



The Florida Green

Summer 2006



*Number 4
Westview Country Club
Miami
Photo by Daniel Zelazek*



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For more than 80 years, Westview Country Club has been associated with thousands of charity golf tournaments, golf outings and other fund-raising events in Miami. Gene Sarazen was the club's first golf professional.

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HANDS ON: MANAGING NUISANCE WILDLIFE

Wildlife inventories on golf courses commonly include alligators, armadillos, coyotes, deer, fox, opossum, raccoons and snakes. Other animals that can be a nuisance are feral cats and dogs and the lowly mole.

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INDUSTRY/USGA UPDATE: TURF PROGRAM AT FT. MYERS

From its modest beginnings in 1997, Dr. Lee Berndt has developed a very respectable program in teaching, extension and research at Edison Community College in Ft. Myers to support golf courses in southwest Florida.

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STEWARDSHIP: INSTANT ISLANDS

If large buffer zones or shoring plantings are not an option, consider a floating island of aquatic plant material that can be used for aesthetic purposes and, more importantly, to remove nutrients from lakes and ponds.

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RESEARCH: IFAS LAUNCHES HUGE FERTILIZER STUDY

University of Florida/IFAS researchers have embarked on a landmark five-year, \$3.6 million study to verify the effectiveness of current state fertilizer recommendations for lawn care. The research focuses on nitrogen and phosphorus, essential plant nutrients that pose significant threats to Florida's water quality.

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The Florida Green

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

CALL FOR ARTICLES

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

Fall 2006 - GPS: Bell, Whistle or Tool?

Winter 2007 - Fertility Programs - Using Organics

Spring 2007 - Nematode Management without Nematicur

Summer 2007 - Managing and Scheduling Overtime

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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by LASTE C



Today I had a great meeting with my staff. We all assembled in the break room to discuss ways that we could improve our operation. I also wanted to remind everyone of what I expected of them and re-enforce my goal of having everyone look forward to coming to work.

**Communication
is the KEY
to SUCCESS**

I have this revolutionary notion that there is no good reason that one shouldn't be happy at his job. If your staff doesn't enjoy it, then why would they do it? Please don't say it is for the money because there are way too many jobs out there that your staff members could be doing that pay as much

— if not more than

— golf course maintenance.

I have staff members from Mexico, Nicaragua, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Columbia and even such exotic places as Buffalo, NY. Even with our language barriers we are able to communicate. Sometimes our communication is not always the best but we know how important it is to effectively communicate. It is the common thread that binds us together and allows us to accomplish our task; which is to produce a well-maintained golf course with an emphasis on environmental stewardship.

Yes, even in this time-starved and information-overloaded era, communication is more important than ever. It is even more important today to effectively communicate with your staff, your green committee chairman, general manager and most important – your members.

But I'm always amazed when I talk with fellow superintendents about how their course is doing. I will talk about mole cricket problems or fairy ring that I have on my greens and it will just happen to be the same problem or problems that they have. It is from this communication that I often find a new control strategy or product to assist in my pest problem. If nothing else, I find out that I am not alone.

Well tomorrow I head down to the Loxahatchee Club for the Blue Pearl Charity golf tournament hosted by the Treasure Coast GCSA. The Blue Pearl raises funds for children and environmental awareness in the Treasure Coast area. While I am pleased to be able to support one of the many fine charitable golf events

Good communication takes effort, but the rewards are worth it... I'm glad I had the opportunity to communicate the issues and our goals and accomplishments with you in these messages. Thanks to the board for its support and our staff for their hard work. See you at the Florida Turfgrass Conference in September where we can do some more communicating one on one.

that superintendent's host throughout the state, I look forward most to the communications I'll have with other golf industry professionals.

The point is, what they say is true; growing grass is sometimes the easy part of our jobs. Communication is the key to being successful over the long run. And my run as FGCSA president will be coming to an end on July 29 at the annual meeting in Orlando. In my president's messages I've tried to communicate the importance of your participation in the association and what we are doing on the issues facing our industry.

Good communication takes effort, but the rewards are worth it. From a crew working together to groom a golf course to building cooperative turfgrass research efforts with our allied associations, we'd be nowhere without communicating effectively.

There is always room for improvement in the association and we can make it better with your input, so won't you please communicate with us?

It's been a privilege to serve as president of the Florida GCSA this past year. I won't miss the publication deadlines in the Florida Green and the Green Sheet, but I'm glad I had the opportunity to communicate the issues and our goals and accomplishments with you in these messages. Thanks to the board for its support and our staff for their hard work. See you at the Florida Turfgrass Conference in September where we can do some more communicating one on one.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Craig Weyandt
FGCSA President

*Bringing the Golf Industry Together
for the Future of Suncoast Golf*

The 24th Annual Suncoast Scramble

Thank you Sponsors

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CHAPTER ROUND UP

The Beat Goes On

Our chapters keep up the busy pace providing meetings, outings, education and worthy fundraisers all the while dealing with transition and alternating hot dry and wet weather this past spring. Now we're just entering the dreaded hurricane season. Let's hope we defy the odds miss the big ones this year.

CALUSA

May's meeting was at Maple Leaf Golf & CC; host superintendent was Nancy Miller; we had a turn out of 30 guest and members. Jim Mendenhall of Squamata Reptiles was our guest speaker. Jim displayed a variety of snakes and taught us the differences between poisonous and non-poisonous snakes. All in all it was an excellent presentation. On June 28 we will be holding our annual meeting and election of officers at Cypress Lakes Country Club. Host superintendent is Jeff Doyal. Laurie Frutchey will be host for our July meeting at the Lexington County Club, and Rick Cirino will host our August meeting and annual Yellow Ball tournament at the Deep Creek Golf Club. We will name the date and location for our big September fundraiser – The Super-Pro-Supplier — Tournament at a later date.

CENTRAL FLORIDA

This was the second year we hosted the Florida regional qualifier for the BASF's The People vs. The Pros Ultimate Championship. John Lammrish, CGCS and



Morning session speakers at the Everglades GCSA Spring Symposium included, from left, Dr. Bob Carrow, Univ. of Georgia; Dr. Lane Treadway, NC State; and our own Dr. Bryan Unruh, UF/IFAS. Photo by Joel Jackson.

the LGPA International Golf Club were the hosts. This year the event was opened to four-man teams from all 12 local chapters. This year's winners in both the Under 49 (Mike Shields from the U. S. Naval Air Station G.C.) and Over 49 (Dana Anderson, Magnolia Point G&CC) divisions were from the North Florida Chapter. Mike and Jason will be headed for Pinehurst, NC in August to compete with other qualifiers from around the country for a spot to play head to head against Retief Goosen and Gary McCord. Thanks to BASF for sponsoring an event that showcases superintendents and the work they do.

Jason Moore, Harmony Preserve GC, will host our annual Chapter Golf Championship in June, and July will herald the 30th edition of the Larry Kamphaus Crowfoot Open. This year's agenda has changed to require less away time for attendees. The tournament and awards luncheon will be on Saturday, July 29th. For those wishing

to make a weekend out of it, a nine-hole shoot out and a fishing tournament will be held Sunday morning. All events will be at the Grand Cypress Golf Resort.

COASTAL PLAINS

We meet the second Tuesday of each month. Our upcoming meetings will be: June: Killearn Country Club, James Evans GCS;

July: Wildwood Golf Course, Steve Diffenbaugh; August: Golf Club of Summerbrook, John McGhee, GCS; October: Southwood Golf Club, Eddie Snipes, CGCS; November: St. James Bay Golf Club, Shane Bass, CGCS.

We are talking about dissolving our chapter and possibly joining the North Florida GCSA. We are contemplating this action because we will never have enough Class A members to affiliate with GCSAA and take advantage of their resources. We had talked to the Gulf Coast GCSA in the Panhandle, but they are not members of the Florida GCSA and we didn't want to sever that relationship.

EVERGLADES

Spring is always busy in Southwest Florida beginning with our Spring Symposium in April. Matt Taylor did a bang-up job of booking a host of speakers for this day-long education conference: Dr. Bryan Unruh, UF/IFAS – Gadgets and Gizmos for the Superintendent; Dr. Bob Carrow, UGA – Reality Check



EGCSA Symposium notables in the afternoon session, from left, speakers John Foy, USGA; Gary Grigg, CGCS/MG, Grigg Brothers Fertilizer; EGCSA Education Chairman Matt Taylor, CGCS; and Dr. Davis Daiker, Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Thanks to our many fine sponsors for their support of the 14th Annual Jeff Hayden-Envirotron Classic hosted by the Seven Rivers GCSA.

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for New Products and Technologies; Dr. Lane Treadway, NCSU – Diseases and Other Problems on Ultradwarf Turfgrasses. In the afternoon John Foy, USGA, gave a state-wide turf update followed by Gary Grigg, CGCS/MA – Foliar Fertigation and Dr. Davis Daiker – Arsenic Issues on Golf Courses.

Another successful Poa Annuu Classic took place this past May at the Naples Beach Hotel. The new dual format of medal play at Bill Davidson's Naples Grande Course and scramble play at the Beach Club has allowed more people to play golf and enjoy the weekend. Proceeds from this event allows the chapter to donate \$5,000 annually to the FGCSA and GCSAA.

Stephen Fox from the

Ocean Reef GC on Key Largo was a repeat winner and his fellow South Florida GCSA teammates, Jason Bagwell, Bob Harper, Kelly Cragin and Seth Strickland, took the Chapter Team trophy. By virtue of his victory Fox has earned the first spot on the FGCSA Golf Team to compete at the GCSAA Championship in Palm Springs, Cal., in February.

Gentle breezes, lively music and good food at the traditional "Luau on the Lawn" put a nice finish to a week-end of meetings, education, networking, golf and family fun. Named the Poa Annuu Classic in 1975, this event has been held since 1970 when it began as a golf grudge match between the Everglades Chapter and the South

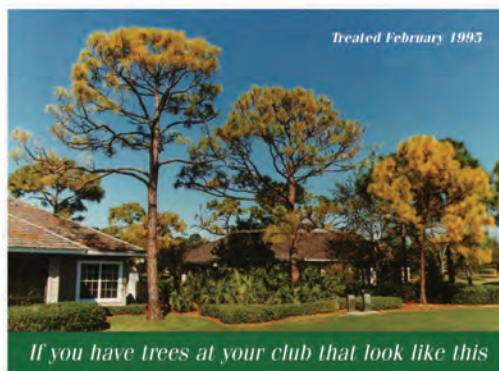


Phil Donahoo from BASF, right, presents Mike Shields, superintendent of the Naval Air Station GC in Jacksonville with the first-place trophy for the Under 49 division in BASF's The People vs. The Pros Championship held at the LPGA International in April. Mike will have an opportunity to qualify for a spot to play Retief Goosen in an elimination tournament in Pinehurst, NC in August. Dana Anderson winner of the Over 49 division will also go to Pinehurst to try to play Gary McCord in the senior division. Photo by Joel Jackson.

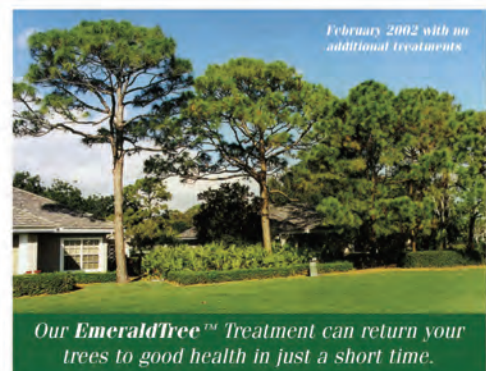
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Florida Chapter. Our next big event will be our annual Vendor Appreciation Day in June at Naples Grande.

On the serious side, members Tim Hiers, Matt Taylor and Darren Davis are actively involved in representing area golf clubs in discussions with the Naples City Council on proposed new rules governing the use of fertilizers and pesticides. The focus is on water quality in Naples Bay. The EGCSA wants to ensure that local leaders are using good science and common sense in their deliberations.

NORTH FLORIDA

First, thanks to all the volunteers who helped as NBC



From left, North Florida GCSA President Lon Chatfield with the 2006 Memorial Scholarship winners: Cameron Warner, Christopher Maynard and William Ray. Also present was John Piersol director of the Golf and Landscape Operations Program at Lake City Community College. Photo by Joel Jackson.

spotters for the 2006 TPC tour event. We raised \$2,800 for the chapter.

