental impact caused by properly applied EPA-approved products. The danger is real but it comes from those who have an agenda whether it's greed or environmental elitism.*

A lawsuit pending in Madison County, Ill. could seriously threaten the domestic food supply in the U.S. According to Jay Lehr Ph.D., senior fellow and science director for The Heartland Institute, "This may sound alarmist, but it is true."

Lehr is an authority on groundwater hydrology. After graduating from Princeton at the age of 20 with a degree in geological engineering, he went on to receive the nation's first Ph.D. in groundwater hydrology, from the University of Arizona. He later became executive director of the National Water Well Association and the Association of Groundwater Scientists and Engineers. In late 2005, Wiley-Interscience released Lehr's six-volume Water Encyclopedia: Surface and Agricultural Water.

In the essay below, Lehr explains how the lawsuit in Madison County is based on a small number of highly suspect studies alleging that the popular herbicide atrazine is a carcinogen and "endocrine disrupter."

Since 1959, farmers in the U.S. have used atrazine to allow corn, grain sorghum, sugar cane, and other crops to reach maturity without the competition of a wide range of broadleaf, energy-sapping weeds and grasses that rob the plants of water and nutrients. Atrazine is presently used on two-thirds of U.S. corn and grain sorghum and as

much as 90 percent of all sugar cane. In Illinois, atrazine is used on 75 percent of the state's corn.

Unlike most other herbicides, atrazine can be applied effectively before, during, or after planting — and even after crop emergence, as it does not harm the food crops themselves. Because of this unique trait, atrazine is extremely popular for use in conservation tillage programs, where crop residues are left on the ground and the next crop's seeds are planted below the residue. This new concept in tillage virtually eliminates soil erosion and rainfall runoff while improving plant growth and carbon absorption. It also reduces fuel use, exhaust emissions, and equipment wear, all of which lower production costs for the crops.

Atrazine results in significant increases in crop yields. But what about the health effects of its residues on edible food?

EPA has established a drinking-water standard for atrazine of 3 parts per billion. To arrive at this standard, EPA extrapolated from laboratory experiments with rodents to a dose having no unsafe effects on a hypothetical 150-pound adult likely to drink 21,000 gallons of water during a 70-year lifetime. It then divided this "safe" lifetime ingestion amount by 10 to account for infants who might drink the water, then divided that number by 10 to account for the elderly who might have reduced immune systems, and finally divided it by 10 once again to account for the possible vulnerability of unhealthy people within society. The result is a standard 1,000 times lower than the "safe" dose for a typical adult.

Many experts believe the atrazine standard is overly restrictive. For one reason, tests conducted on laboratory rodents are generally unreliable guides to potential threats to human health, since the natural defenses of rats and

mice against chemicals differ from those of humans (and even between rats and mice). Laboratory tests involve exposure to massive doses of a chemical over a short period of time, with the results then extrapolated to dramatically lower doses. To set a standard 1,000 lower than what even those biased studies suggest is, well, draconian at best.

JUNK SCIENCE

A lawsuit against atrazine use has been filed by Holiday Shores, a small water district that serves a subdivision in Madison County, Ill. — identified as "a judicial hellhole" by the American Tort Reform Association because of its tendency to favor plaintiffs. The plaintiff contends levels of atrazine in surface water are unsafe, even though they meet current standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and even though Holiday Shores is selling only water that meets the EPA standard to its customers.

The suit was filed by a lawyer who made millions of dollars suing tobacco companies, and he is seeking to have the atrazine suit certified as a class action on behalf of some 1,800 water districts in Illinois.

The suit relies on claims based on a small number of highly suspect studies alleging that atrazine at any concentration is a carcinogen and "endocrine disrupter" capable of causing biological mutations. This is a standard tactic of alarmists — to search a huge literature to find a small number of studies that, due to small sample sizes, poor methodology, or just random chance arrive at findings contradicting the rest of the literature.

In preparation for a recertification decision EPA must make later this year, the agency recently completed a 10-year evaluation of thousands of studies of the health effects of atrazine.



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It studied and rejected all of the claims of atrazine's critics. Atrazine, in fact, is arguably the most benign and effective herbicide known to U.S. agriculture.

And yet the "junk science" used by atrazine's foes is finding its way into litigation in Madison County, where it could indirectly determine national farm policy. If the lawsuit succeeds, all of the crop protection chemicals essential to agriculture in the U.S. will be in danger of elimination.

EFFECT ON AGRICULTURE

If atrazine were removed from the market out of fear of baseless litigation, our nation would have to return to the farming practices of yesteryear, when yields were less than a third of today's production and diseased crops were the order of the day. Nearly every type of food would be in shorter supply and their prices would increase. The poor and elderly on fixed incomes would be hit hardest by this result. Farmers, who

I dislike the fearmongers I have described here, but I am truly frightened by what their latest campaign could cause.

increasingly compete with imported food products from Mexico and other developing countries, would also be hard hit.

I dislike the fearmongers I have described here, but I am truly frightened by what their latest campaign could cause. (Fear, by the way, is not a common emotion for me. One of my hobbies is jumping out of airplanes ... with a parachute, of course!). Like most people, I like to eat nutritious food at a fair price, but lawyers are threatening to put that simple request out of reach.

