



The Florida Green

Winter 2006



Number 4
Hobe Sound Golf Club
Hobe Sound
Photo by Daniel Zelazek



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SPOTLIGHT: HURRICANE DAMAGE

Hurricane damage put the damage on chapter events around the state and made fall preparations more difficult than usual. Lake City Community College alumni had their 14th Annual Endowment Tournament at The Preserve, a WCI community in Fort Myers

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COVER STORY: HOBE SOUND GOLF CLUB

When he first saw the property for the Hobe Sound Golf Club, architect Joe Lee called it one of the most unique pieces of ground he had ever worked on . Required to include only a limited residential component, Joe had the freedom to create one of his most natural layouts, according to author Ron Whitten.

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HANDS ON: SECOND ASSISTANTS

Many courses don't have second-assistant superintendents and, in many instances, may not even have one assistant. But every course has a number-one or number-two "go-to" guy or gal to whom the superintendent turns to run the show in his or her absence.

40

INDUSTRY NEWS: GCSAA CHAPTER DELEGATES MEET

Chaired by Vice President Sean A. Hoolehan, CGCS, the GCSAA Chapter Delegates Meeting provided delegates updates on GCSAA programs and policies, and solicited input on key issues relevant to the profession, industry and the game.

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SUPERINTENDENTS JOURNAL: NEW YEARS PAUSE

As he reflected on the monumental technological changes that have taken place in producing The Florida Green, Editor Joel Jackson took a moment to consider where we've been, where we are and where we are going as the magazine enters its 32nd year.

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The Florida Green

WINTER 2006

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CALL FOR ARTICLES

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

Spring 2006 - **Tree Management**

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

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

Winter 2007 - **Organic-based Fertility Programs**

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

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

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

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

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I'm not going to talk about the weather. I'm not going to talk about the weather. I'm not going to... Oh, I can't stand it. Did everyone see the hurricane forecast for 2006 (17 named storms, nine hurricanes of which five are predicted to be major)? Ok, it's not great, but it is better than last year. Updated predictions should be out in early '06 and I hope not only that the numbers go down, but also that Florida gets a break from any hurricanes.

Stormy Weather

I am just like the majority of superintendents in Florida in that, prior to the 2004 hurricane season, my

experience in these massive storms was very limited. Now most of us are seasoned veterans. We watch the weather, see the direction of the storm and then put our plans into action. In this issue you will find comments from superintendents on what they have learned and what they are doing differently now. I have adjusted the

plan here at The Moorings Club and will continue to do so. I don't think it will ever be complete, but it will be adjusted to reflect what I have learned, and from listening to the experiences of other superintendents and what we went through on our property.

As long as I am on unpleasant subjects, let's talk about arsenic and phosphorus issues.

The EPA is conducting its required review of MSMA and is in the re-registration process now. The concerns are that MSMA is breaking down into free arsenic. Make sure that you follow the label, especially when mixing small quantities and make sure applicators are wearing the correct protective equipment

called for on the label.

As far as phosphorus is concerned, there is an initiative called the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Basin Plan endorsed by the governor to help clean up the Everglades. The plan calls for the

There may be more stormy weather ahead and I'm not just talking hurricanes.

Building and maintaining working relationships with our allied associations, the

University of Florida as well as regulators and the media

will be important in the

coming days as we address

these issues. You have a stake

in the outcomes...

reduced use of phosphorus in fertilizers in agricultural and urban applications. So before you buy that stock blend of 15-5-15, make sure you need the phosphorus. Base your decisions on good soil test data and scale back wherever possible.

On a positive note, at our fall board meeting, the directors voted and approved several research projects. We have submitted many of these projects to the GCSAA Chapter Cooperative Grant Program for co-funding. We are also partnering with the Florida Turfgrass Association to help fund these worthy research projects which have value across several turf industries besides golf.

There may be more stormy weather ahead and I'm not just talking hurricanes. Building and maintaining working relationships with our allied associations, the University of Florida as well as regulators and the media will be important in the coming days as we address these issues. You have a stake in the outcomes, so stay informed and stay in touch with your local chapters.

Happy New Year to one and all.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Craig Weyandt



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CHAPTER ROUND UP

Hurricanes Affect Chapter Events

CALUSA

We had some spotty tree damage around the chapter necessitating normal post-storm course-clean-up routines. Our November meeting was at The Golf Club of Cape Coral. The speaker, Jim Nucheren from Lexington, spoke on the rules of golf.

CENTRAL FLORIDA

We dodged major damage this year but trees are still dying from 2004 damage and so Husqvarna put on a three-hour chain saw safety and tree-cutting demonstration at our October meeting at the Rio Pinar C.C. Host superintendent Scott Hullinger still has plenty of pine trees in his roughs that are declining thanks to all the twisting and bending from Hurricane Charley in 2004. Husqvarna managed to take a few down



Chain saw safety and how to drop and trim trees were topics at a three-hour training session at the CFGCSA October meeting at the Rio Pinar C.C. in Orlando. Photo by Joel Jackson.

for Scott to demonstrate proper tree-felling techniques. It was obvious from the calculated, common-sense approach these experts took, that most of us don't know jack about the proper way to cut down a tree or trim a limb. Book these guys. It's a great session. Contact Robert Herring, Manager, Golf Operations at 800-438-7543.

COASTAL PLAINS

Our chapter met at Shane Bass's St. James Bay Golf Club in November. We have had a bit of shuffling of members, losing some and picking up new ones. While hurricanes raged west and south of us, we are in a bit of a drought in the Tallahassee area, picking up only minimal amounts of rainfall. Jeff Heggen at Hilaman GC reports his irrigation lake fell below pumping level in November.

EVERGLADES

Recovery from Hurricane Wilma is the top priority for Naples golf courses. The timing could-

n't be worse as our winter visitors are flocking back and the season begins. For the most part the golfers have understood. In many cases they also were affected by the storm's damage to electric service and general destruction of the landscape.

On a happier note we did have our annual Pro/Superintendent tournament Oct. 11 at the Shadow Wood Preserve. Many thanks to superintendent Eric Ruha and his assistant Kirk Kirkland for hosting the event and having the course in immaculate condition. Winners were:

Pro/Superintendent Division – 1. Kelly Kilpatrick & Dan Heslip (64); 2. Jim Torba & Jose Hernandez (66); 3. Tim Hiers & Steve Waugh (66); and 4. Don Burnett & Scott Schroeder (67). Pro/Vendor Division – 1. Lance Allen & Nolan Henke (65) and 2. Greg Wright & Chris Jensen (67). Low Pros were Jose Hernandez and Steve Waugh with 70s. Hernandez won on a match of cards.

North Florida

Congratulations to Lon Chatfield, CGCS, St. Johns G&CC and Lynn Davis, CGCS, Palatka GC for recently achieving their certified golf course superintendent status. We did not have a meeting in November as this is the traditional overseeding month in the region, so our October golf outing at Ken Arsenault's new Panther Creek course was our last get-together until the Christmas party at Steve Blanchette's Hyde Park G.C. Glad this summer is over. Our Annual Mike Richards Memorial Scholarship event will be at Greg Tharp's Jacksonville G&CC April 10.