Two big fundraisers transpire in our region in



Greg Tharp, CGCS, left, superintendent at the Jacksonville G & CC, was named the 2006 Greenkeeper of the Year by NFGCSA President Lon Chatfield at this year's Memorial Tournament at Tharp's club. Photo by Joel Jackson.

the spring – the Annual Turf Research Tournament at Glen Klauk's Pablo Creek Golf Club and the North Florida Memorial Scholarship Tournament at Greg Tharp's Jacksonville Golf & Country Club. The Memorial is held in honor of Mike Richards, who worked with Tresca Industries and Alan MacCurach, who was a PGA Tour Agronomist. Both were vital resources for North Florida members.


This year's scholarship winners: Cameron Warner, who works at The Ravines Golf Club (\$1,000), Chris Maynard from the Timuquana CC (\$1,000). Both of these students attend the Golf Operations program at Lake

City Community College. William Ray, who worked at Alltel Stadium and attends Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Georgia was awarded a \$1,500 scholarship. Additionally our chapter donated \$1,000 for scholarships to the LCCC Equipment Technicians Program. John Piersol and his staff will select a deserving student(s) in this program to receive these funds.

At the Memorial we also salute someone who has a long record of service to our chapter. This year Greg Tharp, CGCS, who has hosted this event for the past six years, was named Greenkeeper of the Year for his enduring service to the NFGCSA.



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Environmental Turf
Hendrix & Dail
Labelle Liquid Fertilizer

Joel Jackson, FGCSA Director of Communications was on hand to review current issues facing our industry.

PALM BEACH

June is the month where the question "How low did you shoot?" turns to "How big was your fish?" as our chapter hosts it's annual fishing tournament. June is also the month for our big FGCSA Future of Golf tournament at Steve Pearson's The Falls CC. Thanks Steve for hosting this event year after year. You and your club do a great job to help us raise funds for Junior Golf, charities and turf research.

Thanks to the Bayer Power Pak Auction hosted by Brian MacCurrach at The Future of Golf Tournament, John Gallagher's winning bid of \$4,700 will be donated to the PBGCSA and the charities it supports. This is the first of three auctions that will be held in Brian's territory. The auction, which begins its fourth year, has raised more than \$37,000 for the Palm Beach, Treasure Coast and South Florida GCSA chapters. The Treasure Coast/Blue Pearl auction was to be held in June at the Loxahatchee CC and Brian hopes to go

well over the \$40,000 mark at that time. Meanwhile Gallagher was a double winner as his team also won the tournament. In the Bayer Power Pak, Gallagher picked up 10 bags of TopChoice and a case each of Allectus GC SC, Chipco Signature, Revolver, 26 GT, ProStar and Finale.

Special thanks to those PBGCSA members who gave up their free time to work for NBC at the Honda Classic. It's good PR for the chapter and our profession and it's also worth PDI service points. We'd also like to welcome the following new members to the chapter: Amy Volk Flowers, DGCM at Hunters Run; Charlie Hamblin, superintendent at Hunters Run; Steven Antal, superintendent at Kings Point and Scott Chastain, assistant superintendent at the C.C. at Mirasol.

Boca Rio superintendent Bob Randquist, CGCS, who is currently a GCSAA Director has announced his plans to run for re-election at the GCSAA annual meeting in Anaheim in 2007. We hope all of you will support Bob in his upcoming campaign. He is a worthy candidate who brings vision, focus and reason to the GCSAA Board

of Directors.

SEVEN RIVERS

Once again we were able to raise significant funds for turf research at the 2006 Jeff Hayden-Envirotron Classic at World Woods this past April. Many thanks to the tireless efforts of our sponsors, committee members and volunteers and the staff at World Woods that help make this worthwhile event possible. We pay special thanks to Golf Ventures, Helena and Jacobsen for their generous support of this event as presenting sponsors. We will be expanding the use of these funds to include funding of research at the new University of Florida/IFAS Pine Acres Research Facility.

The SRGCSA will be holding its annual meeting June 6 at Candler Hills GC in Ocala. Andy Jorgensen will be our host for the meeting. We will not be holding a July Meeting due to the UF Field Day July 19, which will be the grand opening of the new Pine Acres Research Facility.

We held our May meeting at Haile Plantation in Gainesville. Joe Holden was our host and Dale Gardner, publisher of *Golfweek's Super News* was our guest speaker.

A few waited out the rain that day and made it around the course for an enjoyable round.

Congratulations to our four-man scramble team for winning first place at the Poa Tournament in Naples. The team consisted of Mike McNeil, Rich Herber, Mike Swinson, and myself.

On a personal note, I will be assuming the position of turfgrass research coordinator at Pine Acres. Jan Weinbrecht will be retiring at the end of July, and I will be following in his footsteps.

Mark Kann
President SRGCSA.

SOUTH FLORIDA

We just hosted our big regional Turf Expo in Ft. Lauderdale. See the summary elsewhere in the Spotlight section. In April Dr. Kevin Kenworthy, assistant professor of agronomy UF/IFAS gave a presentation titled "Looking Ahead. Enhanced Management Through Breeding" at our meeting at Bill McKee's Oak Tree CC. We tee it up at John Anderson's Weston Hills CC in May and in June we make our annual trek to the Keys for our meeting at the Ocean Reef Resort where Jim Mendenhall

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Stephen Fox from the Ocean Reef Club on Key Largo was the repeat winner of the low gross trophy at the Poa Annua Classic. Fox earns a berth on the FGCSA Golf Team for the 2007 GCSAA Golf Championship with this victory.

and his team from Squamata Reptiles will put on their snake show. This is the fourth chapter meeting they have been to.

Congratulations to Alan Weitzel, recipient of the 2006 FGCSA Distinguished Service Award. Alan was a preeminent leader of our chapter during the days of the formation of the state-wide Florida GCSA. Thanks to his vision and leadership the formation of the state association moved forward. It was also during Alan's watch that the South Florida Green magazine was ceded to the state association. Alan knew that it could be a tool for uniting and educating superintendents around the state on common issues. Alan continued his involvement in



From left: FGCSA President Craig Weyandt accepts a \$27,000 donation from South Florida GCSA President Kelly Cragin at the FGCSA Spring Board Meeting in Naples. The proceeds from the South Florida Turf Expo generate these funds for the salary for a technician to maintain the research plots at the UF/IFAS Ft. Lauderdale Research and Education Center. Photo by Joel Jackson.

the golf industry as director of the Miami-Dade Parks and Recreation Department overseeing the municipal courses.

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From left, Jason Bagwell, Westview CC; Bob Harper, Emerald Hills; and Seth Strickland, Miami Shores CC teamed with Steve Fox to capture the 2006 Poa Annuua Team Trophy for the South Florida GCSA.

He has also been instrumental in leading the effort for junior golf programs is South Florida.

SUNCOAST

Thanks to Mike McCulloch and the Jacaranda West CC for hosting our 2006 Suncoast Scramble. Next year will be our 25th anniversary for this fund-



From left, Suncoast President Chip Copeman presents checks for \$2,500 each to the FGCSA and FTGA Turf Research Funds at the 2006 Suncoast Scramble held at Jacaranda West. Photo by Lee Crosby.

raising and networking event. This year we donated \$2,500 each to the FGCSA and FTGA Research Funds.

Thanks also to Joel Jackson, FGCSA director of communications for his Issues Update and to Jim Mendenhall of Squamata Reptiles for his entertaining and educational presentation on snakes. The king cobra was a real show stopper. Thanks to George Cook for keeping an eye on the government-relations issues in our area. George recently attended a Green Industries Forum dealing with water quality in our waters in relation to fertilizer use on lawns and other turf areas.

TREASURE COAST

One of our key objectives this year has been to provide relevant activities for our members and also let them earn PDI points for their Class A status. In April we hosted two GCSAA Regional Seminars by Dr. Keith Karnok — “Managing Turfgrass Root Systems in the South” in the morning session and



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“Localized Dry Spots” in the afternoon. We will wrap up our major activities with our 13th Annual Blue Pearl Tournament to be held at Mark Heater’s Loxahatchee Club in June. Proceeds from this flagship event provide us with the resources to make contributions to the communities we live in and support the enhancement of the environment.

Next month TCGCSA President Harry Hanson will host the July meeting at his Miles Grant CC. Our speaker will be USGA Florida Region Director John Foy, who will speak about current turf issues in the state.

WEST COAST

Our Benevolent Tournament at Louis Devos’ Wen-

sworth Club raised around \$6,000. Most of these funds will be donated to cover continuing medical expenses for John Chevalier’s wife Christina who continues to recovery from surgery for multiple injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

We held the Chapter Challenge Cup at WCGCSA President Kevin Baldwin’s Diamond Players Club in Clermont and we are looking forward to the Pro/Superintendent event at Cypress Run in August. Besides hosting our Chapter Championship and a U.S. Open Regional Qualifier, Trent Inman of the Old Memorial Golf Club has volunteered to serve on our board of directors. Thanks, Trent, for stepping up.

Congratulations are in



Jim Mendenhall from Squamata Reptiles in Spring Hill has put on four snake education programs for FGCSA local chapters this year. He gets the audience’s attention by wandering around the room with one of his “props.” Photo by Lee Crosby.

order to the Andy Neiswender and Rory Harding families. Andy is a new dad to Rachel Luring Neiswender and Rory welcomes Kendall Marie Harding to the world. Both girls were born in May. Also congrats go out to Greg Plotner, CGCS, Champions Gate G.C. for achieving GCSAA certification as an Environmental Management

Specialist. Greg has been actively involved in all things environmental since his days at Tampa Palms G&CC. This program is open to all GC-SAA members.

FGCSA

We celebrated our Annual Past Presidents Dinner in Naples during the Poa Annu Classic. The guest of honor

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was Alan Weitzel from the South Florida GCSA who was presented with the 2006 Distinguished Service Award.

Several counties and cities are focusing attention on proposals aimed at regulating not only the use of fertilizers on turfgrass but also product formulations and composition. We appreciate the teamwork and input of UF/IFAS and the Allied Associations like the FTGA, Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association and the Florida Sod Growers Cooperative for attending the various meetings around the state and keeping us informed of the outcomes.

FGCSA Director of Communications Jackson has been busy responding to reporters with emails to provide more background

and facts on the recent fertilizer articles in Sarasota as well as a Letter to the Editor in Orlando when a couple once again mistakenly labeled golf courses as big water users. Never let these old wives tales and false statements go unchallenged.

This spring FGCSA Director of Communications Joel Jackson participated in a joint Project Evergreen – GC-SAA public relations effort on radio stations around the country. Jackson appeared on Ocala Live for 30 minutes answering questions about golf and the environment and the game itself.

After a successful restructuring of our reserve funds and budgets, work continues by the various strategic planning committees to forge a



Craig Weyandt, FGCSA president, presents Alan Weitzel with the 2006 FGCSA Distinguished Service Award at the Past Presidents Dinner during the Poa Annua Classic in Naples. Photo by Joel Jackson.

firm plan of action to guide the association in the coming years. The tedious hard work now will lay a foundation for

tomorrow's leaders to follow and help with the amount of time needed by our volunteer board members.

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Mirasol's Most Popular Pairing



Talk to Tad Altman, superintendent of the Arthur Hills-designed Sunset Course and the Tom Fazio-designed Sunrise Course at the Country Club at Mirasol in Palm Beach Gardens Florida, and you'll get a brand new take on the Honda Classic's most popular pairing. "Most folks think that the thousands of spectators who come out every year, are here to watch the golf, but if you ask me, they come to look at my grass! Our picture perfect TifEagle greens and lush TifSport fairways and roughs are as sweet as Tiger's swing. And equally hard to take your eyes off of."

Altman's specialty is building challenging courses, and the pros love these two. More importantly, so does the membership. And why not? As Altman said in a recent interview, "We could do a PGA tournament here any week of the year, with just a week's notice." Altman comes from a Tifdwarf/Tifway background, but he's sold on the superiority of these two new and improved bermudagrass varieties. "Nothing can touch TifEagle for playability. And I'll put my TifSport tees, fairways and roughs up against anybody's." For more information about these two "UGA Turfgrass Team" releases visit:


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Morning turf plot tours were just one of the highlights of the 19th SFGCSA Turf Expo at the UF/IFAS Research Education Center in Ft. Lauderdale. Photo by Dara Park.

SOUTH FLORIDA TURF UPDATE

South Florida Expo Catches A Break Instead of A Breeze

By John Cisar, Ph.D.

Turf field-day season in Florida got off to a great start this year as the 2006 19th Annual South Florida Turf Expo at Ft. Lauderdale RED was a big success again!