U.S. citizens pay about 10 percent of their family budgets on food.

Only two other countries, Finland and France, pay less than 20 percent of their income on food. We've got it very good here, and we've come to take it for granted.

The lawsuits against atrazine in Madison County are the latest proof that we cannot stop defending the technological progress that has made us the world's most prosperous country. Let us hope sanity and sound science prevail in this lawsuit.

Jay Lehr, Ph.D. is science director of The Heartland Institute, a nonprofit research organization based in Chicago. He is the editor of many leading scientific reference books, most recently the six-volume Water Encyclopedia. He can be reached at lehr@heartland.org.

For more information about The Heartland Institute, visit its Web site at <http://www.heartland.org> or contact Michael Van Winkle, media affairs assistant, at 312-377-4000, email vankwinkle@heartland.org.

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Naturalizing areas can add significant beauty and contrast to the golf course.

Can You Do Both?

Enhancing wildlife habitat and maintaining good playability.

*Stewardship Notes
Compiled by Shelly Foy*

Some of the benefits to naturalizing areas on the golf course include:

- **Providing food** and cover for wildlife
- **Contributing** to the conservation of local wildlife species
- **Contributing** to overall habitat in an area, especially when naturalized areas connect to other properties
- **Lowering maintenance** costs by reducing equipment wear and tear, as well as reducing the need for pesticides, fertilizers and water
- **Adding contrast** and natural beauty to the golf course

With a little thought, we believe you can enhance the wildlife habitat on the golf course and still have excellent playing conditions. Here are some things to consider:

NATURAL AREAS

- **Location:** Think out of play areas! Areas between fairways, below elevated tees, in roughs and bordering woodlands may be well suited for naturalization.
- **Plant Selection:** Think native! There is a reason why they grow well in our environment. Besides requiring less water and fertilizer, native plants hold up better during hurricanes.
- **Irrigation:** Needed for establishment,

but can then be eliminated to minimize weed invasion.

- **Start slowly** when developing naturalized areas so you can learn what works and does not work on your golf course. This will save you time and money in the long run.
- **Important to know:** Naturalized areas that you create are not “set in stone”. They can be altered if you find that they are not working the way you had planned.

Note: Maintenance requirements and inputs are reduced in naturalized areas compared to turf, but this is not a “no maintenance” feature, especially here in Florida. Your budget needs to include adequate resources for control-

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John Reilly - Superintendent
Stonegate @ Solivita Oaks And Cypress Courses



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- *Mega Cal II* is a stabilized liquid form of calcium carbonate that may be applied by spray rig or through irrigation water.
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- Calcium is important in maintaining proper Base Saturation Levels of anions that populate the soil colloids.
- Calcium causes the release of the sodium to soil bond reducing salt content of soils.

Calcium plays a large part in the respiratory and cell wall development of the plant. With soil temperatures on ultra dwarfs rising as high as they do, the plant will use large amounts of calcium from the soil. *Mega Cal II* will go directly into soil solutions making it readily available to the plant, keeping the plant healthy from disease and heat stress.

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- Provides aesthetic highlights and helps to stabilize shorelines
- Reduces erosion

Note: Aquatic plant material directly in the line of play can impact the speed of play when golfers are searching for balls and can cause problems with the Rules of Golf as well. In these locations, turf buffer strips are a good alternative.

GOLF COURSE PLAYABILITY ISSUES

Pace of play is important to all golfers. When creating wildlife habitat, keep these things in mind.

- **Be careful** to not create habitat in areas where golfers will likely hit the ball: this can obviously slow down pace of play.
- **Especially** for average- to high-

NATURAL AREAS: Patrick Blum, Superintendent at Colonial Acres Golf Course, a 33-acre semi-private 9-hole course in upstate New York, marks possible areas for naturalization and then monitors these areas for footprints. If there are fewer footprints than his pre-determined threshold, he naturalizes that area

ling over-growth and weeds.

AQUATIC VEGETATION SHORELINE PLANTINGS

- **Extremely important** for providing habitat as well as a food source for a variety of wildlife
- **Helps maintain** water quality and filters runoff



BUFFER: Research has shown that an 8 to 15 ft. strip of higher cut vegetation, or turf buffers, is needed to help reduce surface runoff, provide sediment filtering and dilute chemicals. Moist soil conditions require wider buffers strips due to decreased infiltration.