PALM BEACH

Thirty-five assistant superintendents attended the hurricane-delayed FGCSA Assistant Superintendents Seminar hosted by Ed Miller and the Quail Ridge C.C. on Sept. 29. Ed Suarez, president of Integrated Employers Resources and Charlie Hoare and Richard Farrell of GSI Executive Search led the attendees through workshops on Interactive Leadership and Management Skills and Resume Building and the Interviewing Process. At the end of the session, those who brought resumes along had them critiqued by the folks from GSI.

We were the host site once again for the annual USGA Green Section Regional Conference at the Palm Beach Gardens Marriott on Nov. 10. Ten presenters were scheduled to be on hand for the full day of education – a good way to pick up .6 education points for PDI and CGCS. Many thanks to Eric Knudson for hosting our



Bob Boyan, assistant superintendent at the Tusawilla CC (Central Florida Chapter) shot even-par 72 to win the Individual Trophy at the FGCSA Golf Championship. Photo by Joel Jackson.

SFGCSA 2005

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Christmas golf outing and party at the Mizner C.C.

RIDGE

We were scheduled to have our traditional December meeting at the Harrell's Fertilizer plant in Lakeland on Dec. 8 and then give golf a rest as we head for the local bowling lanes where shooting over 100 is a good thing. The following Saturday, Mark Hopkins hosted our famous (or is it infamous?) Christmas party and golf outing at the Bartow Municipal G.C. Following a nine-hole golf game, all members and spouses were welcomed to the ensuing party.

SEVEN RIVERS

FGCSA Director of Communications Joel Jackson

spoke at our Nov. 17 meeting at Mike Swinson's Hernando Oaks GC. The topic was Proactive Communications. Also included in the presentation was an update on other current issues facing our industry.

SOUTH FLORIDA

Lost in the massive regional destruction of the upper Gulf coast was the fact that our chapter also took two hurricane hits this season with Katrina and Wilma. All the usual tree- and power-loss-damage is widespread.

At courses where the loss of power severely affected the ability to irrigate, turf survival became touch and go. We did a lot of emergency watering with spray



The South Florida Team made it two in a row as they retained the FGCSA Team Championship Trophy. From left, Jason Bagwell, Seth Strickland, Kelly Cragin, Bob Harper and Joe Pantaleo. Photo by Joel Jackson.

rigs and any other creative way to haul water.

One positive highlight was our annual Missing & Exploited Children 2005

Benefit Tournament. We donated \$20,000 to this worthy cause. Thanks to everyone who helped, participated and sponsored this event.

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*A very special thank you to Bayer Environmental Science,
for their very generous donation of a Chipco Choice
application for the auction.*

*Thank you to all who participated in the tournament or donated to the raffle
to make this year's event a huge success!*

(Editor's Note: As one of the charter supporters and partners of the Florida chapter of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the SFGCSA's donations are approaching nearly a quarter million dollars after 21 years of giving to this worthy cause.)

Another highlight in this stressful year was that we brought the FGCSA Golf Championship Team Trophy back home from the tournament at Southern Dunes last fall. Jason Bagwell, Seth Strickland, Kelly Cragin, Bob Harper and Joe Pantaleo teamed up to make it a repeat victory.

SUNCOAST

Well Hurricane Wilma didn't hit us too

badly, but it nailed Pete Dye's home in West Palm Beach, causing him to cancel as our guest speaker for November at the Gasparilla Inn. Grateful thanks to our host Jeff Strother and especially Todd Lowe, USGA agronomist for stepping in on short notice as our speaker. Speaking of hurricanes, our chapter donated \$2,225 to the GCSAA Katrina Relief Fund.

Thanks to host Bill Tyde and the Mission Valley Club for hosting our annual Pro/Superintendent event in October. Winners were Shane Bebout and Jason Murray of the Foxfire GC and in the Supplier/Supplier Division, Lee Crosby of Harrell's and Kevin Wasilewski of Syngenta.



Bob Klitz, CGCS presents Nancy McBride, director of prevention education for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children with a check for \$20,000 from the SFGCSA. Photo by Bill McKee.

Robby Robertson was scheduled to host our Christmas Tournament Dec. 8 at his Bird Bay G.C. to end the year. Activities include some fun golf with nine holes of Cayman-ball golf,

dinner and then nine holes of glow-ball golf. The 2006 season began at the Bradenton CC as Renze Berg hosted our annual Vendor Appreciation Day on Jan. 23 and Joel Jackson, FGCSA



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director of communications was on hand to give us an update on industry issues.

In an online poll on our Web site, we asked, "What is your favorite part of attending a Suncoast GCSA Meeting?" The results are not surprising as networking with peers is perhaps one of the biggest benefits of attending monthly meetings: Socializing (networking) 43 percent; Education 20; CEU points 14; Golf 11; Lunch 11. Check it out at www.scgcsa.org.

TREASURE COAST

Slammed last year by Hurricanes Frances and Jean, Wilma also did a number on trees and power lines in our area this year. With many folks being out of power and phone service for more than a week. Our October joint meeting with the Palm Beach GCSA was cancelled and rescheduled for December at Rob Kloska's Jupiter Island Club. We managed to retain the cup in our annual Ryder Cup format golf challenge with a 4.5 to 3.5 victory, giving us bragging rights for another year. Also on the agenda for this meeting, FGCSA Director of Communications Joel Jackson made a presentation on the FGCSA's Golf BMP manual and the mandatory BMPs legislation that was passed in the last session of the state legislature. He also gave an update on current issues facing our industry.

WEST COAST

The 41st Bud Quandt Benevolent Tournament was another super success. Many thanks

to Christi Haley and host Bill Kistler and the staff at Tampa Palms for having the course in great shape. Namesake host Bud Quandt was on hand to welcome everyone at the registration table. The team of Neiswender, Ayer, Rogers and Saputa won the event.

Superintendent Rodney Schultz was the host at our November meeting at the Northdale Golf & Tennis Club. Guest speakers on safety and compliance were Joan M. Spencer from OSHA and Jeff Wharton from American Compliance Technologies.

December 16 will bring our annual Vendor Appreciation Day event at the University of South Florida ball fields in Tampa. This is a free event. Superintendents are encouraged to bring their assistants and others interested in the golf industry.

Current FWCGC-SA projects include finalizing the Chapter Membership Directory, a new Web site design, credit-card billing for meeting registrations and setting up a 501(c)3 account.

FLORIDA GCSA

The fall board meeting scheduled for Oct. 28 was cancelled due to Hurricane Wilma. The meeting was rescheduled for Nov. 11 so the board could meet in time to decide on 2006 turf research proposals and submit necessary letters of support for co-funding from GCSAA. Some directors were still cleaning up from Wilma and could not attend, but were able to submit their input on the list of



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proposals via email and fax. The Florida Turfgrass Association has pledged to help fund these projects as well.

The 2006 FGCSA Superintendent Survey has been distributed to all members for completion, return and tabulation of results. Those who participate in the survey will receive the results.

The FGCSA was prepared to donate to the GCSAA Katrina Relief Fund in addition to several chapters submitting their own individual donations. However, the association will reevaluate the decision in light of the severe damage caused by Hurricane Wilma in south Florida. The five chapters that were most affected have been asked to canvas their

chapters for those who may need assistance including crew members at courses in hardest-hit areas.

Old School Ties Bind LCCC Alums to Event

By Joel Jackson, CGCS

Hail to thee our alma mater... well thankfully the crowd of Lake City Alumni didn't break into song, but they did break into their wallets to sponsor and play in the 14th Annual Lake City Community College Alumni Endowment Tournament.