This year the Expo caught a break and not a breeze as rains predicted for the day held off until late in the day. The tornado-like winds that had ripped the big-top tent into orbit in 2005 showed up this year in Pompano and spared us in Ft. Lauderdale. The 2006 South Florida Expo had another great turnout from the statewide turf industry with nearly 500 people attending (including *Florida Turf Digest* Publisher Liz Nutter!). A large number of vendors helped to sustain fundraising to support turf research at the FLREC. Turf managers were treated to a fine mixture of statewide turf program updates from IFAS

faculty, and practical industry workshops for mechanics, spray technicians, and irrigation personnel. In addition to vendor-sponsored workshops, demonstrations of equipment were provided by local distributors. Interested parties had the opportunity to compare hardware and be made aware of new technologies and innovations in the industry. The Expo offered numerous CEU opportunities including GCSAA credits and pesticide recertification.

Now an Expo tradition, a fantastic barbecue lunch was generously prepared and provided by Wiley and Nancy McCall of Environmental Turf. Every year the McCalls donate all their time and effort to come down south with their family — this year with their brand-spanking-new, one-of-a-kind, space-aged cooker — and put out the best fresh meal for everyone. The cooker can substitute for a jumbo jet it is

so big! And the food was fantastic. Thank you, Wiley and Nancy and Environmental Turf team!

Keynote addresses were provided by Dr. Billy Crow from UF in Gainesville and Mr. Jeff Michel of Bayer Environmental Sciences. Dr. Crow has an extension component to his job description with responsibilities in turf nematology. It was great to have Billy update us on turf nematodes and control options. Jeff provided a timely update on mole crickets with mole cricket activity heating up in south Florida. Dr. Ron Cherry, entomologist at the Everglades Research and Education Center also provided an afternoon presentation on chinch bugs.

Morning field tours included a visit with Dr. George Snyder, distinguished emeritus professor of soil science, who provided an update on soil-amendment impacts on bermudagrass establishment and maintenance.

Other IFAS Field Day turfgrass faculty presenters included Gainesville faculty, Drs. Billy Crow and Lawrence Datnoff; and FLREC turf faculty, Drs. Phil Busey, Robin Giblin-Davis and Cisar. This year graduate students — Mrs. Dara Park, Mr. Paucic McGroary, and Mrs. Claudia Arrieta — discussed their projects that have south Florida and/or FLREC components.

A featured program highlighted the efforts of some of the faculty of FLREC who do not directly work on turf but have direct relevance to many in our industry. Dr. Kimberly Moore led a tour of the annuals trial garden and Dr. Bill Howard led a discussion on scale insect pests. We

Dr. George Snyder, distinguished emeritus professor of soil science, provided an update on soil-amendment impacts on bermudagrass...

appreciate the efforts of all faculty and industry experts in providing topnotch education and CEU re-certification for our turf industry. A special thank-you is offered to Mike Orfanedes, Extension Agent for Broward County for providing an important update on tree and ornamental plant maintenance pre- and post-hurricane. After last year's hurricane events, there was a lot of interest in this subject matter.

Last but in no way least, we tip our hat to our great supporters from the turf industry who work so hard to all year to put on the south Florida Expo. The Expo is a great fundraiser to support turf research activities in south Florida! Many thanks to all the vendors both old and new and most have been with us since the beginning. Also, many thanks to the South Florida and Palm Beach Chapters of the Florida Golf Course Association and the Sports Turf Managers Association, Florida Chapter No. 1 for all their continuing sponsorship and/or support the Expo. The South Florida chapter is the official sponsor of the Expo and the chapter leads the effort in raising monies and increasing industry participation every year. We deeply appreciate the never-ending effort of SFGCSA President Kelly Cragin to put on a great event. ■

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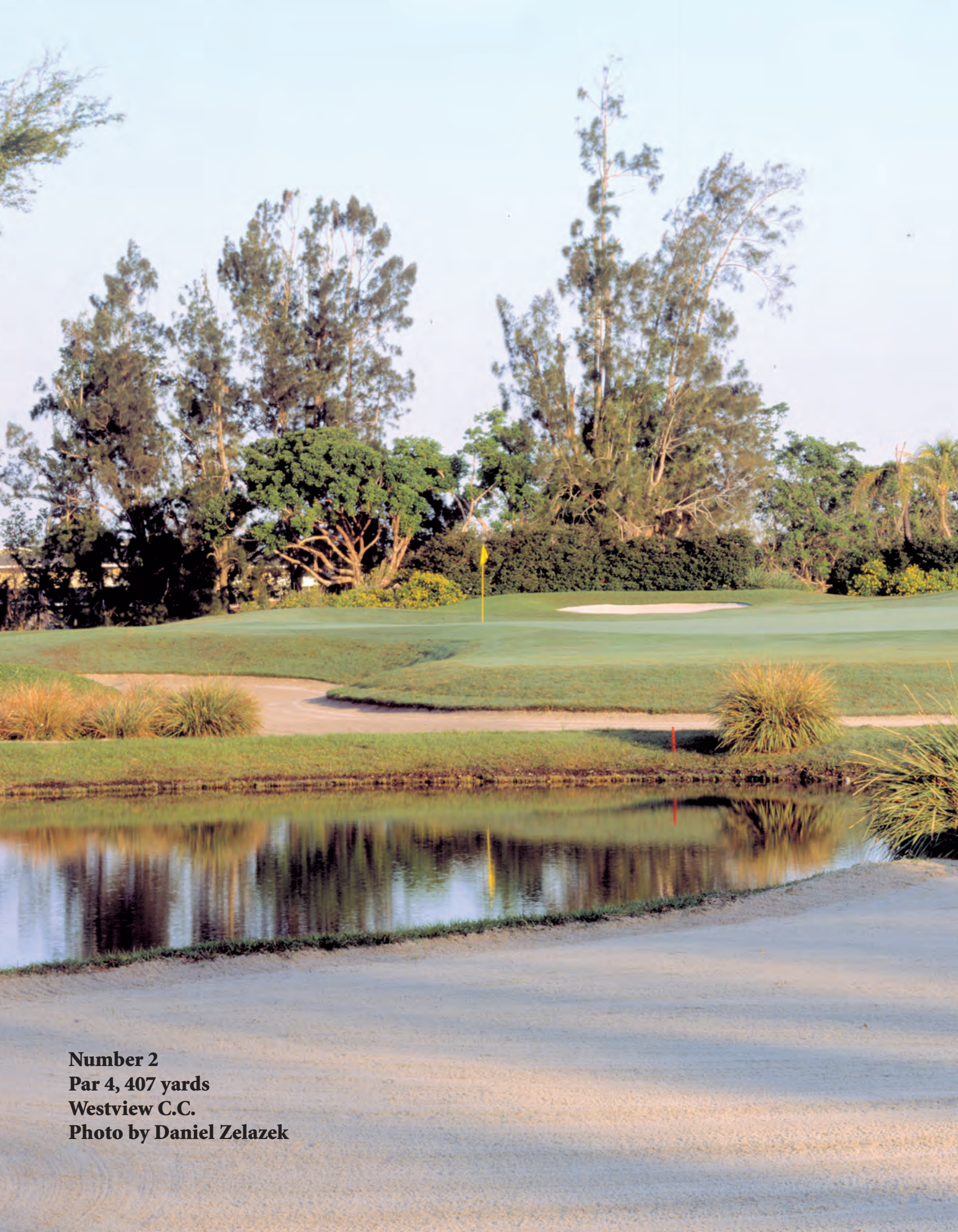
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Number 2
Par 4, 407 yards
Westview C.C.
Photo by Daniel Zelazek



WESTVIEW COUNTRY CLUB

Everything Old is New Again

By Joel Jackson, CGCS

This Summer issue gave me the chance once again to travel in time back to the days of the Florida Land Boom of the Roaring 20s and to the beginning of the golden age of golf. It was in 1924 that Bobby Jones won his first U.S. Amateur title, Walter Hagen won the PGA

Championship, Cyril Walker won the U.S. Open, Dorothy Campbell Hurd won the U.S. Women's Open and steel-shafted golf clubs became legal in the United States.

It was also the year that the Westview Country Club was established.

The clubhouse, a Miami landmark, once was used as a

housing facility for U.S. Navy wives during World War II, and it is said that during Prohibition notorious gangster Al Capone once used part of the club as a casino and speakeasy. Later in 1954, Westview also hosted an international dinner celebrating the sixth anniversary of Israel's becoming a nation. The dinner was held in honor of James

Course Facts



Westview Country Club Grounds Maintenance Staff.

The Westview Country Club

Location: North Miami

Ownership: Private, member owned

Playing policy: Private

Holes, yardage, ratings: 18, 6800 yards, par 72, 73.5/136

Club established in 1924. Designed by Mark Manhannah in 1956 and re-designed by Kip Schulties in 2000.

Management: Jeffery Herzfeld, president; Steve Kaplin, green chairman; Louis Garcell, club manager; Rob McDonald, head golf professional; Jason Bagwell, golf course superintendent

Major Renovations/Ongoing Projects: Bunker renovations after Hurricane Wilma; laser leveling tees, replacing trees lost in hurricanes; renovating driving range (adding irrigation and target greens)

Total acres: 120, 100 under maintenance

Greens: TifEagle. 5800 SF avg., 3.25 acres. HOC 0.090-0.110 winter; 0.110-0.120 summer; Stimp goal 9.5-plus. No overseeding.

Tees: Tifway 419 with three tees in TifSport. 3.0 acres. HOC 0.450-0.500 year round. No overseeding.

Fairways: Tifway 419 with off-types. 25 acres. HOC 0.450-.500 No overseeding.

Roughs: Tifway 419 with off-types, including areas of St. Augustinegrass. 45 acres. HOC 1.5-2.0 No overseeding.

Bunkers: 59. Machine raked with Toro Sand Pro with brushes and hand-rake perimeters

Native/Waste areas: 5 acres of mulched waste areas planted with fakahatchee, muhly and cord grasses. We have stockpiled our own mulch from chipping up the hurricane-damaged trees.

Waterways: 30 acres. Most of the lakes and ponds are tidal. Maintained by Lake Masters twice a month.

Irrigation: Surface water from the lakes. Flowtronex VFD pump. Toro Osmac control system with Site Pro software. Approximately 550 Toro 750 and 785 heads.

Water Management/Conservation: Minimal daytime watering except hand watering of greens as needed.

Staff: Total including superintendent is 20 year round, counting one part time. Weekly budget per person 40 hours straight time; overtime only as needed for renovations or emergencies

Key Personnel: Hector Garcia, assistant superintendent; Ernie Hamilton, equipment technician; Justin Hawkins, pest control technician (Hawkins is leaving to become assistant superintendent at Emerald Hills)

Communications: Crew meeting as needed; department head meetings biweekly in season; Green Committee meetings monthly.

Cultural Programs: Aerifying – Greens 4x/year; tees and fairways 2x/year with supplemental slicing of fairways during winter. Verticutting – Greens monthly and tees annually. Topdress greens biweekly.

Pest Control/IPM: Spot-treat mole-crickets outbreaks with Top Choice. Spot-treat nematode weak areas with Nematicur – usually no more than six bags a year. Apply pre-emergent weed control 3x/year.

Turf management challenges: Different soil types in pockets throughout the course create challenges for uniform moisture and nutrient management.

Noteworthy: The club celebrated its 80th anniversary in 2004. Gene Sarazen was the first head pro and in the 1980s Bruce Fliescher was the director of golf before becoming a star on the PGA Senior Tour.

MacDonald, the first U. S. Ambassador to Israel.

For more than 80 years, Westview Country Club has been associated with thousands of charity golf tournaments, golf outings and other fund-raising events. In addition there have been the countless weddings, receptions, engagement parties, fashion shows, birthday parties, theme parties, Grand Balls, dinner dances and numerous holiday and seasonal parties.

A lot of lives have passed through the doors of Westview over time, and the overlying connection has always been golf. Westview's first head golf professional was Gene Sarazen, who hosted Miami's inaugural Pro-Am Golf Tournament in 1927. Another head professional in the 1980s was Bruce Fleischer, who went on to become the leading money winner on the PGA Senior Tour.

With its notable achievements and golden moments captured in the history books, Westview stepped confidently into the 21st century by embracing Kip Schulties' new 6,800-yard championship design in 2000, molded from the remnants of the original design by Mark Mahannah built 50 years ago.

Westview is located on NW 119th Street, less than five miles west from Upper Biscayne Bay and 13 miles east of the Dade-Broward Levee that marks the eastern border of the Everglades. Many of the lakes and ponds on the golf course have tidal flow as a meandering waterway connects the Biscayne Canal to the north to the Little River Canal to



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Number 1 is a 336-yard, par 4. Some of the trees in the background show the effects of Hurricane Wilma on the landscape. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

the south. Both of these canals have outfalls on Biscayne Bay.