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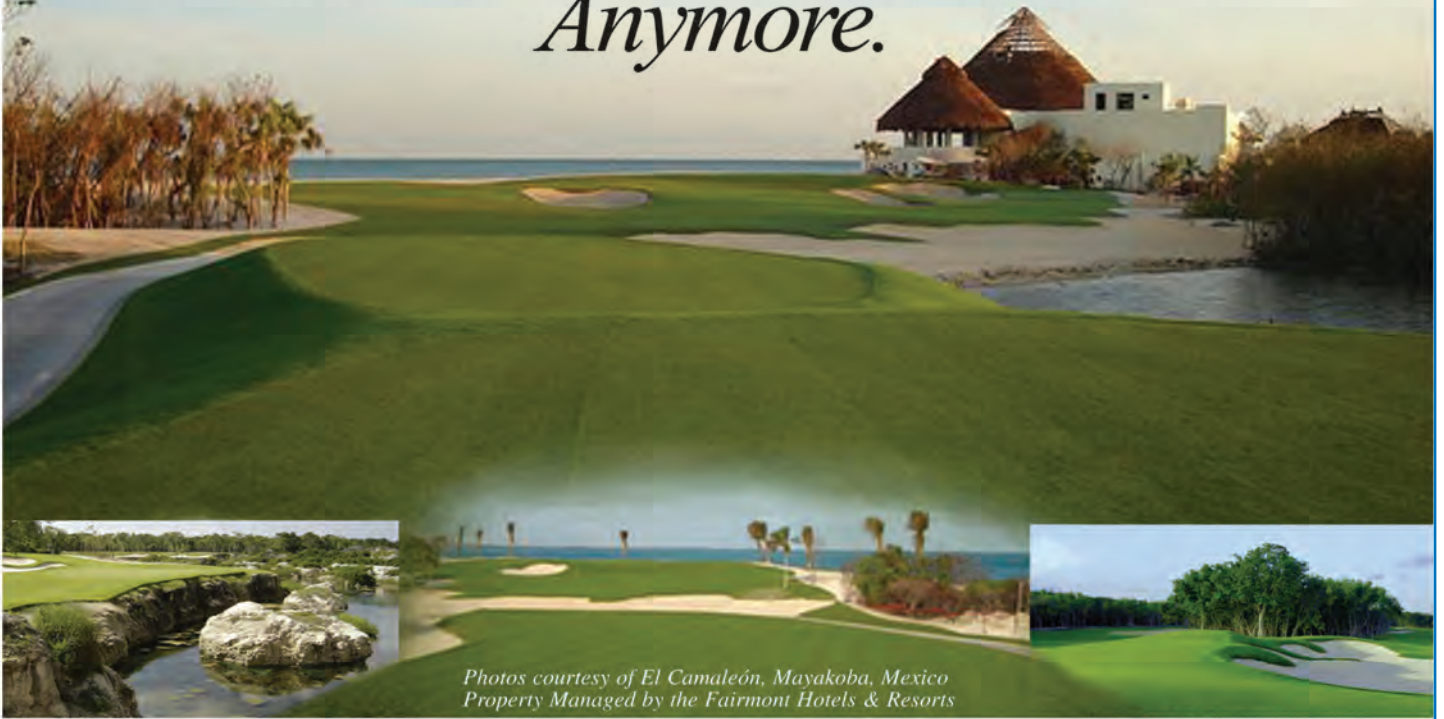
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*Photos courtesy of El Camaleón, Mayakoba, Mexico
Property Managed by the Fairmont Hotels & Resorts*

El Camaleón Golf Course at the Mayakoba resort on the Riviera Maya just south of Cancun, Mexico is Greg Norman's latest masterpiece. The 7,000-yard layout is unique, not just to Mexico but to the entire world of golf. The course bends through three distinct landscapes - mangrove jungles, limestone canals and stunning oceanfront stretches of sandy beaches. El Camaleón is also a world-class showcase for SeaIsle1 Seashore Paspalum. The tees, greens, fairways and roughs are all getting rave reviews. No wonder the PGA chose El Camaleón for its first-ever tour event in Mexico. If you've got water quality problems or poor soils, you should consider SeaIsle1 even if you've got an inland location. SeaIsle1 can tolerate most types of alternate water sources, including effluent, wastewater, gray water, brackish water and even ocean water for



short periods of time with a careful management regimen. SeaIsle1 can also handle multiple stresses like high salt levels, low-light intensity, water-logging, and extremely high and low pH levels. When compared to other warm season grasses, SeaIsle1 requires about a third less nitrogen and only minimal pesticide applications. It also withstands prolonged droughts a little better. If you like the way cool-season grasses stripe, you'll love SeaIsle1's waxy leaves. Your golfers will, too, because they won't be bothered by early morning dew anymore. Best of all, SeaIsle1 has one of the most attractive, rich, dark-green colors of any of the warm season grasses. Make a date with a SeaIsle grower near you and see for yourself why "The Shark" specified SeaIsle1 Seashore Paspalum for his new dream course. For more information call 706 542-5640 or visit www.seaisle1.com.

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PLAYABILITY: In areas that come directly into play, use care in naturalizing so as to not slow down pace of play.

handicap golfers, care needs to be exercised as far as the distance of forced carries over naturalized areas.

COMMUNICATION

Letting your golfers know what is going on is critical to the success of naturalized areas. There are many creative signs you can use on the golf course, and like they say, “A picture is worth a thousand words”.



COMMUNICATION: Signage does two things. It makes the golfers aware of the environment and it let’s them know you’re doing something positive about it.

Here are typical game characteristics of golfers of different skill levels. Use them to help select appropriate areas suitable for naturalization with minimal impact to playability of the golf course.

Mid to high handicap player:

- Carry 175 to 230
- Slice zone.
- Difficulty in hazards.
- Lost balls.

Women

- Carry 75 yds.
- Difficulty with hazards.
- Hit the ball straight.