Each year since 1991, the graduates from the Lake City Golf & Landscape

Operations program have had a reunion in the form of a two-man scramble tournament to raise money for their school. We all know how much the Florida education budget has suffered and those cutbacks have reached into the collegiate ranks as well. For a program that literally has a worldwide reputation for excellent training of those who pursue a career in turf management, these alumni have stepped up to help with budget shortfalls.

This year WCI Communities, Inc. donated the use of its new Pelican Preserve course in Ft. Myers to host the event. In fact, many WCI superintendents, senior golf superintendents and regional agronomists came through the Lake City

program many moons ago. WCI courses around the southwest Florida area have been hosting this annual event for some time now, and by covering it, I have been able to play many a new course in the Ft. Myers - Naples area.

Pelican Preserve is the creation of Lewis "Chip" Powell, golf course architect and one-time superintendent himself. His credits include many courses across Florida and in central Florida, such outstanding tracks as the St. Cloud GC, Duran GC in Viera and the remodel of the Daytona Country Club. Powell also did the renovation of the famed Belleview Biltmore Hotel course in Clearwater and the remodeling job at the Sugar Mill CC in New

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Lake City Community College Tournament Committee, from left: Mitch Miller, Odell Spainhour, Roy Bates, Scott Hamm, Glenn Zakany, Celeste Langer, John Johnson and Mike Smith. These alumni and friends worked together to plan and host another great event. Attendance was a little off the normal, thanks to Hurricane Wilma's rampage across south Florida, but the Lake City CC Department of Golf Course Operations netted another huge donation from the tournament.

Symrna Beach. He also designed Walden Lake in Plant City and Big Cypress in Lakeland. He has been involved in 56 new designs and remodeling projects and, in addition, master-golf-community planning on 23 projects.

Pelican Preserve has generous greens with lots of movement to make the putts

challenging once you get there, but the variety of teeing locations means you can play your own game on this lovely course that roams about the wooded grounds of this over-55 golf community in Ft. Myers. If you want to take a look, take the Colonial exit off I-75 in Ft. Myers and go a couple of miles east. You can't miss it.



Rory Mudge, Grey Oaks GC (center) teamed with his pro Jim Jewell (not pictured) to win the LCCC Tournament A Flight. Congratulating Mudge are John Piersol, director of the LCCC Golf/Landscape Department (left) and Bill Gamble of Toro, the presenting sponsor of this year's event. Photo by Joel Jackson

Meanwhile par took a beating at the hands of the two-man scramble format with Rory Mudge and Jim Jewell from the Grey Oaks G.C. shooting a net 56 to win the event. The only chance my partner and I had was to win one of door prizes with the raffle tickets we bought. But the donations went for a good cause. Educating the next generation of golf course superintendents isn't a bad thing at all.

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Since 2003, Brian MacCurrach of Bayer Environmental Science has been playing the role of auctioneer at three of the major FGCSA Chapter events in his territory and the result has been more than \$30,000 raised in support of the Palm Beach Future of Golf, the Treasure Coast Blue Pearl and South Florida's Missing & Exploited Children tournament. All proceeds from the auctions

go to the charities of the various events.

MacCurrach said, "It's great to be a part of the association's fund-raising tournaments that help such worthy causes, and to see the competitive spirit of the superintendents as they bid against their friends and peers. I look forward to continuing Bayer's support of these events with new and different assortments of our products in our 2006 portfolio."

Tournament host Dale Kuehner, CGCS had the winning bid of \$2,800 which netted Colony West a bargain buy on five 50-lb. bags of Chipco TopChoice; ten 50-lb. bags of Allectus GC; one case of Chipco® Signature; one case of Revolver, one case of ProStar; one case of Dylox and one case of Finale.

The FGCSA and its chapters sincerely appreciate the participation and sponsorship by all of our industry partners in our efforts to support superintendent education, turf research and local charities. ■



M&E Chairman Bob Klitz, CGCS, left, helps Bayer's Brian MacCurrach kick off the 2005 M&E Power Pak auction at Colony West. Photo by Bill McKee.

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15th Hole

Par 4, 385 yards

Hobe Sound Golf Club

Photo by Daniel Zelazek



Hobe Sound Golf Club: **Florida History in the Making**

By Joel Jackson, CGCS

The Hobe Sound Golf Club is located on Florida's southeast coast midway between Stuart and Jupiter, just a quarter mile west of U.S. Highway 1 on Bridge Road. This neck of the woods along the east coast alternates between wetlands and sandy ridges flush with scrub oaks, sand pines, palmettos and slash

pinces, and the area is no stranger to me.

My dad was raised on the banks of the Loxahatchee River in Jupiter just a few miles south of Hobe Sound. Our family spent many summer and Christmas vacations visiting my grandparents and some of our side trips included the then-sleepy little town of Hobe Sound. When I was just a lad I, earned my Red Cross

Beginning Swimmer Card at the beachside pool at the eastern end of Bridge Road. Small world indeed, but I digress.

The history of Hobe Sound goes back much further than my youth... or my dad's. In fact the name Hobe Sound was derived from the Spanish word "Jobe" (pronounced Ho-BAY). Jobe (or Jove in English) was the supreme god in Roman



The par-five, 541-yard 16th hole is a dogleg around bunkers, woods and a lake. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

mythology. The Spaniards exploring the area gave the name to the Jupiter Inlet and the Seminole Indians inhabiting the area. Because the area encompassed the ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway, the word Sound was added later.

At the start of the 19th century when Spain controlled what later became Florida, the Spanish Governor Juan Estrada made a land grant of 12,180 acres to Don Eusabio Gomez which included the present-day Hobe Sound and Jupiter Island. The Gomez name appears today on many land parcels and roads. His descendents were living in the area as late as 1844 where they managed plantations growing sugarcane, coconuts and some citrus.

Control of Florida passed from Spain to the U.S. in 1819. A census in 1825 of all South Florida recorded only 317 persons. The

Gomez grant was purchased by a group of English investors 1892 who planned on raising pineapples and citrus but a big freeze in 1895 put an end to that venture. About this time the Florida East Coast Railway was established by entrepreneur Henry Flagler which permitted travel from Jacksonville to Miami. The portion from Jupiter to Juno Beach was called the Celestial Railway.

Hobe Sound was always a place for big dreams. In 1924 the Olympia Corporation purchased the Gomez Grant from the Indian River Association with plans to develop Picture City, the Hollywood of the East Coast, which would have housed 20,000 people involved in the motion picture business. The town center was laid out and subdivided, streets and sidewalks constructed and concrete lampposts erected. Remnants of this period are still visible in the center of

Hobe Sound. In 1926 a hurricane struck and dashed those dreams and the land boom, which began in 1922, collapsed. The name Olympia was changed back to Hobe Sound in 1929.

Fast forward to 1985 when the Hobe Sound Golf Club was created and founded by Ellis (Ted) Chingos, his brother John, and Charles Andromidas. Ted Chingos was a civil engineer and real estate developer. His brother was a building contractor and construction manager. Andromidas was an attorney with extensive real estate holdings and business interests in Florida. All three were avid, talented golfers and, aided by the expertise and advice of associates Morris Back, Sam Wax and William Manikas, the dream of building an exclusive residential golf community came to fruition.