Because of those connections, Superintendent Jason Bagwell, a 32-year old graduate of the University of Florida turf science program, pays special attention to his course management programs, ever mindful of his environmental stewardship responsibilities. Bagwell says, "We only spot-treat for mole crickets and nematode outbreaks. We don't make any full course applications of those pesticides. I personally apply all our bulk fertilizer applications so I know where the product is going down."

Another reminder of the waterway connections to the bay was a group of manatees frolicking in the large lake that borders the first, second and ninth holes. Bagwell said, "Every year we get a group of manatees in the lake. Evidently they come up here to mate. They aren't very skittish either. When they are nibbling on the tor-

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Superintendent Facts

Jason Bagwell

Originally From:

Hendersonville, NC

Family: Wife Kathleen and daughter Sarah (6 months)

Education: BS in turf science from the University of Florida. I was the first graduate in turf science from the program at the Ft. Lauderdale Research & Education Center.

Employment History: 1998-2002: assistant superintendent at The Club at Emerald Hills. 2002-present: superintendent Westview Country Club

Professional Affiliations: Member of the GCSAA. Held all offices on the South Florida GCSA board. Will become president for 2006-07 later this year.



Jason Bagwell

How did you get into the business?

During high school in North Carolina began working at a nursery and many landscape side jobs. I spent a lot of time farming 50-70 acres of corn and bean

fields with my best friend's family. We both went to turf school at NC State, but when my family moved to Florida I transferred to UF.

Mentors: I attribute my success to my grandfather for teaching me hard work ethics and to Bob Harper at The Club at Emerald Hills for my golf course management style.

Goals: To become a certified golf course superintendent and to continue giving back to the industry through our associations both locally and nationally.

Work philosophy: Lead by example, always be on time, and be professional at all levels of business.

Hobbies: Playing golf, fishing, and snowboarding trips during the winter.

pedogress along the edge of the lake I can almost walk up and pet them.”

Westview's irrigation comes from the surface water in these lakes and ponds, so Bagwell uses Tom Burrows Turfgrass Services for soil and water sampling to make sure salinity, pH and nutrient levels are managed properly for healthy turf growth.

The manatee sighting followed on the heels of my first encounter with live iguanas on the second tee and bridge where I counted a total of five of the marine lizards. Ranging in color from shades of grey and tan and bright green, these reptiles chose to scamper away at our passing. I did manage to snap a shot of two of them on the forward tee.

Since Westview was built 82 years ago, it isn't hard to imagine that the rest of North Miami built up all around it. So when I located the course by logging on to Google Earth, the aerial view clearly shows the golf course as one of the few large parcels of green space left in densely populated residential and industrial surroundings. Little wonder Bagwell reports a significant wildlife inventory for such an urban location,

“Including the manatees and iguanas that you saw, we have alligators (not a problem thus far), raccoons, possum, fox, squirrels and a full range of bird species.” I saw a variety of wading birds and perching birds as we rode the course. Bagwell said they also have a lot of rose-cheeked parakeets which have become fairly common on many golf courses from Miami to Naples up to the St. Petersburg area.

The ride through on the course also revealed remnants of damage from Hurricane Wilma. Tall stumps of Australian pine trees still lean to the northeast, giving away the direction of the winds and the location of the eye as the storm passed through south Florida last year. Bagwell has kept one or two half-uprooted specimens intact for show and tell for the insurance adjusters who come by and may be new to the area. Without a tangible example of the damage, they question some of the ongoing claims for repairs and restoration costs. One easy call for Bagwell was to replace the damaged ficus trees with groves of palm trees. He said, “We tried to save the ficus knocked down by Katrina. After Wilma came through

and took out the new and saved trees, we decided to replant with a variety that has a better track record, like the native palms.”

Hurricane damage recovery experience wasn't in Bagwell's resume when he came to Westview four years ago in 2002 after spending four years at The Club at Emerald Hills in Hollywood as an assistant superintendent with Bob Harper. It wasn't until the 2004 season that hurricanes began pummeling south Florida with multiple storms. However, Bagwell does credit Harper with helping to develop his course management skills.

Harper is a formidable low-handicap golfer who has captured several individual trophies for his play in statewide superintendent tournaments. Some of that skill must also have rubbed off on Bagwell (a 6 handicap) too, since he joined his old boss on the winning South Florida GCSA teams for the FGCSA Championship last September and the Poa Classic Championship this past May in Naples. Bagwell's golf credentials help drive him to strive for perfection on the greens at Westview. Says Bagwell, “I have a stimp meter



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Number 11 is a 171-yard par 3. The tidal creek, left, in front of the white tees connects the lakes and ponds. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.



Number 3 is a 543-yard, par-5 dogleg around a large lake where manatees congregate each year. Photo by Daniel Zelazek

in the office, and I will post a number when they want one for special events. But I can chip or putt the greens while making my rounds and tell that they are rolling well.”

While the stimpmeter may be standing in a corner of the office in the maintenance building, Bagwell says his real office is his utility vehicle. “I’m a hands-on superintendent, so when I say I spend most of my time in my office, people look at me kind of funny. What I mean of course is that I’m mostly on the course during the day. When I visit other superintendents I’m always eyeballing what tools they carry in their vehicles.”

For the record, I took inventory of Bagwell’s “office” and it contained: a raincoat stashed behind the seats, a small tool box for hand tools (pliers, screwdrivers, etc), two milk crates containing a hand sprayer, traffic-control signs, two bottles of top dressing for divots, irrigation flags for marking

heads, leaks, etc, cans of spray paint and a 1.5-gallon hand sprayer for spot treating weeds. Also in the back of the cart was a hose with a quick coupler, a soil probe, a small diameter yardage wheel, spare traffic control stakes and two golf clubs – wedges I think. In the dashboard was a collection of found golf balls all used for checking green speed and shot-holding ability of the greens I assure you.

I was amazed to learn that Bagwell’s use of Namacur on greens only as spot treatments consumes six bags a year and, while I didn’t get a total count of his Top Choice consumption, it was by the bag and only mole-cricket hot spots are treated. With such a focus in the media on activists’ fears of runoff and leaching of pesticides and fertilizers, it’s nice to know Bagwell is trying to do the right thing as part of his normal practices.

(Photo feature page 30. Text continues page 34)

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Jason Bagwell's office-on-wheels. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Clumps of red and white firecracker bushes mixed with Mexican petunias shown here alternate with dwarf bougainvillea beds to provide beautiful splashes of perennial color behind the 11th green. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Two of the five iguanas seen on the second hole at Westview. Photo by Joel Jackson.



This leaning remnant of an Australian pine is kept as reminder to insurance adjusters that there was a lot of damage during Hurricane Wilma. Photo by Joel Jackson.



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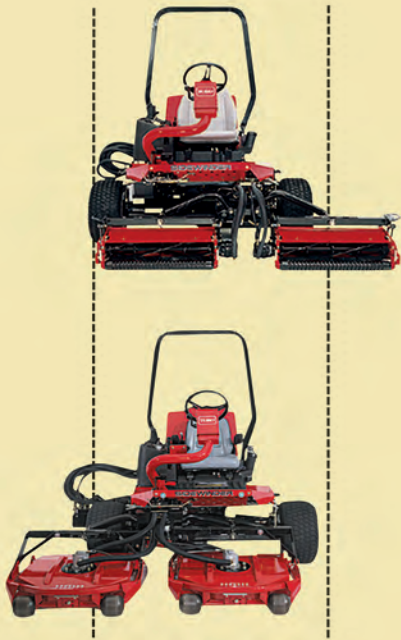
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I have tried to recruit other young superintendents in my age group, but they seem to be reluctant to step up and I'm sorry to say I really don't know why.

While earning his spurs and learning the ropes as a head superintendent, Bagwell has not just been taking from his peers without giving something back. This young superintendent has already put in more than four years on the South Florida GCSA board and has rotated through all the chairs from director to vice president. Look for Bagwell to become the next president of the South Florida Chapter at their annual meeting later this summer.

And to add to Bagwell's range of new experiences, the fact that he is the proud father of a six-month-old daughter Sarah. Says Bagwell, "So far Kathleen has been carrying most of the new baby load – feeding, changing, etc, but I know it won't be long before my life will change significantly as we get more involved as she grows up."

Bagwell is also an avid fisherman and scuba diver. His 25-foot boat is set up as a fishing machine, but it also has a small cuddy cabin so the family can get out of the weather when needed. In fact Bagwell was slated to attend a captain's meeting later that week for the Palm Beach GCSA's annual chapter fishing tournament. Fishing is almost universally a get-away activity of Sunshine State superintendents.

Since participation and volunteerism across the industry has been down in recent years I asked Bagwell if he had any insights into the problem. He said, "I have tried to recruit other young superintendents in my age group, but they seem to be reluctant to step up and I'm sorry to say I really don't know why." We surmised that lack of confidence in being away from the job site and worn-out excuse of not having

Fun Facts



Jason loves boating and fishing. Here he is with a sailfish caught off Costa Rica.

1. **Vehicle:** Ford F150 4x4.
2. **Last good movie I saw:** Wedding Crashers.
3. **I stay home to watch:** Golf Central.
4. **The book I've been reading:** *Life In and Out of The Rough* by John Daly.
5. **Favorite meal:** Steak and Florida lobster – on my grill.
6. **Favorite performers:** A dolphin (gamefish) on the end of my line.
7. **Prized possessions:** Our new daughter Sarah (6 months old).
8. **Personal heroes:** Tiger Woods.
9. **Nobody knows that I:** Can still ride a skateboard pretty well.
10. **I'm better than anyone else when it comes to:** Problem solving.
11. **I'd give anything to meet:** Jimmy

- Page – lead singer for Led Zepplin.
12. **My fantasy is:** Owning a yacht.
13. **The one thing I can't stand:** Golfers not obeying cart rules for the day.
14. **If I could change one thing about myself:** Take better care of my body.
15. **Most humbling experience:** Birth of my daughter.
16. **The words that best describe me:** Impatient.
17. **My dream foursome would be:** Mike Weir, Phil Mickelson, Tiger Woods and me.
18. **My best fish story:** Long before cell phones – getting dropped off with two friends for a 3-day hiking and trout fishing trip and forgetting my fishing rod in the car.

enough time were among the many reasons.

For Bagwell, it was obvious very early in his career that there was extraordinary value in attending superintendent meetings, conferences and trade shows. "Don't get me wrong, the formal education and speakers are good and necessary for PDI points, but what I learned just talking and networking

with other superintendents has been a fantastic education you can't get any other way. Meeting people who become friends and contacts in the business has been very worthwhile."

There's no question that most successful superintendents have had the support of their general manager, club president and green chairman. And the best of the best make sure they

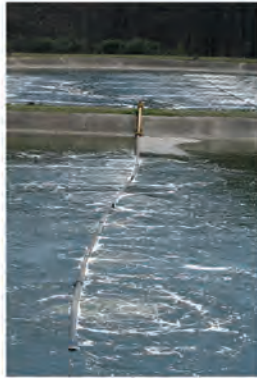
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Number 18 is a 525-yard, par 5. The majestic 82-year-old clubhouse in the background is a North Miami landmark. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

cultivate excellent working relationships with other department heads. For Bagwell, one of the key persons at Westview is the General Manager Louis Garcell, who has been at the club since 1976 when he started as a waiter. He is a consummate professional and he demonstrated his respect for his fellow employees as he rose through the ranks from waiter to maitre d' to assistant manager and eventually general manager.

Garcell has regular meetings with Bagwell to ensure all things are in order on the course, but he respects Bagwell's knowledge of turf management and allows him to do his job, which is tending to the golf course and clubhouse grounds.

By supporting Bagwell's involvement in superintendent meetings and association activities, Garcell is ensuring that Westview's superintendent will be in the company of the region's most successful turf managers and he will

stay on the leading edge of technology and information that can in turn help the club to be successful. It is not a new formula for success, but one that often seems to get lost in the shuffle at many clubs.

One example of how Westview gained an advantage by having an active superintendent was last year's decision not to overseed the golf course. Bagwell learned at meetings that more and more clubs were not overseeding and he presented the idea to his club. The main resistance to the idea came from golfers who really enjoyed seeing those striped fairways during the winter. But with the opportunity to save significant dollars in seed, labor, watering and chemical costs, the club agreed to give it a try.

Bagwell had his mowers burn-in the stripes by mowing the same pattern in the bermudagrass fairways until the stripes were established. With some of the savings from not overseed-

ing he purchased a fertigation system to spoon-feed the turf and keep the desired color during the winter season. Meanwhile the golfers were not inconvenienced by preparing the greens for seeding or the daily syringing to keep the seed damp during establishment. And in the spring, there were no thin greens or ragged looking fairways and roughs from transition. The experiment born out of networking conversations was successful and it was a win for all concerned.