Low handicap players.

- Carry 200-250 yds.
- Little difficulty with hazards.
- Hit the ball fairly straight.
- Recovery shots.

Can Golf Improve its Environmental Game?

Editor’s Note: Here is an excellent resource for generating ideas and interest at for making practical and reasonable environmental improvements to your golf course. Environmental issues are not going away. Get with the program.

America’s love of golf is coupled with a passion for protecting and enhancing the natural environment in which the game is played. Evidence of that abounds in a new publication available from the United States Golf Association, which is in its 10th year of funding research and best management practices to provide golf course superintendents with the latest information on wildlife management and habitat conservation. *Wildlife Links: Improving Golf’s Environmental Game* highlights research findings while providing practical tips and success stories for superintendents and course designers eager to develop and hone their green-management skills.

The dialogue couldn’t be more timely. In the U.S. alone, there are more than 16,000 golf courses averaging upwards of 150 acres of open space per course and attracting 27 million golfers. Although golf courses are not substitutes for naturally occurring habitat, they increasingly are providing refuge to many wildlife species crowded out by urban development.

The connection is clear to Peter Stangel, Southeast regional director of the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation. “I grew up on a golf course,” says Stangel. “Our front yard was just a short chip shot from the first green of the Rockport (Ill.) Country Club. Leaving the car parked in the driveway was risking a nasty dent from an errant slice, and I had to scour the yard for golf balls each week before mowing commenced.”

Rockport offered great birding, recalls Stangel, who fantasized as a teenager about what he would do to make the course even better for wildlife. He

got his chance in 1995, when USGA and NFWF created Wildlife Links, golf's first comprehensive investigation of the game's relationship to and impact on wildlife and wildlife habitat. Since its inception a decade ago, USGA has funded nearly two dozen research projects with a total investment of more than \$750,000.

"I am inspired by the growing environmental conservation ethic within the golfing industry, which has embraced what has been intuitively understood all along – that a healthy environment is good for golf, and that golf can play a vital role in enhancing the natural environment," Stangel says.

"Interest has never been stronger," says Jim Snow, national director of the USGA Green Section, the one of the game's foremost authorities on turfgrass management. "This is a terrific opportunity to showcase industry leaders and demonstrate golf's commitment to environmental stewardship."

The publication includes sections on bird conservation, pollinators, small mammals, amphibians, water and wetland features, and creating an environmental plan. Also featured are additional resources (books, organizations and experts) to help golf course operators put ideas into action.

For a copy of the publication, contact the USGA Order Department at 800-336-4446 or visit www.usga-pubs.com.

Some environmental game success stories:

PINEHURST, NC

Endangered birds and birdies are rarities on most golf courses, but not at Pinehurst.

While golf's greatest were teeing off at the 105th U.S. Open in June 2005, red-cockaded woodpeckers were busy preparing their young to fly. The endangered bird is a treasured sight at the venerable North Carolina club, where stately long-leaf pines – some centuries old and among the last remaining stands in the Southeast – line emerald green fairways.

Thanks to an innovative agreement hatched a decade ago that gives



A juvenile bald eagle fledged at the Lemon Bay Eagle Preserve on the golf course. Photo by Danny Claude.

Independent Study

Lemon Bay Golf Club and Long Marsh Golf Course, Englewood

To involve the community in their environmental stewardship, Lemon Bay Golf Club and Long Marsh Golf Course reached out to a local high school for help in documenting their stewardship efforts for the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program.

Danny Claude, a high school student looking to conduct an independent study for high school credit, and the two golf courses both benefited from Danny's enthusiasm. Danny not only completed the certification materials, but he coordinated the partnership between the high school and golf course on building nestboxes as well as arranged dinner dances to support the environmental projects and inform the membership.

The golf courses plan continue to support independent studies and will reach out to junior golfers.

private landowners flexibility in their development plans in exchange for cooperation in establishing and maintaining woodpecker habitat, the red-cockaded woodpecker is battling back from the brink of extinction. Pinehurst was the first landowner in the country to enter into a "Safe Harbor" agreement with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to protect the rare bird.

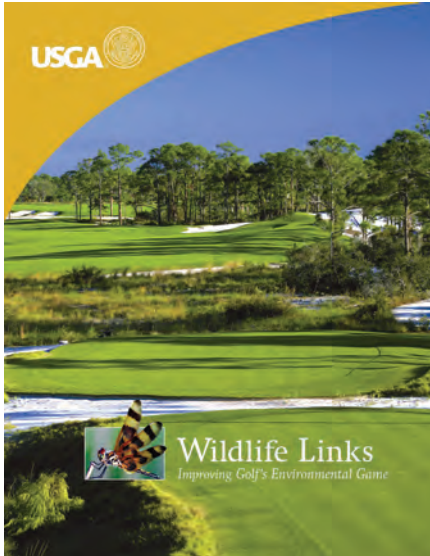
Today, Pinehurst boasts 21 colonies of red-cockaded woodpeckers, including nesting clusters and trees harboring active pecking adults. Maintenance crews have installed artificial nesting cavities in pine trees, finishing in hours what it takes a woodpecker

up to six years to complete. They also keep the understory clear to prevent hardwoods from intruding into the birds' flight and foraging corridors.