Ted Chingos had worked with architect Joe Lee on the Indian Spring Club project and the group knew of

his work at Pine Tree and the Boca Resort. The developers made three important requests of Lee in the design of the course:

- Retain the naturalness of the terrain and create a topflight course suitable for private membership.
- Have the 9th and 18th holes return to the clubhouse.
- Keep the housing contained in one area.

In his book, *Gentleman Joe Lee, 50 Years of Golf Design*, author Ron Whitten wrote: "When he first saw the property for the Hobe Sound Golf Club, Joe called it one of the most unique pieces of ground he had ever worked on. Required to include only a limited residential component, Joe had the freedom to create one of his most natural layouts at Hobe Sound. Two years after it opened, *Florida Golf Magazine* ranked the course 35th among Florida's Top 50 golf courses.

Lee's approach to course design was pretty straightforward. "I like to build a course that rewards the player who knows how to make all the shots." But he kept all players in mind. "I start with the premise that golf should be enjoyable, not a chore." The landscape was all important to him and he had great respect for native vegetation. "If you listen, the land will tell you what to do. The vegetation will direct you. It can take years, but once you see it, you'll understand, that's what design is all about." The beauty of the site should



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Course Facts



Hobe Sound Golf Course Maintenance Staff.

Hobe Sound Golf Course

Location: Hobe Sound

Ownership: Member owned

Playing policy: Private. Guests must play with a member or be approved by one.

Holes/USGA rating: 18 holes. Championship tees 6,664 yards.

Rating/Slope: 73.1/143

Designed by: Joe Lee. Opened for play: 1988

Management Team: Club President Richard Maloof; Green Chairman, Tony Benincasa; Club Manager Marc Lucas; Head Golf Professional Tom Yeager; Golf Course Superintendent Roy MacDonald

Major Renovations/Ongoing Projects: In 2001 we hired Sanford Golf Design to consult on a major course renovation plan which started in 2002 and included installing a new irrigation system and regrassing the greens and tees. Green, tee and bunker complexes were also rebuilt and new cart paths were constructed.

Total acreage: 120 acres

Greens: TifEagle (2003). Average size 6,000 sq ft.; HOC .140 to .110 in.; Green Speeds: winter 9.5 – 10.5; summer 9.0 – 10.0; Member-Guest/Special events 10.5 – 11.5.

Tees: Tifway 419. HOC .450 - .600 in.

Fairways: Tifway II. HOC.525 - .650 in.

Roughs: Tifway II. HOC: Slopes 1.00 – 1.25 in. Deep rough 2.0 – 2.5 in.

Bunkers: 67 with 37M sand type.

Machine raked five or six times per week in season with Toro Sand Pro.

Native/Waste areas: 21 acres. Plant palette: Slash pines, sand pines, palmetto, Florida bay trees, Sand/scrub oaks. Upland areas are maintained in native condition as much as possible.

Waterways: 9.7 acres of lakes and 10.5 acres of wetlands. Both areas are under maintenance contracts for aquatic weeds and non-native plant material.

Irrigation: Source – deep well. Flowtronex PSI variable-frequency-drive pump station. Rain Bird Cirrus control system. 725 heads with 60-foot spacing around greens, 80-foot spacing in fairways and roughs. No current watering restrictions.

Staff: Total including superintendent is 18,13 full time and 5 part time. Total weekly man hours, 700 (650 straight time and 50 overtime.) Key personnel and years of service: Assistant Superintendent Mike Francisco (16); Assistant superintendent Mike Kindrew (6); Equipment Manager Justin Barreau (3); Assistant Equipment Manager Bud Mauthner (6); Chemical Tech Jeff Heward (2); Project Foreman Miguel T. Antonio (8); Lead Greenkeeper Fernando Alonzo (10)

Communications: Daily crew assignment meeting; Monthly safety videos and testing for entire crew; Monthly meeting with assistants and equipment manager to review tournaments, projects and special functions; Monthly Green Committee meetings (November to April); Monthly meetings with GM, head pro and food & beverage manager.

Cultural Programs: Greens – Core aerify 4x year, Hydroject 4-6x year, groomers or verticut weekly during summer (every other week in season), top dress 2-3x week in season. Annual fertility: 10-12 lbs of N; 20 lbs of P; 30 lbs of K. Tees – Core aerify and verticut 3x year, Fertility: 8 lbs of N, 10 lbs of P and 14 lbs of K per year. Fairways – Core aerify 3x year, verticut and scalp 3x year. Fertility: 5-8 lbs of N/P/K per year.

Pest Control/IPM: Rotate Chipco Choice every two years on fairways, tees and slopes and greens slopes. Curfew on 6-7 fairways as needed. All other turf areas are monitored for pest thresholds.

Wildlife inventory: Bobcat, fox, deer, raccoon, squirrels, wild pigs, bald eagle, sandhill crane, ducks, hawks, songbirds, wading birds, snakes, alligators, turtles and fish.

Turf management challenges: Sandy soil profile requires critical irrigation and nutrient management to maintain healthy turf to recover from divots, ball marks and foot and cart traffic.

aid rather than detract, in creating strategy for the course.” The golf course and clubhouse were completed in 1988-89.

In 2002 the members and residents assumed total control of club operations and the homeowners association. At that time the club retained the services of Sanford Golf Design to update the golf course. The objective was to retain and restore the original Joe Lee design concepts but also to upgrade the irrigation system, install new grass on the greens and restore the bunker complexes complete with new sand.

Like the founders of the club, superintendent Roy MacDonald is an avid golfer himself having won the Martin County Amateur Tournament in 1987 and the Poa Annua Classic in 1988. His golfing skills include an appreciation for the concepts that Joe Lee espoused in his mantra that golf should be enjoyable and not a chore. Says McDonald, “Joe Lee’s bunkers



Key personnel and years of service, from left: Project Foreman Miguel T. Antonio (8); Assistant Superintendent Mike Francisco (16); Lead Greenkeeper Fernando Alonzo (10); Assistant Equipment Manager Bud Mauthner (6); Assistant Superintendent Mike Kindrew (6); Chemical Tech Jeff Heward (2); Equipment Manager Justin Barreau (3). Photo by Joel Jackson.

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Native uplands and wetlands are a key part of the course. View from the 18th tee. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

were set up to guide your strategy as you play a hole. His bunkers were always there for a reason; not just a photograph.”

As Roy and I ride Hobe Sound, the course looks serene as it winds through the pines and palmetto uplands and skirts manmade lakes and native wetlands. There is evidence of Hurricane Wilma’s passage as a stump-grinding crew removes the remnants of trees that were victims of the storm’s winds. MacDonald said, “As we were hunkered down to ride out the storm, I had the portable radio on and heard a man from Belle Glade or Pahokee call in. He said, ‘Watch out. The backside of this hurricane is unbelievable!’” And so it was that Hobe Sound and points north of Stuart took their third major hit from a hurricane, counting Frances and Jeanne in 2004. But to the credit of

MacDonald and his staff, the course looked immaculate.

Only the locals would know what had changed on the course. There were plenty of changes made for the good of the course as the Sanford Design team worked with MacDonald in an aggressive program that started in 2002. That year a new variable-speed pump station, a Rain Bird Cirrus central control system and field satellites were installed. A new dual-head system was installed around the greens, giving MacDonald ultimate control of irrigating putting surfaces and greens slopes.

MacDonald has a combination electric/hydraulic control network with electricity running the face plates connected to an “irrigator manifold” which operates the hydraulic valves. New tubing was also installed in 2002.