Bagwell was happy to see that Westview took the big-picture view at his idea. He was also pleased to know that club has a history of longevity for most of its employees including former superintendents and certainly Garcell's tenure is almost legendary in country-club circles these days. With more new members joining the club, it's not a case of them having to learn the old ways as much as it is that everything old is new again. ■

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Managing Nuisance Wildlife

Photo by Teri Hoisington.

By Joel Jackson

The rash of recent fatal alligator attacks on humans has focused our attention on the wildlife-human interface as growth and development moves into former wilderness. Thankfully fatal encounters such as these are extremely rare in the big scheme of things, but other natural behaviors of animals as they learn to adapt to man's presence can be a nightmare if you are maintaining a golf course.

Wildlife inventories on golf courses commonly include large vertebrates like alligators, armadillos, coyotes, deer, fox, opossum, raccoons and snakes. Other animals that don't make the list but can be a nuisance are feral cats and dogs and the lowly mole that loves to tunnel under the turf.

It is the daily feeding and foraging habits of many of these animals that become the major nuisance for golf course superintendents. What are some of the damages done by these critters? Sand traps become playgrounds for deer and dogs. Bunker edges are constantly dug out by armadillos in search of food. The hole is not the only problem; the soil scattered into the bunker contaminates the sand.

Any area on the golf course is subject to damage as armadillos, opossum, skunks, raccoons and sandhill cranes search for grubs and worms. I can vividly remember numerous sections of fairway on the 16th hole on Disney's Magnolia Course being ripped up during the night and requiring extra mow-

ing and grooming in the morning. This was taking place during the PGA Tour's annual Disney Classic in October.

It also didn't take long to discover that colorful annual beds weren't much more than a sumptuous salad bar for our large resident deer population. Meanwhile, I must admit some of the aggravation is worth it to have the daily opportunity to observe wildlife on the course. However, our primary job is to maintain the golf course and help ensure the safety of our golfers. In that spirit, I offer some tips and resources to help you do your job.

GET THE FACTS

Thanks to the Internet you can get specific information on a wide range of nuisance animal problems. If you can't find a solution from your local chapter peers try going to the Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission site (www.myfwc.com) and search for Nuisance Animals or Animal Control. Your local county Extension office may have literature on nuisance animals and, if not, you can access UF/IFAS information on its Web site: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>. You can also Google Animal Control or Nuisance Animals and get a wider range of choices. The first ones mentioned above will be more Florida specific naturally, but you may find access to control products cheaper on the web.

GENERAL RULES OR POLICIES

Post signs in or around the clubhouse and 1st and 10th tees – Do Not Feed the Animals (or Wildlife). Animals

lose their fear of man and come to associate man as a food source.

Don't leave food or personal items open or accessible in golf carts. I have seen everything from squirrels, crows, Muscovy ducks and raccoons rummaging through a golf cart and everything from fruit, chips, sandwiches and gold watches have been pilfered.

Do not use any lethal means of removal until you have checked local regulations and game laws. Some species may be protected or some means of removal (firearms) may be illegal in your location. Even catch-and-release trapping should be investigated for legality.

The Florida Constitution has designated the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission as the legal steward of the native wildlife resources of the state. There are various laws and rules governing the taking and possessing of wildlife, so be aware of the rules like this one:

Chapter 39-12.009, F.A.C. allows the killing of destructive mammals except deer, fox, or bear on your property by means other than gun and light, steel traps or poison, provided that the destructive mammals are killed only within the immediate locality where damage is occurring. Using a gun and light at night, poison, or traps for the purpose of killing damaging birds or mammals may be authorized by a permit issued by the Commission. Birds other than blackbirds, cowbirds, grackles, and crows may be killed only under authority of a special permit issued by



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the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

This rule and other laws and tips for managing nuisance animals can be found in document WEC-20, one of a series of the Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Department Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication: December, 1990, as SS-WIS-20.

ALLIGATORS

Keep clear of large alligators. Period. Mating season and nest defense can make these reptiles unpredictable. I once had a 2-3 footer bump the toe of my rubber boot as I was planting some spike rush in the shallows along a lake bank on the Disney Osprey Ridge Course. Scared the beejebers out of me, but I wasn't worried about an actual attack from one that size.

Golf clubs have different policies regarding what they consider nuisance

gators. Some wait until threatening or suspicious behavior is reported before taking action. Other clubs set size limits on gators that they feel they can tolerate without danger. Many clubs set limits at 4 to 6 feet. Once a gator reaches that size or larger, a club may call the nuisance gator hotline at 866-FWC-Gator (866-392-4286) for removal by a licensed trapper. You should be aware that most of the trapped gators are killed and their hides and meat sold by the trapper. That is how the state is able to pay for the service.

ARMADILLOS

Who among us hasn't bemoaned the damage done by armadillos rooting on the golf course? More than 90 percent of the armadillo's diet is made up of insects and their larvae that live in the soil. They also feed on earthworms, scorpions, spiders, and other invertebrates. Armadillos are most



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active at night, when they make cone-shaped holes in the ground while rooting for food. They live in dens 12-15 feet long and can undermine cart paths and restroom slabs.

There are no successful repellents, toxicants, or fumigants registered for armadillos. The use of insecticides to reduce food sources also has not been proven to stop armadillo digging. A fence slanted outward at a 40-degree angle, with a portion buried may be a somewhat effective barrier under certain conditions. Although live trapping of armadillos is very difficult, some people have experienced limited success by using a 10x12x32-in. (25x30x80 cm) live or box trap. The bait used by successful trappers is earthworms in a ball of dirt and placed in the toe of an old nylon stocking. Trapping is most effective when leaf litter or soil is placed over the trap entrance. Armadillos caught in these traps can be released in an area where

you have obtained landowner permission several miles away from your home.

Shooting is another effective method to eliminate nuisance armadillos. However, discharging firearms is illegal in some areas and it also is illegal to use artificial lights other than outdoor house lights to aid in shooting at night. Whenever I felt the need to conduct an armadillo patrol on the course at night, I always called Security to tell them I was riding the course checking irrigation. It wouldn't pay to have someone come charging up with lights flashing. Armadillo meat is reportedly edible if properly prepared; however, the story circulated some time ago about these animals hosting a virus that causes leprosy killed my appetite.

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Grazing in the roughs is tolerable. It's when deer feed in flower beds that they become a nuisance. Photo by Joel Jackson.

time to time and made a mess in a few bunkers, but their biggest nuisance factor is when they choose to graze in the landscape beds on the course or around the clubhouse. There are registered deer repellents but, thanks to our frequent irrigation or rainfall, having to apply these materials repeatedly can become expensive.

The best solution is to find landscape plant materials that have shown resistance to deer feeding.

The following annuals, perennials and bulbs have shown resistance and rare or minor damage by deer in Florida: ageratum, aloe, angel flower, angels trumpet, anise, black eyed susan, bush daisy, century plant, cone flower, coreopsis/tickseed, crown of thorns, devil's trumpet, dusty miller, ginger lily, heliconia, lily family, lily of the Nile, lupine, marigolds, peace lily, periwinkle, petunia, rotunda, sage, shasta daisy, ti tree, trillium, wake robin, turks cap, verbena and yucca.

For resistant vines and ground cover try allamanda, asparagus fern, aztec grass, Boston fern, English ivy, holly fern, pampas grass, shield fern, society garlic, star jasmine, wandering jew, and yellow jessamine.

The following shrubs are recommended: banana shrub, bird of paradise, blackberry, bottlebrush, camellia, carissa, Chinese holly, croton, gardenia, heavenly bamboo, ixora, Japanese

boxwood, juniper, lantana, mahonia, myrtle-leaf holly, needle palm, oleanther, philodendron, plumbago, ruttia, silver thorn, southern Indian azaleas, sweet/tea olive, viburnum and wax myrtle.

If you plant accent trees on the course, the following have proven deer resistance: Australian pine, bottlebrush, butterfly/cabada palms, cabbage/palmettos, Christmas palms, coconut palms, crape myrtle, date palms, edible fig, eucalyptus, fishtail palms, flowering dogwood, ligustrum, live oak, loquat, magnolia, orchid tree, paurotis palm, persimmon, pineapple guava, podocarpus, pomegranate, ponytail, bottle palm, queen palm, royal palm, thatch palm and yaupon.

RACCOONS, SKUNKS, AND OPOSSUMS

Except for the skunks we usually get a smile on our faces when we catch sight of these critters ambling around the golf course. Unfortunately, they quite often make pests of themselves by getting into garbage cans, eating pet food, getting into attics or beneath houses, and eating home-grown fruits and vegetables. Raccoons are a major carrier of rabies in Florida.

These three mammals are opportunistic and have adapted well to urbanization. They will eat any plant, insect, or other animal food that is readily available and that includes



Raccoons are fun to watch until they start going through the trash cans.

food dumped into trash cans on the golf course. Golf course maintenance is normally a morning routine and the course set-up person is the one responsible for emptying trash cans in the morning, but that's the problem: the garbage sits all night in containers on the course, inviting these critters to feast on the leftovers.

My radical suggestion is to have a member of golf operations — say a ranger — empty the trash cans at the close of business. If maintenance must shoulder the task alone, then investing in secure trash receptacles is the only other option, and even then I know of a couple of workers who surprised a raccoon dumpster diving in a closed trash can with a push-in flap.

These omnivores can also cause havoc by ripping the turfgrass in search of insects and their larvae in the soil. Of course control of the insects plays a large part in deterring and controlling damage.

Live traps baited with sardines or cat food can be effective if necessary. Once an animal is caught, another problem is created — what to do with it? Trap and release of wildlife is seldom biologically sound. Areas that appear suitable for release probably are not. Areas without a resident population of the same species as the relocated animal most likely do not meet its habitat requirements. Relocation to already occupied areas causes problems for both the relocated animal and the resident population of the same species. Relocation permits from the

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Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission (GFC) are required to transport and release any native wild-life species. Relocation of raccoons is discouraged and relocation permits will not be issued in many areas because of the possibility of spreading rabies.

MOLES

Nothing can ruin your day like riding the course and seeing a mole tunnel cutting across one of your greens. There are many home remedies for mole control but moth balls, chewing gum and vibrating devices have never earned scientific proof of their effectiveness. While moles do have natural predators like copperhead and black rat snakes, barred owls, red fox and raccoons, you can't wait for them to remove your problem when a green's playability is at stake.

Since moles are insectivores who tunnel through the soil looking for insects and earthworms to eat, controlling obvious insect infestations with approved insecticides is one way to prevent mole activity, but it's no guarantee. Repellents like Mole Out and Whole Control are one option, but for a large space like a golf course they may not be practical over time. They last longer in heavier soils and tend to dissipate faster in sandy soils.

Killing the moles unfortunately is likely the best option since the repetitive damage especially to a putting green can be critical. One hands-on method not for the squeamish is to tamp down the raised tunnel roof and then wait to see if the mole reopens the partially collapsed tunnel. When a person armed with a pitchfork sees the renewed active tunneling, they stab the tunnel with the pitchfork.

Another more detached method is to use a spring or harpoon trap. After again tamping down a section of the tunnel, the trap is cocked and the tines of the harpoon are placed against the top of the tamped soil. When the mole comes through to rebuild the tunnel he trips the trap and its curtains for Mr. Mole. The drawback of this method on a green is the appearance of the device and the potential for an accident if left

unattended. If a trap is used, place a bucket upside down over it to discourage meddling.

If traps or having a designated mole hunter is not feasible you might try a couple of new baits which appear to be having some success - Mole Patrol and Talpirid.



Most snakes are harmless, but people just don't like them being around. Photo by Joel Jackson.

SNAKES

People are not born with an innate fear of snakes. It is merely one of those things we were taught at an early age much like our attitudes toward touching the kitchen range or going into the street. As we grew older we learned that ranges and streets weren't the terrible things that we once thought, but they should be respected. However, our fear of snakes was continually reinforced and many people have never learned that there is no logical reason to have an extreme dread of all snakes. Statistics show that the potential danger of highway accidents is at least a hundred times greater than the chance of being bitten by a venomous snake. There are over 100,000 cases of dog bite reported in Florida each year compared to only an estimated 200 people bitten by venomous snakes. Snake-bite-related deaths have occurred at a rate of about one every four or five years in Florida. Mortality figures for lightning strikes

and bee stings are much greater. Snakes are not aggressive and will not charge or chase after people. Their typical reaction to a human intruder is to crawl away and hide. However, snakes may react differently if they feel threatened. Some will hiss, shake their tail, and even try to bite an intimidating object. All snakes stick out their tongue frequently to smell their environment much the same way a dog sniffs at things.