Superintendent Brad Kocher is quick to point out that Pinehurst's environmental ethic is not extraordinary by its standards, but rather business as usual for a company that operates on a simple principle. "We wear a little button here at Pinehurst. It says: 'Do what's right.'"

WILDHORSE RESORT, ORE.

Sean Hoolehan will never forget the morning in 1997 when he arrived at work to find a mysterious offer-



ing of brightly colored bowls strewn along the edge of his golf course. “It looked like a wind had randomly blown them all around,” recalls Hoolehan, superintendent at Wildhorse Resort in northeastern Oregon, run by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Turns out the collection bowls, filled with a soapy solution, were bait for unsuspecting bees – the initial steps in a pollinator conservation project Hoolehan had authorized. The tempting potion did the trick, luring pollinators to dozens of Technicolor receptacles from which researchers were able to identify the diversity of resident bees – more than 30 in all.

Nestled in the foothills of Oregon’s Blue Mountains, Wildhorse is an oasis of green in an amber quilt of wheat fields that stretch as far as the eye can see. Back then, construction crews were busy putting the final touches on a course designed by John Steidel, while researchers from the Xerces Society worked with Hoolehan to roll out the welcome mat for an entirely different set of players – native bees, the master pollinators responsible for sustaining countless species of flowers and plants.

“If we’re ever going to restore habitat, for me connecting the dots between native pollinator bees and native plants is easy,” says Hoolehan. Besides, he adds, “I always tell people that native pollinators are gentle,” coun-

tering a popular misconception.

After identifying native bees on site, the team set up nesting boxes in out-of-play areas to woo the pollinators. Native flowers, both annual and perennial varieties, were added to provide a food source for the diminutive creatures. Not only were bees drawn to the flowering landscape, but the course also began attracting birds like ruddy ducks, curlews, hawks and owls – and recently welcomed its first quail.

“I’m always amazed at the positive reception from golfers,” says Matthew Shepherd, Xerces’ director of pollinator conservation. “Once they know what we’re up to, it’s easy to sell because there’s a concrete connection to their lives.”

THE OLD COLLIER CLUB

At The Old Collier Golf Club in Naples, Audubon International’s first Gold Signature Sanctuary, naturalized buffer zones along streams connect wildlife habitat patches on the course to hundreds of acres of protected mangrove swamp. Environmental pressures in the fast-growing South Florida region, including demands for dwindling freshwater resources and declines in sensitive native habitats, led devel-

opers at Collier Enterprises down an unconventional path when they set out to create a world-class golf course that would complement nature.

With water conservation as a primary aim, Old Collier identified a salt-tolerant grass, seashore paspalum, to use on its entire course including greens, tees, fairways and roughs. It became one of the first golf courses in the world to irrigate with brackish water, using a state-of-the-art computerized system complemented by indigenous plantings that further reduce the need for watering.

But conservation didn’t stop there. The club’s Integrated Pest Management program has reduced reliance on pesticides and fertilizers, resulting in substantial cost savings and reduced runoff. Its commitment even extends to bridge surfaces, benches and trashcans, which are forged from 100 percent post-consumer recycled materials.

The stunning results of Old Collier’s vision are best represented by the wildlife at home there. Today, more than 100 species of birds including the bald eagle, great horned owl and screech owl, along with bobcats, foxes and gopher tortoises, share the magnificent property with the club’s golf members.



Wildlife at Old Collier Club

“Snackin’ on a snag,” a photo by Neil Cleverly at The Old Collier Golf Club in Naples, won first place in the Wildlife on the Course catetory in the 2002 Florida Green Photo Contest.



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THE QUARTERLY QUESTION

Proudest Moment and Dumbest Question You've Been Asked

In this recurring feature, we ask FGCSA members to shed some light on the range of positive, negative and humorous and experiences we have all had along the way.

For this issue we are asking a two-part question (1) What's dumbest question or comment you'd ever heard from a club official, member or golfer? (2) What's your proudest moment/achievement on the course?

FROM CENTRAL FLORIDA

Bad – The dumbest thing I ever heard was when one of our directors of golf suggested the sand pro operator carry squares of sod on the back of the machine and fix pot holes along the cart paths during his morning bunker raking.

Good – I'd say the proudest I've been is when the crew pulled together to prepare the course for our annual PGA tour event and then have to recover and repair during occasional storms.

NORTH FLORIDA GCSA

Good – My proudest moment since being at Timuquana has been the set-up and preparation for the 2002 U.S. Senior Am. I had about a year from my arrival to get the golf course ready for this championship. I've set-up and prepared for The Players Championship before, and it was a great accomplishment, but the Senior Am was a huge task at a private country club that never hosted a USGA championship. This championship was a huge success not only for me and my staff but really raised the standard at Timuquana for the future. Since this event we have made many improvements to a great classic golf course and will be renovating in 2008 with the hope of holding another USGA Championship.