With the irrigation system in

place, the greens were planted with TifEagle in 2003. All the tee and green slopes were replanted with Tifway 419. All bunker complexes were also rebuilt and the bunker slopes planted with 419. The entire practice facility was renovated, including new irrigation with hydraulic tubing and 125 new heads.

As if this weren’t enough for one year, MacDonald and company converted all asphalt cart paths to crushed rock surfaces. All exotic plant material was removed from the upland areas. They also moved 20 live oak trees some weighing as much as 10 tons. They excavated 20,000 yards of fill for the rebuilding of the tees and practice facility.

Last year, they enlarged the rear practice tee from 6,500 to 10,000 square feet, installed a new bulkhead at the 18th green, and added 3,000 lin-



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Superintendent Facts



Roy MacDonald. Photo by Joel Jackson

Roy MacDonald

Originally From: Langhorne, Pennsylvania

Family: Wife Bonnie, son Mike

Employment History: 1997–present, superintendent Hobe Sound GC; 1988–1997 assistant GCS, Willoughby GC; 1982–1988 assistant GCS, Mariner Sands CC; 1980–1982 superintendent Bristol Golf Ranch, Bristol Pa.; 1968–1978 Langhorne CC, Langhorne Pa. At Langhorne CC I was exposed to all facets of the golf business. I learned at an early age that golf course maintenance was something I loved along with playing golf for free.

Professional Affiliations: Member of the Treasure Coast GCSA 1985–2005. I have held all levels of the board, including president from 2003–2005. Member of the FGCSA 1985–2005 and GCSAA 1987–2005

How did you get into the business?

Golf has always been a game the MacDonald family has played. My father taught my brother and me how to play golf at a very early age. Soon after we both could walk, we had golf clubs in our hands. My work ethic

most definitely comes from my mother and father — they both taught me about respect and to treat people the way you would like to be treated.

Who are some of your mentors? Two golf course superintendents who have had a major impact in my career are Dominic Fazio and Kevin Downing. I worked for Dominic at Langhorne CC and was given many responsibilities at an early age. Although I do seem to lose my temper once in a while, Dominic always was as cool as ice never seemed to lose it. I always respected that.

I worked under Kevin Downing at Mariner Sands and at Willoughby Golf Club as an assistant GCS. Although I am missing a three- or four-year degree from a university in my resume, working side-by-side with Kevin for 14 years was the best education I ever could have received.

Goals/Accomplishments: The renovation project in 2003 was a complete success and under budget. Serving as president of the TCGCSA. Looking back at the level of maintenance at Hobe Sound in 1997 when I first started, and comparing it to the level my staff and I maintain the golf course now, we have come a long way, baby!

Advice to prospective or new superintendents: It's a lot easier if you really love your job. I really love coming to work in the morning. I still have not figured out how to take weekends off. When things get tough, remember to leave work at work, shut the door to your office go home, work will be there in the morning.

Personal memorable moments: Meeting my wife Bonnie for the first time — she worked on the crew at Willoughby; winning the 1987 Martin County Amateur Golf Championship and 1988 Poa Annua Championship; our family trips to Hawaii, Nova Scotia and Maine — beer and lobster every night.

Hobbies and interests: Playing golf, kayaking, travel and family.

ear feet of cart path. They excavated an additional 2,500 yards of fill for projects; moved 1,000 linear feet of perimeter fencing and re-vegetated the new fence line.

This year they planted 200 trees to replace those damaged in the 2004 storms. Exacerbating the situation is that Hurricane Jeanne in '04 took off the maintenance shop roof and, with all the contractors and materials spread out so thin up and down the state, the roof wasn't repaired completely until February, 2005. So it has been a busy three years to say the least.

Superintendents across the state have been dealing with various combinations of projects and damage recovery the past two years, and it is only through patience, understanding, resources and teamwork that they and their courses emerge through it all.

MacDonald says he has an ace in the hole when it comes to his new general manager, Marc Lucas. Lucas, whose resume includes a stint as a PGA Tour caddy, came to Hobe Sound from Jack Nicklaus' Muirfield Village, and he and MacDonald have formed an effective team to meet the members' expectations under unusual circumstances, given Mother Nature's



General Manager Marc Lucas (left) and Superintendent Roy MacDonald have forged a strong working relationship at the Hobe Sound Golf Club. Photo by Joel Jackson.



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Fun Facts



Roy on the practice green just putting around. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Vehicle: 2005 Ram 1500 quad cab
Last good movie I saw: North Country
I stay home to watch: Penn State Football, English Premier League and Philly Sports.
The book I've been reading: The

rambunctious habits lately. Lucas calls MacDonald "Philly" for his ardent support of all teams from Philadelphia, his original stomping grounds and when MacDonald counters with "What's a Buckeye?" Lucas says, "Just a useless nut!" They have a good working relationship that helps gets things done.

MacDonald believes in being prepared and not taking chances when it comes to renovation.

He said, "Just prior to our official aerification dates we will go out to the practice green and chipping green and do a dress rehearsal. I want everyone to get on the same page on the process — the sequence — and get used to handling the equipment and materials. I also want to see how the products and materials are going to react. The weather before, during and after is never the

Ben Hogan Story

Favorite meal: Any thing my wife cooks!

Favorite performers: Jimmy Buffet, Alan Jackson, John Prine

Prized possessions: My family

Personal Heroes: My father

Nobody knows that I: Would rather have been a professional soccer player

I'm better than anyone else when it comes to: Sending flowers to my wife.

I'd give anything to meet: Donald Ross

My fantasy is: Going to Hawaii for two weeks. Oh yeah. I did that this year.

The one thing I can't stand: Hurricanes

If I could change one thing about myself: I would be 20 pounds lighter since I turned 40

Most humbling experience: Getting Married

The words that best describe me: Dedicated, loyal fan from Philly "Go Birds!"

same from year to year so I feel better checking the results to make sure our process is going to give us the results we want."

"Another practice we have adopted lately is to wait two or three days after topdressing before we do that first mowing. We get the greens aerified and cleaned up and then we apply the sand and then we roll, roll, roll. They are kept smooth enough to give a decent putting surface until the sand works into the canopy. It makes no sense to me to spend the time and money to top dress and then go out too soon and mow it up and tear up the reels to boot."

"Our challenge on the fairways and roughs is to try to stay as lean as possible, and time the fall fertilizer application to avoid feeding too early (too warm), causing extra mowing and clippings cleanup or applying



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The number-one handicap hole (No. 4) at sunrise displaying a few of the 67 bunkers on the course. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

too late (too cold), and the turf may get thin and weak. As they say, timing is everything. The three hurricanes we have experienced have been a major challenge. Our weed-control programs have been affected due to the timing of the hurricanes, so in some cases we have been playing catch up.”

With only a small portion of the 240-acre property dedicated to home sites, MacDonald contracts out the maintenance of the upland areas to control and remove exotic non-native plants and also to monitor and clean up the wetland areas. Pine straw, cypress mulch and crushed rock are used as mulch to control weeds in high visibility and playability areas.


And speaking of playability, I mentioned earlier that MacDonald was an avid golfer. His love for the game and for the business was well founded as he comes from a golfing

family and his early work experience had him at the Langhorne CC owned and operated by the Fazio family. MacDonald earned his turf pedigree working under Dominic Fazio and Kevin Downing, who has been known to play a mean game of golf himself. MacDonald said, “Dominic gave me many responsibilities at an early age which gave me confidence and experience. Working with Kevin for 14 years gave me more education than I could have ever learned at a university.”