There are no repellents, toxicants, or fumigants registered for snakes. Many home remedies such as blood, hair, and various chemicals may seem to work in some situations. However, unless the item has been scientifically tested, its effectiveness is questionable. The frequency of snake visits to your yard and home can be reduced by eliminating firewood stacks, debris, boards and other objects lying close to the ground creating preferred cool, damp, and dark shelter or prey habitat areas.

Snakes that frequent buildings can be trapped using a rodent glue board. Up to 4-foot rattlesnakes have been captured using that method. When locating the board on the floor along a wall, make sure you have it attached to a long enough handle that you can pick it up without getting bit. If you think your crew or club members need more safety training about avoiding and/or understanding snakes, you might give Jim Mendenhall of Squamata Reptiles a call at 352-663-9827. Jim has made presentations to three or four FGCSA chapters so far this year.

EXTRA BONUS

While the cicada killer wasp is not a vertebrate pest, I have vivid memories of this 3-inch long wasp flying in and out of burrows dug in sand traps just below the turf lip. Like most wasps, they can sting. They use their stinger to sedate and paralyze cicadas. Cicada killers will hunt cicadas during the summer months when populations are active. They will find a cicada, sting it and bring it back to its nest. Next they will drag the cicada down into the burrow where the paralyzed cicada will serve as food for the young cicada killers.

Most egg burrows will have one or two cicadas for every egg that is laid. Nests usually only have one egg chamber, but when populations are high, cicada killers will dig extra chambers or extra nests to accommodate reproduction capabilities. This will vary from year to year as the cicada population varies. Old folklore states that cicadas are active every seven or 12 years, but in fact some will emerge every year, depending on the region. Cicada killer populations will vary depending on the hatch or release of cicadas. In general, the more cicadas, the more cicada killers.

Cicada killers are a nuisance because they dig large, unsightly nests that are sometimes thought to be from a vertebrate because they are so big.

Cicada killers will spend their days foraging and if you watch the nest, you may catch them entering or leaving. Since they are so large, most people are petrified of them. In fact, cicada killers are generally not aggressive, but don't irritate them. Stay clear of their nests and be sure to keep children away from them as well.

Since the nest will not go away on its own and will probably be active every year, it is best to treat it as soon as you see it developing. The treatment method you choose largely depends on the cost and your comfort level.

If you have one or two nests and are seeing only one or two adults, control should be easy. Use CB Wasp Freeze for a quick knockdown of adults as they are entering or leaving a nest. CB Wasp Freeze uses a combination of active ingredients that work on a wasps even as large as cicada killers.

Be careful of less expensive, over-the-counter aerosols. Many such formulations are not strong enough for this type of wasp.

Once the adult has been sprayed and is dead, watch the nest for a few days. If no activity is noted, you have probably solved the problem. If you see new activity the following year, you will need to go to the second treatment option to ensure they don't come back.

The second option is to use liquid concentrates if you don't want to get close to the nest or if you have several nests that need to be treated. Liquid treatments should be done at night so there is little risk of conflict with adults. Liquid treatments are cheaper than using Wasp Freeze and will enable you to treat large infestations economically. More importantly, liquid treatments will provide some residual in the hole so you may be able to kill newly hatched or developing larva, which could prove important when dealing with chronic infestations.

The best way to treat with liquids is to use a pump-up sprayer. Take the tip off the extension wand so the material will flow like a water faucet. It is important to be able to have a high flow rate to flood the hole. This ensures it will sink to the egg chambers.

Use cypermethrin and a spreader-sticker mixed together. Cypermethrin will persist for a month or more. The Spreader sticker allows the treatment to penetrate the adults quicker, which kills them before they know what is happening. This eliminates the possibility of being stung. Since nests can have more than one egg chamber, you should treat with up to two quarts per nest. This ensures proper coverage and distribution throughout the chambers. Since most active areas have several nests, liquid treatments are more economical than using Wasp Freeze.



These large wasps are often seen around bunker lips on golf courses. Photo by James Castner, courtesy UF Entomology and Nematology Dept.



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Edison Community College Brings GCO Program to SW Florida

By Todd Lowe, USGA Agronomist

In the golf course management industry, respect is a quality that is earned. Golf course superintendents are a close-knit group of men and women who rely on each other for advice, camaraderie and the development of their profession. It can sometimes take several years for newcomers to feel welcome in the industry, as they earn the respect from fellow professionals. For Dr. Lee Berndt, at Edison College in Fort Myers, respect is earned one student at a time.

Dr. Berndt is the director of the Golf Course Operations Program at Edison College. He earned a Ph.D. at Michigan State University in the department of Botany and Plant Pathology with Dr. Joe Vargas in 1990. His dissertation was on black layer. He also holds a masters degree in crop and soil sciences and a two-year turfgrass management certificate from MSU as well. After college, he was the director of Environmental Services and western regional agronomist for Jack Nicklaus Golf Services for two years. He then started a consulting business, assisting various golf course superintendents throughout the world. Berndt relocated to Fort Myers and



Perhaps the crown jewel of Dr. Lee Berndt's accomplishments at Edison Community College was the development of a three-hole research and demonstration facility just outside the classroom door. Photo by Todd Lowe.

began working at Edison College in 1997

From its modest beginnings, Berndt has developed a very respectable program to support Florida golf courses in teaching, extension and research. Perhaps, the crowning jewel of Dr. Berndt's accomplishments at Edison College is the three-hole golf course laboratory that exists just outside the classroom door. The local golf course industry supported the Edison program by donating their time and labor in

designing and constructing the facility.

Local golf course architect Gordon Lewis designed the layout, while Jim Glaze and Glaze Golf built it. Boynton Pump and Irrigation Supply, in conjunction with Rain Bird, donated the Cirrus irrigation system. Watertronics donated the irrigation pump, and Turfgrass America donated most of the grasses. In addition, Wesco turf, in conjunction with Toro, donates the equipment used to maintain the holes and routinely rotates new equipment as needed.

Eight different grasses were installed on the facility, including a Tifdwarf green, a Tifeagle green and a Sea Isle I seashore paspalum green. Additional grasses on the laboratory include Tifway 419 & TifSport bermudagrass, Floratam St. Augustinegrass, zoysia-grass, and bahiagrass. For that reason the golf course is an excellent teaching, research and demonstration facility for the entire South Florida golf course industry. Students utilize the facility for learning about the various grasses, cultural practices and equipment utilized on golf courses. Also, chemical companies perform research at the



A Plexiglas wall was installed along the putting green edge to demonstrate the layers in a USGA-spec green construction. Photo by Todd Lowe.



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...graduates from the program can transfer their credits toward a bachelor of science degree in turfgrass management at UF. The Professional Golf Management Program at Florida Gulf Coast University, also in Fort Myers, requires students to take GCO classes at Edison.

facility without worrying about burning turf and jeopardizing golf course playing conditions. Finally, Berndt hosts golf course superintendent association meetings and other turfgrass events at the facility each year.

He has hosted several workshops for the Bonita Bay Group and has given presentations at various golf courses and at various golf course superintendent association meetings. Berndt has published several research articles for trade magazines and scientific journals concerning research performed at

Edison Community College and hopes to develop bilingual classes and to host workshops to educate nontechnical audiences like green committees and golf committees on turfgrass management issues.

The college recently partnered with the University of Florida so that graduates from the program can transfer their credits toward a bachelor of science degree in turfgrass management. The Professional Golf Management Program at Florida Gulf Coast University, also in Fort Myers, requires students to take GCO classes at Edison as well.

With hundreds of golf courses in close proximity to Edison Community College, the Golf Course Operations Program cannot help but to be a success. Respect for the program continues to build as students graduate the program and become superintendents. Presently, there are several graduates of the Edison Program working locally as superintendents at top clubs like Fiddlesticks, Gulf Harbor, and Quail Creek, not to mention all of the assistants and technicians that take part in the program each year. In addition, other graduates have found superintendents jobs in Chicago, North Carolina, and Indiana.

Plants of the Year

Here is the second group 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 fewer inputs. Here are three specimens for your consideration. Two are palm trees since they seem to weather hurricanes better than many trees. Go to www.fn gla.org for more information and suppliers who carry these plants.



Common name: Florida Thatch Palm
Botanical name: *Thrinax radiata*
Hardiness: Zones 10 -11
Mature height and spread: 20' tall by 5' wide
Classification: Palm
Landscape use: Specimen
Characteristics: An attractive, medium-sized, solitary fan palm with a slender, smooth trunk and green, glossy, circular fan leaves with drooping leaf tips. Salt tolerant and slow growing, this versatile Florida native palm thrives in full sun or shade and is drought tolerant once established. It also has low nutritional requirements.

Photo by Geoff Stein.



Common name: Dwarf Powderpuff
Botanical name: *Calliandra emarginata*
Hardiness: Zones 9B - 11
Mature height and spread: 5'-6' tall by 6' wide
Classification: Shrub
Landscape use: Hedge, foundation planting in mass or as a specimen plant.
Characteristics: This dwarf shrub produces silky leaflets that are bronze and turn green as they mature. The small flat bloom varies in color — typically deep red — and is produced during warm months. From bud to bloom-fade is approximately three weeks. This cultivar is cold tolerant and requires light pruning. Also is highly drought tolerant.

Photo from Leu Gardens.



Edison's facility is utilized by several chemical companies as well as GCO students. Here is a plot showing the effects of several types of hydraulic fluids at different temperatures on turf health.

Photo by Todd Lowe.



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What's really the bigger nutrient pollution problem – slow-release fertilizer on the golf green or tons of leaves going down the drain into the lake?

Fertilizer Use Under Scrutiny by Cities, Counties

The broad-based risks from contaminated fast-release fertilizer, including harm to intergenerational health and welfare, make it imperative that the law does not leave control of hazardous substances in fertilizer to discretionary or voluntary industry measures.

- Crystal River City Resolution

By Betsy McGill

While water-quantity continues to be a major issue for most areas, several municipalities and counties are targeting fertilizer use on lawns and commercial landscapes as a means of addressing water quality. The cities of Jacksonville, Naples and Crystal River as well as Sarasota County have considered regulating the type and quantity of fertilizer that can be used and/or the timing of applications, citing the need to reduce nitrogen and other nutrients being introduced into water bodies.

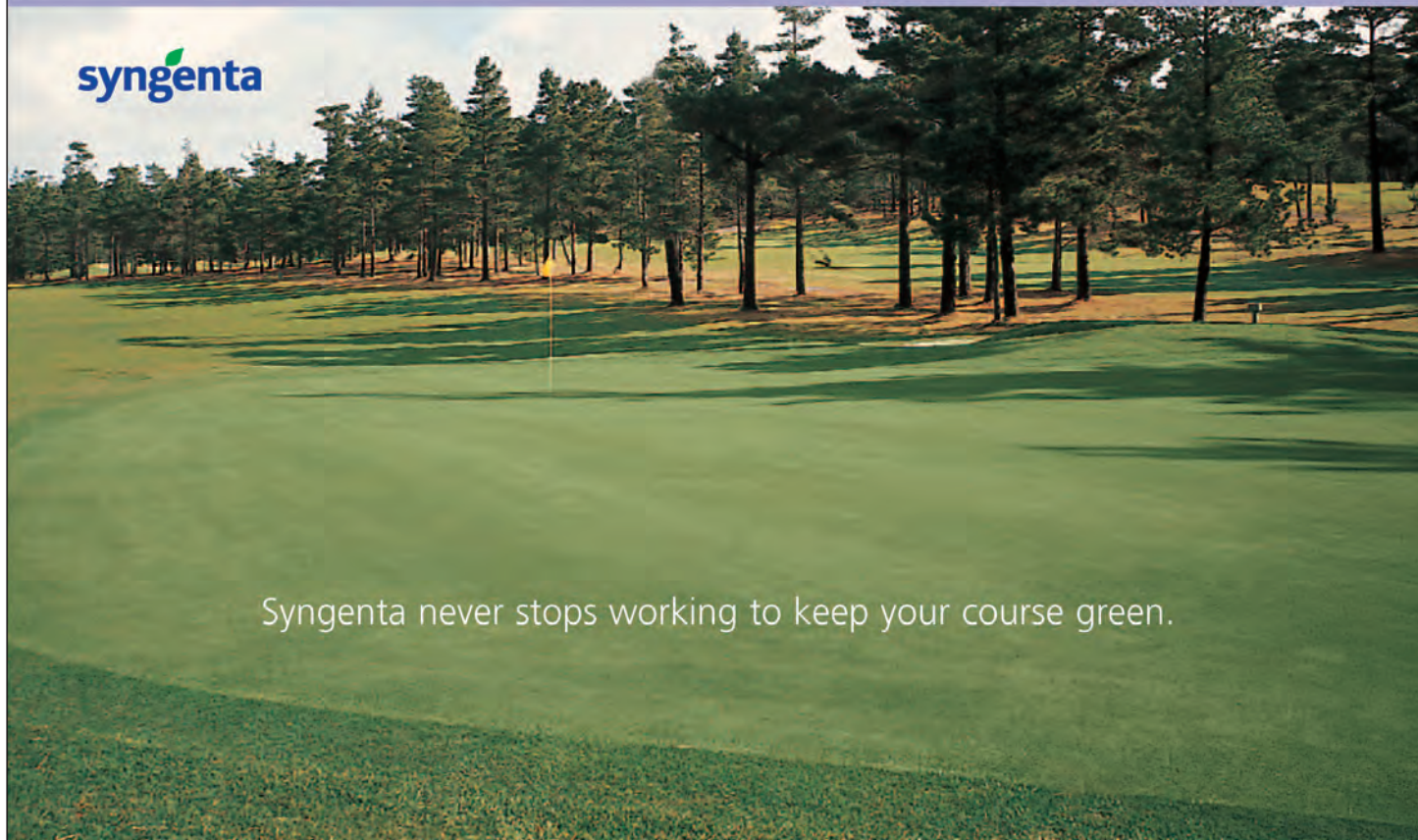
One of the difficulties in singling out a product to “ban” or to “endorse,” however, is that terms to describe products such as “fast release,” “slow release,” “water soluble” or “organic,”