Bad – I've had a few dumb comments from members! Why are we in

a frost delay? I didn't have any frost in my yard? This member just happens to live in a condo near the course and has a courtyard for his yard that is 10 X 10. I also had a lady member (she didn't like the tree work) tell me that since I started the tree removal program I've made the golf course colder because the breeze is blowing more throughout the course. That day was 45 degrees and the wind was blowing 20 mph.

CALUSA

Good – Being able to experience the construction of a 36-hole golf course from start to finish is my proudest achievement. Seeing literally a cow pasture evolve into what our golf course community is today is a rewarding experience.

Bad – I have answered several off-the-wall questions in my career. The one that always comes to mind first is

Fight Of The Year

Bald Eagle Battles Great Horned Owl

It was a battle for the ages.

In the left corner with the white head, the one-and-only... Bald Eagle. In the right corner with the big old eyes... the Great Horned Owl.

On Jan. 6, two very aggressive birds of prey were found locked together in battle just off the tenth fairway. The two had death grips on each other's legs as they flailed away on the turf. A crowd gathered in astonishment and concern for the two great birds.

The Eagle appeared to have the upper hand as he (or she) went for the owl's eyes with its sharp beak. Someone in the audience suggested we break up the fight. We told him to go ahead. He then moved behind the cart.

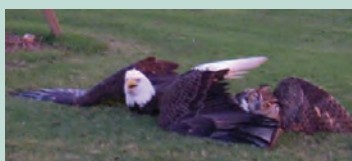
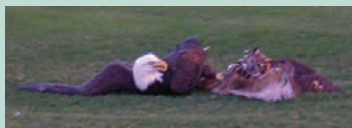
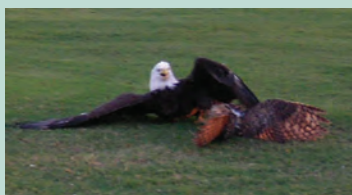
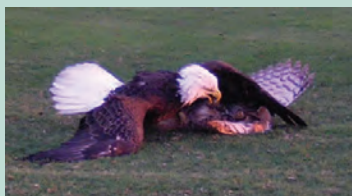
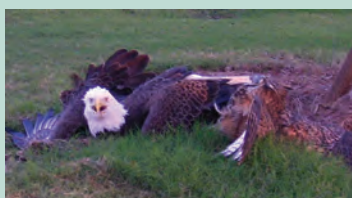
We did not know what to do to prevent a fight to the finish. We decided to let Mother Nature take its course. The crowd went silent when a curious and perhaps prophetic Buzzard circled over head.

The battle lasted over an hour and both predators were exhausted. It had looked like the Owl was close to death when he (or she) raised up its head looked at the Eagle, looked at the audience, released its grip on the Eagle and flew away. The Eagle staggered a bit and flew in the opposite direction.

Judge John Hoey had it 10-9 Eagle, Judge Mike Koether had it 10-9 Eagle, and I had it 10-9 Eagle. Mother Nature however called it a draw and let them both live to fight another day.

It was an ending that we should all appreciate.

Wayne Kappauf, CGCS





Frost delay. This is a lot different from a condo courtyard. Photo by Joel Jackson.

when a member approached me at the driving range tee and asked me, "How do you cut the grass and maintain the grass on those floating greens?" He was referring to the target greens on our aqua range with artificial turf on them. I kept a straight face and said mow-

ing them is difficult but fertilizing and watering them is even harder.

• • •

Hurricane Prep Follow-Up

In moving our files to a new computer we missed this answer from Steve

Huffstetler of the Glen Eagles G&CC in Naples. Steve shares his hurricane-prep answer to last issue's question: "Given the very active hurricane seasons of 2004 and 2005, with numerous Florida land-falls, what if anything are you planning or doing differently to prepare for the next hurricane season?" Here's Steve's new checklist of what he would do differently now:

- Arrange for a big generator to power the pumphouse before the storm hits.
- Have a signed contract in hand with a competent tree service for its clean-up services after a hurricane.
- Buy and stock chain saws, gas cans and extra chain blades prior to the storm.
- Buy a manual pump for the fuel tanks.
- Buy extra leaf rakes, pitchforks and shovels ready to use the day after.
- Stockpile bottled water for the crew and volunteers.

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Derek Camps, left, won the Lake Masters Long Drive Contest at the Central Florida Superintendent/Vendor “Duane Camps Shoot-out” named in honor of his father. Shown with Derek are Mike Martin of Lake Masters, center, and long-drive runner-up Billy Griffith of Sunniland. Derek was teamed with Mike Buccelato to win the low-gross division of the tournament.

Dear Chris Cartin and CFGCSA members,

I wanted to thank you all for creating the Superintendent/Vendor “Duane Camps Shoot-out.” It means a lot to me, Derek and Jen. It was comforting to see that someone we loved so much had an impact on others as well

and will be remembered for years to come.

Derek knows most of you, but for me it was great meeting all the faces that went with the names I had heard over the years.

That you chose the vendor event was very appropriate.

Duane was all about his custom-

ers. He made sure his customers got what they wanted or needed, if it was at all within his ability. He loved his job and enjoyed those golf days and the company of his friends.

Once again, thank you for honoring Duane in this way.