And now as MacDonald and his crew work and shape the land once known as “Hobay” they also become part of Florida’s history.

AUTHOR’S NOTE: I would like to acknowledge the “History of Hobe Sound” compilation by D. Craig, S. Day, D. Walsh and S. Wax given to me by the Hobe Sound Golf Club for this article. ■

The three hurricanes we have experienced have been a major challenge. Our weed-control programs have been affected due to the timing of the hurricanes, so in some cases we have been playing catch up.



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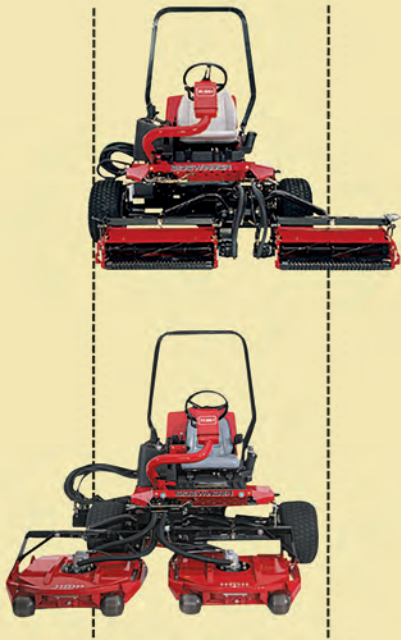
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A step-by-step explanation

How to renew your GCSAA Class A Status

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Imagine if you could influence how the leaders at your golf course see you. You can. PDI offers you the opportunity. By taking personal responsibility to continually improve your skills and abilities, you will raise your credibility and perceived authority. With a commitment to being the best that you can be, by embracing continual learning and the knowledge gained from competency-based education, you will create expectations for your performance with your employer and then deliver on those expectations.

These standards have afforded you an important opportunity to confirm your commitment to life-long learning. By adopting standards, GCSAA members have very publicly committed to the golf world that they want to validate their achievements and competencies. Previously, there was not a way to document the skills, knowledge and abilities of a Class A superintendent and market them to employers as being consistent within the profession.

The result: PDI offers recognition and reward for your effective management of the golf course and the golf experience you provide for golfers.

STILL PLENTY OF TIME!

It's possible that you recently received a Class A Renewal Update from GCSAA and were awakened to the fact that you are in the initial three-year renewal cycle and need to acquire a combination of education/ and service points in order to remain a Class A member of GCSAA when July 1, 2006 rolls around. With less than a year remaining, is this still possible?

Here are a couple of things to remember:

There is still plenty of time to fulfill the required three education/service points, keeping in

mind that a minimum of 1.2 points must be "education" points.

Everything from attending local chapter meetings with approved education, to participating in one of the numerous GCSAA Webcast opportunities from the comfort of your office or home, to attending the 2006 Golf Industry Show and GCSAA Education Conference as a full-pack registrant — and much, much more — will earn you education points. And do not forget to record credit for serving on a local community board, coaching your son or daughter's soccer team, or giving a presentation to the local flower club, which are just three of the many ways to obtain service points.

So exactly how do I record points?

Be sure to visit Member Central on the GCSAA Web site at www.gcsaa.org. Member Central is your one-stop shop for managing your Class A requirements. It will allow you to record education and service points, as well as view your transcript for either your current renewal cycle or a comprehensive, lifetime record.

Education points may be earned for pre-approved, non-GCSAA educational events. An event approval code will be announced at some point during the program. To record your attendance, you must submit the event approval code to GCSAA by using either the online education point affidavit available in Member Central or a traditional paper affidavit.

Education points for educational events without GCSAA pre-approval – Submit the "Member Application for GCSAA Education Points" available in Member Central under the external education section to request a review of an education program. Applications must be submitted within 30 days of the event. If the program meets the criteria for education points, staff will record the education points to your transcript.

Education points for GCSAA seminars & Web casts – You must complete the evaluation form given at the end of the seminar and return it to the instructor. The evaluations will be scanned and the education points automatically recorded

Education points for attending the GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show – You must be registered as a full-pack attendee in order to receive the 1.5 education points that are awarded for attendance at the GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show. Your points will be recorded automatically following the conference.

SERVICE POINTS

Service Points can be recorded using the online service point affidavit available in Member Central or by submitting a traditional paper affidavit. A few categories require additional documentation to be provided. For a complete list of the service-point categories, visit Member Central.

If you do not have access to the Internet, or would prefer to use a paper affidavit, we have developed a special automated, 24-hour, Fax-On-Demand telephone system (888-838-4419). Upon request, a blank education or service point affidavit form will be faxed to you. After completing the appropriate affidavit, mail or fax 785-832-3643 the form back to GCSAA, where staff will update your transcript. You can also request these forms by calling the GCSAA Member Solutions at 800-472-7878.

PESTICIDE LICENSE OR GCSAA IPM EXAM!

Along with accumulating a total of three points (minimum 1.2 education points), one of the requirements for renewing Class A status is to provide proof of possessing a pesticide license or passing GCSAA's IPM exam.



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What is the reasoning behind such a requirement?

Golf course superintendents are truly stewards of the environment, but it often takes more than just "walking the walk and talking the talk" to convince others outside the golf-course-management industry.

The easiest and most highly recognized way to validate your commitment to the environment is through the possession of a pesticide license. While not every golf course superintendent applies chemicals, it was agreed that all Class A members should have a basic understanding of the concepts related to safe pesticide application, handling and storage.

Remember, to enter your pesticide license information, please access an affidavit through "My Member Central" on the GCSAA web site or request an affidavit by calling GCSAA's Fax-On-Demand at 888-838-4419.

If you do not currently possess a pesticide license and would prefer

to take GCSAA's IPM exam, you have the ability to schedule an exam once again by going to "My Member Central" or by calling the Fax-On-Demand number listed above.

IF I MISS THE DEADLINE?

It is July 1, 2006 and I have failed to fulfill the requirements for Class A renewal!

You have had three years to accumulate and record the three points (minimum of 1.2 education points), as well as meet the pesticide requirement, but have been unable and/or unwilling to do so. What is going to happen to your GCSAA membership?

Complying with the ongoing requirements adopted with the implementation of the Professional Development Initiative is purely voluntary. Your membership in GCSAA is not at risk; however, your ability to maintain your Class A status in GCSAA is.

If you fail to earn a total of

three points (1.2 must be education points) and/or fail to meet the pesticide requirement, you will be reclassified to Superintendent Member status on July 1, 2006. In order to regain your Class A status, you will be required to meet the original requirements plus you will be required to accumulate an additional five points (2.0 must be education points). That means that instead of needing three points to maintain your Class A, you now need a total of eight points (3.2 must be education points) in order to regain your Class A status. Remember, as a Superintendent Member of GCSAA, you still have all the rights and privileges of the association, with the exception of holding office.

If you have any questions concerning your Class A status, please contact R. Scott Woodhead, Senior Manager of Governance and Member Standards at 800-472-7878 ext. 4418 or Stacie Adams, Membership/PDI Coordinator at extension 3687. ■

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The Role of the Second Assistant

By Joel Jackson, CGCS

Perhaps the title of this issue's Hands On topic may have seemed a bit limiting since many courses don't have second Assistants and, in many instances, may not even have one assistant. But every course has a number-one or number-two "go-to" guy or gal whom the superintendent turns to run the show when he or she is away on a business trip or a much-needed vacation.