can be confusing without a thorough understanding of how a term applies to that product and the way it works. Also of concern is the lack of hard data confirming how much nutrient runoff is actually originating from landscape fertilization. At a recent Green Industries Forum in Palmetto, a representative of the Manatee Bay Estuary Program said that 62 percent of the nitrogen being introduced into the bay is the result of stormwater runoff; of that 62 percent, attendees were told that 20 percent originates from residential lawns. These numbers, though, are based on modeling – taking representative samples, then using that data times the total area of lawns to arrive at a figure. At this time, there is no data on how many lawns are being maintained by lawn care services versus homeowners, how many are being fertilized or how often (and some studies indicate that many lawns are not fertilized at all).

Sarasota County has hired a consultant to assemble a working group of stakeholders to look more closely at this issue over the next 12 months. I’ll be participating, as will others within the

Florida Sod Growers Cooperative. As always, our industry’s position is that we support reasonable and enforceable actions based on good science. We also support the use of scientifically based Best Management Practices rather than county-by-county regulation. Please keep me posted if you hear of regulations of this type in your area and stay tuned for more information.

EDITORS NOTE: This note in the most recent Florida Sod Growers Cooperative is reprinted here to show that our affiliations with Allied Associations are working as we work together and share information on common issues. The Crystal River resolution at the opening speaks for itself as it shows the monumental lack of understanding by local officials of what and how fertilizer works. That misunderstanding continues with the use of terms like “organic” and “soluble.” These people don’t seem to get that all nutrients must be soluble for the plants/turf to use them. Hopefully the task group will be able to bring some practical common sense and actual facts to light during their deliberations in Sarasota.



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The Twin Eagles Golf Course in Naples was one of the first to install floating mats of aquatic plants.

Floating an Idea for Nutrient Removal

By Joel Jackson

Ever since Shelly Foy wrote about her field trip to Naples a year or so ago, I have been intrigued by the invention of Steve Beeman of Beeman Nursery in New Smyrna Beach. The idea is simply a floating island of aquatic plant mate-

rial that can be used for aesthetic purposes and, more importantly, nutrient removal from lakes and ponds. With the topic of water quality in rivers, bays and estuaries on the front burner these days, this new concept has significant merit in helping to improve the situation.

For some years now, the terms “buffer zones” and “no mow zones” have

leaped into our vocabulary to describe high-cut borders around golf-course water bodies. While the research mentions varying distances (10-30 feet) that these borders should extend from the water, many clubs are reluctant to grow such gnarly grass more than a few feet beyond the water line.

There are littoral shelves in water hazards with emergent and submergent aquatic plants to filter any nutrients coming off the golf course, and they do work and help in the total effort. But many clubs like the look of a clean shoreline.

Enter the floating mat idea.



There are an infinite number of mat configurations to be had including shape and plant varieties. Note the contrasting shorelines in the background – one with shoreline plants and one without.

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Close up of the dense root system from just one floating plant pot that is efficiently removing nutrients from the water.

The mats can be customized to any size and shape and a variety of aquatic plants mixed and matched to create attractive and very efficient nutrient-filtering islands. They can be located and anchored anywhere in the lake for visual appeal and efficiency. These islands offer cover for small fish and animals, which in turn attract larger fish and birds.

If large buffer zone or shoreline plants are not an option, take a hard look at this new method of using aquatic plants to improve water quality by removing nitrogen and phosphorus. These floating mats can also be used in retention ponds and lakes in the development and not just limited to the golf course.

ACSP FOR GOLF COURSES

Dispelling Common Myths

There are a number of “myths” and misconceptions that we hear from people from time-to-time about the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP). What follows is a short list of these common myths along with the correct information in response to each of them.

• Myth #1: Being in the ACSP is too difficult, and it’s too tough to get certified.

It is not difficult, and you may already be taking actions that can lead to certification. Often, members look at the entire certification process instead of simply taking it one step at a time. Focus on fulfilling the Site Assessment and Environmental Plan. When a member gets through that first step, rather than worrying about all of the steps at once, they will be more likely to become invested in the program.

• Myth #2: Our course won’t be able to join or work towards certification; we don’t have the staff, money, or time.

Any existing golf course can join and work towards earning the Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary designation. A course doesn’t have to have lots of acreage or habitat to get certified — it just has to practice good environmental management, and we’re here to help. Likewise, ACSP certified golf courses range from small nine-hole facilities and lower-budget public courses to country clubs, high-end resorts, and PGA Tour facilities.

• Myth #3: We’re not ready to go the distance — i.e., the certification material must be sent in all at once and be perfect in order to get certified.

The ACSP is not like a test and your certification request is not like a paper handed in to be graded. Instead, we work with you to find ways to meet certification guidelines based on the unique strengths and weaknesses of your site. We’re here to help, not create roadblocks.

• Myth #4: Due to our golf course policy, there is no way we could ever have children tour our golf course or put up nest boxes or naturalize all our shorelines, etc., so we cannot get certified.

Out of all the Standard Management Practices that Audubon International would like to see on every certified golf course, we know that some may not be applicable to a given situation, especially in the Outreach and Education category. That is why the ACSP is a flexible program. If there are any questions about suggested or required projects, please contact us.

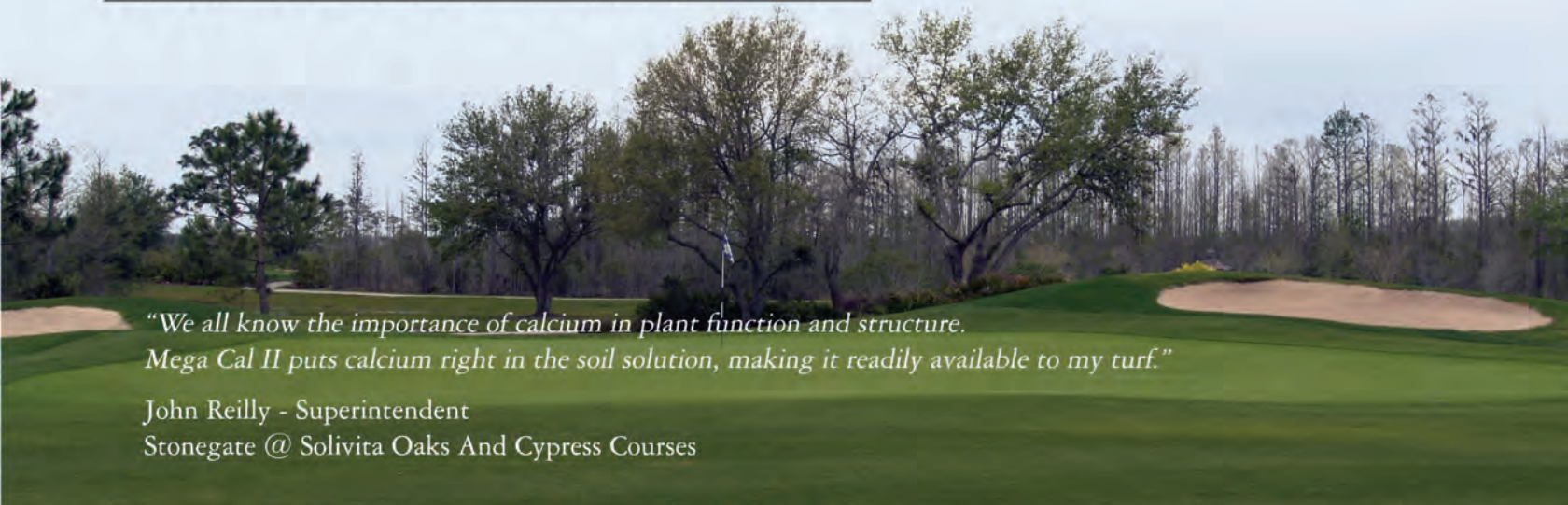
• Myth #5: There is no way we will ever be able to afford a new irrigation system/\$40,000 recycling equipment wash pad/have an aerial photograph taken of the course/etc., so we cannot get certified.

These are a few of the many projects that we have heard people tell us they need to complete to get certified. This is simply not true. Once again, if there are any questions about suggested or required projects, please contact Audubon International. We can also send you a list of the Standard Management Practices that we prefer to see on every golf course.

• Myth #6: An environmentally managed golf course is a brown golf course.

We understand that in order to have a playable course, chemicals will be used—we do not require that you stop these practices outright. Rather, we can help you manage a playable course with as little chemical input as possible. Working on certification in the ACSP can help you reduce the amount of chemicals needed and reduce the adverse environmental impact from their use and application (i.e., runoff and water quality). Likewise, 54 members of the ACSP and the Audubon Signature Program were ranked among America’s 100 Greatest Golf Courses by Golf Digest in 2002. The list’s top ten included six ACSP participants, two of which are certified.

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IFAS Launches Long-Term Fertilizer Study

EDITOR'S NOTE: With the recent radical proposals to ban the use of certain fertilizers by several Florida counties, we have been fortunate to have Drs. Laurie Trenholm and Terril Nell from the UF/IFAS Department of Environmental Horticulture attend most of those county commission meetings to provide science-based information to these government bodies so they can evaluate the facts and follow responsible courses of action. To back up voluntary green industry BMPs and provide detailed scientific research for the eternally contentious issue of nutrient runoff and leaching, the following news release from the University of Florida/IFAS outlines the university's latest effort to bring common sense and science to the discussion table.

Florida's 5 million acres of home and commercial lawns may need fertilizer but its water resources don't, so University of Florida/IFAS researchers have embarked on a landmark study to verify the effectiveness of current state recommendations for lawn care.

Funded by the state Department of Environmental Protection, the five-year, \$3.5 million study is UF/IFAS' largest turfgrass research project ever, said Laurie Trenholm, an associate professor with UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences and one of the study's principal investigators. The research focuses on nitrogen and phosphorus, essential plant nutrients that pose significant threats to Florida's water quality.

"We've known for years how to produce beautiful turf, but now we're determining how to do it with the least amount of fertilizer," said Trenholm, who is also head of the Florida Urban Turfgrass Program. "When we're done, we'll have proven recommendations that are right for almost any landscape situation."

The study is based at three UF/IFAS research facilities – in Gainesville, Fort Lauderdale and near Pensacola – and addresses a variety of grass species, soil types and growing conditions, she said.

Current state recommendations are found in numerous publications, including the just-released third edition of "A Guide to Florida-Friendly Landscaping," a handbook for homeowners published by UF's Florida Yards and Neighborhoods program; a manual for lawn-care professionals, "Florida Green Industries Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources in Florida;" and the latest edition of "The Florida Lawn



Handbook," by Trenholm and J. Bryan Unruh. Recommendations are also available at <http://yourfloralawn.ifas.ufl.edu> and www.solutionsforyourlife.com

The current recommendations have been used since about 2000 and were developed via collaboration among UF, Department of Environmental Protection and industry representatives, Trenholm said.

"The recommendations, which are known as best management practices, give individual homeowners and professionals a chance to prevent nutrient pollution," she said.

When fertilizer is properly applied to lawns, very little nitrogen and phosphorus is wasted, because turfgrass serves as a filter to absorb the nutrients, Trenholm said. But if fertilizer is applied at excessive rates or if heavy rainfall occurs shortly after fertilizing, the nutrients often leach through the

soil into ground water or run off into surface waters.