Sharon, Derek and Jen Camps

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Photo Contest Results

Category 1 – Wildlife on the Course



First Place: A large alligator is making a meal of a large soft-shelled turtle in “Breakfast at the Valley.” Photo by Bill Tyde, Mission Valley C. C.



Second Place: A pair of grey foxes makes tracks in a bunker. Photo by Ken Giedd, Polo Club of Boca Raton.

2006 PHOTO CONTEST RULES

Category 1 – Wildlife on the course: includes any critter on the course that walks, flies, swims, slithers or crawls.

Category 2 – Formal Landscaping:

includes annuals and ornamental shrubs and trees planted in formal beds on the course or club entrance.

Category 3 – Native Areas: includes beds of native plants including trees,

shrubs and grasses used in naturalized areas to reduce turf inputs and aquatic vegetation plantings used to create habitat and protect water quality.

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

EASY RULES

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 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 who are not participating in the contest.

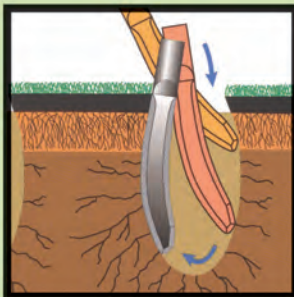
Mail entries in a bend-proof package marked “PHOTOS - DO NOT BEND” to Joel Jackson, 6780 Tamarind Circle, Orlando, 32819. Entries postmarked after Aug. 1, 2006 will be automatically entered in the 2007 Photo Contest.



Brett Harris, GCS

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What, Me Worry?

There may not be that many readers who remember the famous words of Alfred E. Newman, the spokesperson and mascot of Mad Magazine, but he was a personal favorite of mine whose memory is kept alive by the fading tattoo on the arm of my assistant, Bobby Thigpen. Alfred's philosophy on life was @#%& it.

Oh, to be like Alfred! But alas, kids in college, car payments, insurance, mortgage, (thank God I don't have one of those) utilities, cell phone, gasoline, ailing parents, oy. The bills keep coming, so we've got to keep working.

It's getting so I can hardly watch the game I love so much on TV because of the idiot commentators working the broadcast. The line that gets me most is: "This putt Bobby Bigbucks has for birdie on 18 is worth \$220,000. That's the difference between finishing alone in second place or tying for second with Johnny Gotrocks and Bill Cashappy. Yea, that putt is worth \$22,000 a foot. What pressure?"

What pressure indeed. I'm absolutely devastated for these touring pros

AS IT LIES



Jim Walker

and all their pressure. Thirty of them made \$2 million-plus last year. The top 70 made over a million, and Nicky Price — who is a true gentleman of the game — finished 125th with \$650,000. The very top players are living like kings, traveling in private jets or custom motor homes with their swing coach, sports psychologist, management guru, and financial adviser.

There is no doubt these guys are playing at a level far higher than 30 or 40 years ago, but give them back their wooden drivers, steel shafts, marsh-mallow balata balls, cut the first-place check to \$100,000 and see if the Tour would have to require them to spend time signing autographs. If the leading money winner made less than a million, and the guy finishing 125th made \$100,000 they would be back in their cars, staying at Holiday Inns, eating at Applebee's, and damn grateful they could play a game to make a living.

I don't want to pick on golfers alone. The NFL, NBA, NHL, and MLB can also get on the bandwagon. These guys are the best and most talented players in their sports, but they are just playing a game for their enjoyment and ours. They aren't finding a cure for cancer, heart disease, or aids. Real pressure isn't catching a game-winning touchdown or hitting a game-winning home run. It isn't hitting a 3-pointer at the buzzer to win the championship.

Pressure is the middle class guys (and now in a lot of cases, gals as well) who get up every morning no matter how rotten they feel and get their kids off to school, go to work and do a good job, then take those same kids to soccer practice, music class, ballet school or to buy a new pair of sneakers at the mall so they can have the same kind their friends are wearing. They take their kids to Disney for vacation instead of leaving them with grandma and taking their wives to a tropical resort or to Tahiti where the women don't wear tops. Island life is AOK — party all night and surf all day.

Pressure is being a great parent to your children, a good and loving mate to your spouse, and making this world a better place when you check out than it

was when you got here.

Pressure is keeping a public golf course in good shape all the time without enough help, equipment, or cultural-practice supplies, while hosting 60,000 rounds a year.

Pressure is keeping a top private course in great shape all the time with the Greens Committee breathing down your neck to keep the greens stimping 10-plus, the fairways cut at 3/8 inch, all the bunkers perfect, all the trees trimmed, and all the flowers blooming so their wives aren't chirping about the course not being pretty enough when they play nine holes on Sunday afternoon.

Honey, we put some pretty blue flowers at the 14th tee. Did you see them? They match yours and your three playing partners' hair perfectly.

Pressure is being boss, friend, psychologist, big brother, father and all around good role model to your crew members. Making them take pride in not only what they do at the golf course but in themselves.

Is that pressure? Tell me the truth! You can't handle the truth!! Yea, that's pressure. Playing a game is not pressure. Lee Trevino said: "Winning on the Tour isn't pressure. Playing a \$50 Nassau with \$10 in your pocket is pressure."