Sometimes it's someone to be in charge while the superintendent is in a club meeting, or someone to lead a small project crew or to be the follow-up person during the morning preparations and set up of the golf course.

When there are first and second assistants, they often serve double-duty as crew leaders and supervisors in addition to performing pest-control and irrigation-technician duties. In less common cases, some equipment managers serve as "assistants" to oversee the crew when the superintendent is gone.

During my days at Walt Disney World, we didn't have anyone with the title of assistant superintendent, but we did have a position called a "lead groundskeeper." Over time, besides leading several crew members in the usual multi-person activities like routine bunker- or cart-path-edging assignments or perhaps a seasonal greens renovation or sod project, they also began making out daily schedules for the routine jobs.

The pest control and irrigation technician's work was coordinated and assigned by the superintendents directly.

You often hear people say that the crew is the most important asset of the maintenance department, and it's true. It doesn't matter how big the budget or elaborate the facility. You can build the biggest and best golf course in the world, but it takes people to make it work. A few of your fellow superin-

tendents chipped in to share the duties and responsibilities of their second assistants.

JOHN'S ISLAND CLUB

John's Island Club has only one second assistant superintendent on our three courses and that individual is stationed at our West Course. The need arose when our practice facilities were expanded and staffing levels were raised.

The second assistant is in charge of the practice areas. We have a four-acre short-game facility that consists of three greens and eight bunkers, a driving range with a video building and two practice greens. The short-game greens, bunkers, fairway, roughs and divots must all be ready for open-

During the summer months the second assistant is put in charge of the special projects. This gives the individual the opportunity to show more initiative

ing before the golfers arrive. The driving range must be mowed and the bunkers must be raked. The job needs the same detail as we put on the golf course, since many players just go to the West course to use the practice facilities and we must have the employees to respond to the needs.

During the summer months the second assistant is put in charge of the special projects. This gives the individual the opportunity to show more initiative to plan the day for a group of employees and then supervise the work and be responsible for the results. Through this leadership they have been able to manage people of different abilities and to prioritize the steps involved in the project.

The goal is to allow the second assistant a chance to grow into the role of a first assistant superintendent in two years. We have been very successful in the training process and the proof is that, as I write this, we are currently without a second assistant since he was hired at another club as the first assistant.

Greg Pheneger, GCS

HOBE SOUND GC

Mike Kindrew is our second assistant. His responsibilities include making the fertilizer applications to the greens and performing most of the agronomic and cultural practices to the putting surfaces. He also is in charge of monitoring and operating the clubhouse and common area irrigation systems. Mike also has strong carpenter skills and spearheads most of our projects involving general building construction. This week Mike Francisco, my first assistant, is on vacation and Mike steps in and assumes his duties, which gives him chance to take on more responsibility of the total operation.

Roy Mac Donald, GCS

GREY OAKS GC

We don't have a position called second Assistant. Our third person in charge has the title of crew leader.

Normally this person doesn't have any academic turf management education, but this individual has a considerable amount of practical experience, around three to five years at our course. They are able to accomplish all job tasks and train others to perform these tasks. We prefer this person to be bilingual.

The crew leader can come in on weekends and get the crew started and are able to recognize irrigation needs and run the irrigation system if necessary.

This person needs to be a self starter and motivator and someone that the staff will look up to and respect. This person needs to be able to communicate with the entire staff.

Rick Tatum, GCS

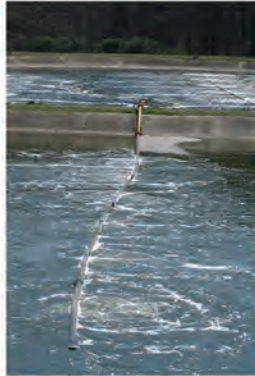
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By cutting the ferrule off the bottom of a flagstick, photographers can easily move the pin wherever they want on a green. Photo by Darren Davis.

Place an Instant Flag!

By Darren J. Davis

Like many Super Tips, I stumbled upon the following idea while visiting one of my peers, Kyle Sweet at the Sanctuary Golf Club on Sanibel Island.

I wanted to take photographs of the golf course to accompany an article I was writing. Since Sweet was nearing the end of a complete golf course renovation, and the club was closed, I had a problem – there were no pins set in the greens!

I knew the challenge of finding photogenic pin locations and up until now I hadn't developed a solution other than to set a pin myself, or have an employee perform the task.

Fortunately, on this particular day Sweet came to the rescue.

After explaining my predicament he said, "No worries, I can take care of that." I knew he was a nice guy, but I was a little surprised at how calm Sweet appeared with my nuisance problem.

When he returned, he brought with him what appeared to be a regulation flagstick with an embroidered Sanctuary logo flag attached. However, he didn't have any of the necessary tools to set the pin. Sweet had taken a saw and cut the ferrule off the bottom of the flagstick so I could simply insert it into any green, wherever I wanted.

The tip worked beautifully and from a distance you couldn't tell there was no cup set in the green.

When I finished the shoot and reconnected with Sweet to thank him, I complimented him on his resourcefulness. Sweet quickly admitted that, like me, he gained a lot of knowledge from visiting his peers and he would have to give credit where credit was due.

He said, "One day I was visiting my good friend Bob Wagner at Coral Creek Club in Placida, and while touring the golf course, Bob mentioned that the (Tom) Fazio group had been doing a lot of photo shoots on his golf course. Bob added that one of the photographers was very particular and continually wanted the flags moved to different locations on the greens. So after moving the pin several times with a cup-cutter, Bob realized there had to be an easier way to do this... which is when he thought of cutting off the ferrule."

Sweet said that Wagner had also taken a double-sided logo flag and installed a thin piece of wire in the interior of the flag. The idea was to bend or curl the wire so if there was no breeze, the flag could be manually positioned to see the logo. Or, if it was a windy day, the wire could be used to keep the flag fixed in one location.

Sweet remarked, "In the past I had been faced with the same predicament as Bob, and although this idea was so simple, it was one of those things that I had never thought of." He added, "I certainly can't take the credit for it, but I sure have used the tip!" Sweet said that he has used Wagner's innovation when taking personal pictures and when taking photographs for the club newsletter. ■



Did you ever hard-wire a flag? A thin wire can help position the logo for a photo. Photo by Darren Davis.



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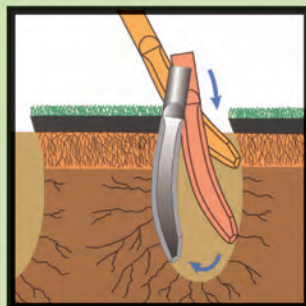
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2005 USGA Regional Conference
More than 100 Attend USGA Conference

By Joel Jackson, CGCS

Attendance at the 2005 USGA Regional Conference in Palm Beach Gardens, like many other events, was affected by Hurricane Wilma, but nonetheless it was successful and educational for 100-plus at the session

Longtime director of Southeast Regional Affairs, Roger Harvie, is retiring and Kathy Gordon has taken his place at the Marietta, Ga. office. Harvie will be moving to Florida, possibly to the Treasure Coast.