Excess nutrients in ground and surface waters represent Florida's biggest water-quality problem, said Eric Livingston, chief of DEP's Watershed Management Program. Nutrients reach Florida watersheds primarily from so-called "nonpoint sources," which carry water combined from multiple locations. One example of a nonpoint source is stormwater runoff in a city's drainage system.

"Nonpoint source pollution is hard to deal with because the nutrients may originate from so many places," Livingston said.

Fortunately, funding to combat nonpoint source pollution is also arriving from multiple sources, both state and federal. DEP now has about \$28 million per year available for research and implementation, he said. The UF/IFAS study is one of the first long-term research projects established by the agency.

"It's good to have funds available for research, because there are so many unknowns concerning nonpoint source pollution," Livingston said.

The UF/IFAS study began in April 2004 and the first data were collected about a year later, said Michael Thomas, an agricultural engineer with DEP's Nonpoint Source Management Section who manages the research contract between UF and DEP. Initial results from the study are expected later this year.

"We will communicate findings to the public as things move along," Thomas said. "Eventually, the findings will be incorporated into publications such as the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods manual, DEP best management practices manuals and model ordinances."

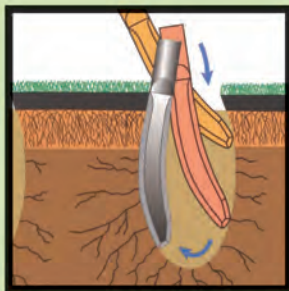
Florida's soils and climatic conditions vary enough from one part of the state to another that multiple recommendations are a necessity, said John Cisar, a professor with UF/IFAS' Fort Lauderdale Research and Education



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RESEARCH

Center, who is leading the effort to verify fertilizer recommendations for South Florida.

“Generally, Florida has sand soils that are very prone to the movement of water,” Cisar said. “Here in the southern part of the state we have a year-round growing season and shallow sand soils.”

In the central part of the state there is some heavier sand soil and turf is

dormant or semidormant during the winter, said J. Bryan Unruh, an associate professor with UF’s West Florida Research and Education Center in Jay, a community northeast of Pensacola. Soils in the Panhandle contain sand and some clay, and colder winters keep grass dormant up to five months per year.

At the Fort Lauderdale center, researchers are evaluating the fertil-

izer needs of St. Augustinegrass and bahiagrass; in Gainesville, St. Augustinegrass and zoysiagrass are being evaluated; and at UF’s West Florida Research and Education Center facilities near Pensacola, centipedegrass and St. Augustinegrass are used.

Each location is hosting studies of both well-established turf and new turfgrass produced with sod or seed, important because the extent of the root system has implications for potential nutrient leaching, Unruh said. Established turfgrass has an extensive root system that can mine nutrients from the soil, whereas sod has a thin layer of roots and grass seedlings have few roots at all.

“One question we’ll be able to address is whether it’s wise to fertilize before planting grass seed,” Unruh said. “It’s a common practice, but some fertilizer may leach through the soil.”

Researchers will also determine the best timetable for fertilizing newly established turfgrass, an important issue for builders and homeowners in new developments, he said.

The UF study is a welcome development for commercial lawn-care providers, who want to follow best-management practices but also need assurance that the guidelines they’re asked to follow are based on the best available science, said Erica Santella, region technical manager of the commercial lawn-care providers TruGreen-ChemLawn and TruGreen-LandCare in Orlando.

“I’m excited that there will be some good, solid work to verify the BMPs,” Santella said. “As Florida grows, water quality is going to be a big issue, and it’s in everybody’s interest that professionals, as well as homeowners, take an active role in reducing nutrient runoff.”


“Florida Green Industries Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources in Florida” is available in English and Spanish online at www.dep.state.fl.us/water/nonpoint;pubs.htm.

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Photo Contest Results

CATEGORY 2 - FORMAL LANDSCAPE



First Place: *The Bent Tree.* Photo by Tom Biggy, Bent Tree C. C.



Second Place: *Specimen crape myrtle tree on #18.* Photo by Teri Hoisington, Lansbrook Golf Club.

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 specimen trees and annuals and ornamental shrubs 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 that 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 viewing. Digital images must be accompanied by the same information in an email or document, or on a CD.

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

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

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

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THE QUARTERLY QUESTION

Aerifying and Verticutting Rank Most Valuable

What is the most important or beneficial tool, equipment, product or service used at your course? You can waffle and name two if they are really important to your operation. Briefly tell why?

MATT TAYLOR, ROYAL POINCIANA GOLF CLUB, NAPLES

Triplex verticutters and groomers — without them we could not control the mat (thatch) on the greens, everything in my opinion plays off of how much mat you have. And that affects: trueness of ball roll, speed of the greens and quality of cut with greens mowers.

GREG KRIESCH, HERITAGE PALMS GOLF CLUB, FT. MYERS

My employees are the most important and beneficial tool I have (most of the time). I would be nowhere without them. The aerifier would be second; with as many rounds as our course receives, I could use at least six.

STEPHEN FOX, OCEAN REEF GOLF CLUB, KEY LARGO

I think I would have to say it would be my greens aerifiers and verticut reels. I experience heavy play during season and of course this is the time that the membership doesn't want you touching the greens. Once season comes to an end, I try to and impact 30 percent of the surface through

aerification each summer. This, along with verticuts and topdressing every two weeks during summer, gets us where we want for season. With the new ultradwarfs you better have the aerifiers and verticuts ready to go. It almost doesn't seem like you can impact them enough sometimes.

FRANK E. SBARRO, LA GORCE GOLF CLUB, MIAMI BEACH

Solid-tine aerators for the greens. I use the 1/4-in. tines every three weeks from November through April. By allowing water to better infiltrate the TifEagle, a big difference in the turf quality of greens was noticed throughout the winter season. We also just purchased a 350 KW generator for our pump station. *(No doubt prompted by hurricane season – Editor).*

SHANE BASS, ST. JAMES BAY GOLF CLUB, CARRABELLE

Right now I would have to say my Blackberry because it keeps me from sitting in the office. All my financial statements from the main office come to it. I am answering your e-mail on No. 2 green right now on it. I can fax from it. I have unlimited Internet on it so that means I have weather and radar anywhere anytime. My calendar is on it and when I get it so I can turn on irrigation from it, I'll have the office on my cart.

**One Adam
Twelve,
See the man...**



AS IT LIES

**By
JIM WALKER**

I enjoy being involved with my local chapter's board and the state association as well, but it has always been the dinners afterward at our local meetings that I enjoy the most. It's great sitting around in an informal situation and talking to my colleagues.

We talk about shared problems and others that are unique to just one fellow. Last month's meeting got really interesting when the need to call local law enforcement for vandalism or theft became necessary. So, here are some stories from that round table discussion.

BILL MC KEE led off with the funniest story of the bunch, so I'll follow suit.

It seems someone broke into his maintenance shop and stole his torch welding set. They loaded it into the back of a pickup truck, which they started by hot wiring, and drove to the clubhouse. After breaking into

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the clubhouse and proceeding to the administration offices, they located the safe. The torch was put to work in an attempt to open the safe and escape with the loot. They managed to finally get the safe open, but not being good safecrackers and knowing the ins and outs of the operation, when the safe was finally opened, all the money had been burned to a crisp.

•••

NOT BEING BASHFUL, I chimed in next with my horror stories, which began one day after Hurricane Wilma. Now it's not bad enough that your course has been shredded by this hurricane and 350 feet of 6-foot chain link fence was knocked down by falling trees; you're exposed to the less desirable residents of the neighborhood and they take full advantage of the situation.

First night. They broke into the pro shop and stole a brand new flat-screen TV, the hard drive to my computer

and all the beer they could carry from the storeroom, which was significant since they used a stolen E-Z Go turf truckster to haul away the loot.

Another night. They broke into the maintenance yard we share with the park and take four golf carts and two more turf trucksters from under the noses of the sleeping park security guards out onto the golf course and totally destroy them by playing demolition derby.

Still more. After a resident comes into the park and finds someone to talk to, we learn the location of the first stolen truckster that was used to haul away the first night's bounty. My mechanic and I go and retrieve the vehicle. Park security has been beefed up and a third guard is brought in presumably to keep the others awake. Wrong. This night, they hot-wired a tractor with a front-end bucket to smash the security pole gate — which I'm sure was a silent opera-

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LANDSCAPE & NURSERY DIGEST/SEPTEMBER 1997

tion since it's only 4-inch galvanized pipe — and escaped with several more carts. Thank God we were closed for 17 days otherwise we would not have had enough carts to open.

Things quieted down after that because there was nothing left to steal or tear up. In February, I was mercifully transferred to a facility 28 miles closer to my home and the vandals from hell became a distant memory. I still talk to my assistant there and he told me recently the pillars of society had come back for an encore performance. As of this writing, there are still carts missing in action in beautiful North Miami Beach. Throughout this entire ordeal, the police were magnificent, they didn't do squat.

• • •

JOE PANTALEO chips in next with a couple of gems. When he was at Key Biscayne, someone was coming through an area that was not secured but not visible or accessible to the general public, and riding on the course. Not tearing up the turf but leaving tire tracks on fairways and slopes of tees and greens which were visible for days afterward. He and his supervisor decided to set a trap for the culprit. A couple of 8-foot 2x4s with 16-penny nails driven through them were placed at ground level where the vehicle was gaining access.

The next morning, they had caught the perpetrator red handed. When they arrived at the sight of the 2x4 trap, they had captured a police car with 4 flat tires. No sign of the officer or ever an explanation about why he was riding the course between midnight and 4 a.m. One idea comes to mind, but this is a family magazine.

Joe's other story was not that exciting, but it could have been. While at Fort Lauderdale C.C., and while he was out of town, a small, single-engine plane made an emergency landing on one of the fairways. Apart from some torn-up turf and the hassle of disassembling the aircraft for removal, there wasn't much else to tell, but the potential for disaster was huge.

One Adam twelve, see the man...

**THERE ARE NONE
SO BLIND AS
THOSE WHO WILL
NOT LISTEN**



**GREEN
SIDE
UP**

**By
JOEL JACKSON**

Does that quote in the title of this column sound wrong? I'm talking about two different things – sight and hearing, right? Maybe I'm really talking about learning and comprehending. And I guess the difference really lies in the eyes, ears and brains of the beholder.

All this is leading up to an update on the recent flurry of activity surrounding the Sarasota County and City of Naples quests to consider new regulations dealing with the composition and formulas of fertilizers, timing of application, location of application and anything else that will limit the use of fertilizers.

By having industry and IFAS representation at these commission meetings, we have slowed down the rush to judgment to a series of working meetings to hammer out the details of potential local rules and ordinances. While this only serves to frustrate the activists who see all the problems but don't want to hear the facts, it makes the politicians have to listen to both sides before they act.

The activists' view of the world is narrow and very simple — “Man bad, nature good.” The politicians are in a tougher spot. They represent all of us. Only a few are on the fertilizer Ban Wagon, and when industry reps and IFAS scientists show up with a folder full of facts and a willingness to

promote and adopt best management practices, it's hard for them to turn a blind eye or a deaf ear to the logic and common sense of our position.

The City of Naples passed a resolution calling for the certification of landscape workers so they understand the importance of being environmentally friendly when they apply fertilizers. So landscape companies will pay \$175 per year for a permit and send their people to training class at \$50 a head.

Who's training the homeowners?

The resolution will expose more landscape workers to stewardship concepts, which is a good thing, but how will fertilizer application actually be monitored? To the city's credit they said they would lead by example. That might be something if they do it right. Actual rules governing fertilizer use in Sarasota or Naples are still being debated so we aren't done yet. You can show your support by attending some of these meetings.

Naturally the activists think it's too little too late and will continue to grumble, which is their right of course. While accusations and fiction often make the story more exciting for stirring up the masses, the general public is mostly ho-hum on the matter. Common sense and good science thankfully have brought some reason to the discussions even if those facts don't make into the headlines.

The moral of the story is simple: When these ordinances are proposed we (YOU!) need to attend these meetings. If the only people showing up are the activists and naysayers with their narrow-minded agendas, then that's all the politicians will hear. They won't see the progress and positive impact the green industries have on the environment.

Say “Thank you” to Dr. Laurie Trenholm of UF/IFAS, Erica Santella of TruGreen Chemlawn, Betsy McCoy of the Florida Sod Growers Cooperative, Mary Hartney of the Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association, Tim Hiers from the Everglades GCSA, George Cook from the Suncoast GCSA and a few others for attending these meetings on your behalf.

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