Now for the ultimate pressure — retirement. Two and a half years away for me. For you young guys, who knows what shape Social Security will be in by the time you reach the finish line? Plan now! I don't want to be the guy on a soapbox crying wolf, but Father Time creeps up on you at stealth level 5.

Get your ducks in a row. Talk to a financial planner and work out a game plan. You are never too young to plan for your future. Last year, I was 20. Six months ago I turned 50. Then a few months ago I became 61. Gee ain't it funny how time slips away.

I just read an article in the financial section of the paper this morning that said most baby boomers will retire \$165,000 in debt. Now that's pressure.

What, Me Worry? You bloody well better! Alfred E. Newman was just a cartoon.



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If you never looked beyond the headlines you would think that the primary cause of degraded water quality around Florida was caused by runoff and leaching of nutrients from lawns, sports fields and golf courses. Let's start putting lawn-fertilizer use in perspective. Some may get onto the streets and into the storm drains, but most of it goes on the grass and is used by the grass.

Scientists have compiled reams of peer-reviewed research that has consistently said over the past several

The Fertilizer Fear Factor

decades that properly applied fertilizers do not cause any negative environmental impacts. The bottom line is that fertilizers are being made the scapegoat because end users are easy targets. We might spread nutrients on turfgrass, but detractors are spreading fear and the facts don't support their claims.

I recently attended a meeting that was aimed at reducing phosphorus inputs in the vast Lake Okeechobee Watershed. Legislators and even the governor have decreed that phosphorus inputs will be reduced or eliminated so that Lake Okeechobee can be restored. Their first draft said "NO" phosphorus will be allowed in the future. Common sense prevailed and instead a "Low" phosphorus approach is being tolerated.

Attacking fertilizers is a smoke-screen because they make an easy target.

GREEN SIDE UP



Joel Jackson, CGCS

If tomorrow a bag of 16-4-8 at Home Depot has a new label that says 16-2-8, the politicians will crow about how they reduced phosphorus by 50 percent. That's true for that bag of fertilizer, but not for the other 98 percent of the sources of nutrients being released in the watersheds.

But according to several PhDs sitting around the table, until the water in Okeechobee itself is treated, 20 years from now if no one applied fertilizer in the basin, the phosphorus levels would still be high. The lake bottom is phosphorus rich from eons of erosion and transportation of sediment into the lake.

In fact Dr. Bruce Augustine, formerly with UF/IFAS and now with the O. M. Scotts Company, has a compelling presentation that clearly shows that the most feared-and-maligned home-lawns sector is actually in reality a very minor player in the fertilizer factor. Do-it-yourself homeowner applications account for less than 2 percent of the applied fertilizer in the USA. And of the 80 million home lawns, 40 million receive zero fertilizer, 18 million receive one application, 10 million have two applications and, in the more high-end categories of three and four applications, there are only a million of each. In the USA, approximately 10 million lawns are maintained by lawn-care or pest-control companies.

What other possible sources of phosphorus (nutrients) should regulators, politicians and environmentalists acknowledge besides fertilizer? "One of the major nutrient sources dumping directly into our waterways is municipal and industrial treated water (sewage)," according to the December 2005 "Streamlines" newsletter published by the St. Johns River Water Management District. And let's not forget the septic tank systems that line river and lake banks in areas not served by sewer systems.

Soil erosion is a really big source of nutrients, especially when large tracts of land are exposed during development.

Many rivers in our watersheds cut across naturally occurring phosphate-rich deposits. We *mine* phosphate in Florida, for crying out loud.

Recent estimates by the U. S. Fish

& Wildlife Service put the resident goose population in the Atlantic Flyway at over 1 million and growing at the rate of 8 percent per year since 1981. In the Mississippi Flyway the population is 1.3 million and growing by 6 percent per year. In one study of an urban lake in the Northeast, the phosphorus from goose poop was found to be five times higher than inputs from storm drains in the surrounding area. In 2001 a study of an urban lake in Wilmington, N.C. estimated that waterfowl droppings contributed 27 percent of the total phosphorus in the lake.

We don't have the colorful foliage change in Florida as do our northern neighbors, but every fall I see those bald cypress trees going bald, dropping their needles into the wetlands that feed into the creeks and rivers. And then there are the oak, maple, sweet gum and sycamore leaves finding their way into urban storm drains. In the spring, oak and pine pollen turns the air and every flat surface yellowish green with pollen dust. It also falls into the water everywhere, as do the blossoms and seeds of our prolific native and landscaped shrubs and trees. As far back as the 1970s a Univ. of Minnesota study found the act of sweeping the streets once a week could reduce phosphorus concentrations of storm water runoff by up to 42 percent.

People should use fertilizer responsibly. They should apply the right product at the right time in the right place at the right rate. Instead of proposing laws to ban fertilizers, politicians should be looking at the "Green Industries BMP Manual for Protection of Water Resources in Florida" and the fertilizer recommendations in this manual.

If officials are looking for easy answers, these manuals have been produced using sound science and under the scrutiny of and with the approval of the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection. Instead of enacting meaningless, self-serving and often unenforceable local ordinances and pandering to the agendas of activists, legislators at all levels should spend their time and efforts on educating their citizens about these proven positive environmental practices.

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