MORNING SESSION

Mr. Positivity, Tim Hiers, CGCS, discussed how turn your main-



From left: Todd Lowe, USGA Agronomist and Superintendents John Cunningham and Tim Hiers go over Power Point procedures at the USGA Regional Conference held in Palm Beach Gardens. Photo by Joel Jackson.

tenance facility into an asset for crew morale and course productivity. You don't have to have a big budget to have a neat, clean and organized shop. A little pride and professionalism in the maintenance facility shows the crew that you and the club care about them. It pays dividends.

Setting written maintenance standards so a superintendent knows what the members want and expect in terms of course conditioning is easier than you think, according to Todd

Lowe, USGA agronomist who listed ways for members to achieve consensus on priorities. With divergent opinions among committee members a superintendent must try to satisfy a wide range of expectations.

Pete Dye has said the three most important aspects of golf course design are drainage, drainage, and drainage. Pat O'Brien USGA agronomist from the Southeast Region recommended hiring professional drainage experts to solve your problems. New technology and methods can capture and move water more efficiently, and a professional will get results.

Bruce Adams from the South Florida Water Management District discussed cooperative funding initiatives for water conservation. To no one's surprise, public consumption is the number-one enemy in the much-ballyhooed water crisis. Adams said much water could be saved simply by retrofitting high-rise condos to meet current codes. He also said that, in a



Afternoon Session speakers at the USGA Regional Conference included Pat O'Brien, USGA Agronomist, Lee Bloomcamp, Syngenta and John Mascaro, Turf Tec International. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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recent survey of golf-course use, golf was using two percent of the water in SWFWMD district.

Hopefully, Black Diamond Ranch and Superintendent John Cunningham, CGCS will be the catalyst to shed light on the subject of shade on greens. The ancient battle between trees and turf took a positive step when the owner and members of Black Diamond Ranch enacted a sun-light-enhancement program that essentially mandates that all trees causing turf decline on the course shall be removed. They have taken a stand that the turf is the most important aspect on a golf course. Hallelujah!

AFTERNOON SESSION

After lunch, Jim Leiseberg, regional agronomist for WCI Communities, said environmentally responsible development can be a definite asset to the local community. His company's commitment extends from the design and operation of the golf courses to the entire community plan.

John Foy, director of the USGA Florida Region Green Section discussed winter annual weed control. He said new products have made chemical transition more of a reality for those who don't want Mother Nature to pull any surprises.

Nozzle-type selection and droplet patterns are just as important as calibrating your spray equipment, according to Dr. Phil Harmon, plant pathologist with UF/IFAS.

Lee Bloomcamp from Syngenta discussed rumor versus reality in pesticide resistance. Rotating chemicals is good policy, but plants and pests don't mutate at the drop of a hat. It takes the right combination of events for resistance to develop.

John Mascaro, president of TurfTec International, has revived the famous Mascaro Photo Quiz of his late father, Tom. The Photo Quiz feature, and old and new turf puzzles, appear regularly in Golf Course Management magazine. My favorite was the mysterious circular thin spots the size of hoola hoops on sports turf. The answer? Cheerleader wear.

This turf crew never takes time off.

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Membership Issues Dominate 2005 Delegates Meeting

Membership issues dominated the discussions at GCSAA's 13th Chapter Delegates Meeting, Oct. 1-2 in Kansas City.

Chaired by Vice President Sean A. Hoolehan, CGCS, the meeting provided delegates updates on GCSAA programs and policies, and solicited input on key issues relevant to the profession, industry and the game. Attendees also heard presentations from candidates for national offices that will be filled by elections at the 2006 annual meeting in Atlanta, Feb. 9.

MARKETING CLASS A AND CERTIFIED

Director Robert M. Randquist, CGCS, presented the next step in the association's implementation of the Professional Development Initiative —

executing a marketing plan for the various membership classes. The association will seek to position GCSAA members differently from nonmembers, Class A members apart from Superintendent members, and Certified members in a manner distinct from non-certified members. The goal is to communicate value in the marketplace, resulting in a stronger position (financially, organizationally, and professionally) for GCSAA members.

DUES PRICING STRUCTURE

In a follow-up from the 2004 delegates meeting, Secretary/Treasurer Ricky D. Heine, CGCS, led discussion on a programmed dues-pricing structure. Rather than levying 15-20 percent increases periodically (approximately every five years), the proposed concept is to implement a regular increase that is tied to the consumer price index. Past feedback has supported such a model because it is easier to budget and could

stem membership drops resulting from periodic large increases. This concept has received support from various GCSAA committees. The delegates approved continued discussion on this topic.

GROWTH AND RETENTION

Staff also unveiled a membership-growth and -retention program to combat declining membership from 22,000-plus in 2002 to about 20,500.

Membership numbers are important for many reasons. Dues revenue determines the extent of member programs and services. A growing membership gives GCSAA a stronger position to strengthen the association's ability to advocate on behalf of its members. Key to the strategy is focusing on value when communicating with employers and nonmembers.

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announced a strategy to strengthen it by becoming more inclusive. Rafael Barajas, CGCS and a member of GCSAA's Diversity Task Group, said organizations that do not embrace a diversity of people and ideas will not grow and will lose stature. GCSAA's efforts to become more inclusive will be long term, Barajas said, and the first step is to increase awareness of the importance of the issue and to evaluate the organization's current situation. He said that such a strategy also will support growth of the game by offering access to those who may have been ignored in the past.

FUTURE OF THE PROFESSION

Discussion of trends affecting the game, facilities and the profession over the next 15 years took place in small groups. Feedback from the delegates and six GCSAA committees and task groups will help the board challenge its vision for the future.

UPDATES

Additional topics included the chapter-affiliation agreement, the association's environmental programming efforts and a data-collection effort for member courses to commence in 2006.

We can only prevail on the environmental issues if we have accurate data to compare and refine the computer models used by EPA and others to regulate our industry. Be prepared to participate in this survey if called upon. It is important.

ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE SURVEY

Why initiate a survey?

The golf industry needs specific baseline information about the environmental state of golf courses. We need to understand current environmental management practices on golf courses to help document progress made by the industry and to help determine the direction of our

efforts in the future. The data will also help us respond to questions about environmental issues. Existing "environmental" data is very limited, incomplete, and not uniform or centralized. Often information in the news media is inaccurate or misleading.

What kind of information will we be requesting?

The task groups identified categories such as water use, water quality, habitat and wildlife, energy consumption and inputs of nutrients and pesticides be included in the survey.

Essential data are profiles of the physical features of each golf course surveyed, including information about the acreage and grass species on greens, tees, fairways, rough and natural areas. Additional key information includes area devoted to the clubhouse, parking lots, maintenance facility and recreational amenities besides the golf course.

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The content was based on input from the Environmental Programs Committee and associated task groups with input from staff.

How will the survey be performed?

The GCSAA will use a professional research firm to refine the questions and format, conduct the survey, and summarize the results.

We are considering an online survey, paper survey and other methods to ensure a high return rate.

The survey will be conducted in five short annual installments. Over a five-year period we will collect the entire data set needed.

Once the five-year survey cycle and analysis has been completed, GCSAA will begin the process for a second five-year survey cycle to document environmental change and determine progress on golf courses.

The data collected will be presented only as aggregate data, summarized by state, region or other geo-

graphic area. Responses from individual golf courses will not be published or released.

How will this information be used?

It will be used to document environmental progress and determine the future direction of GCSAA environmental efforts.

Key issues will be identified

for potential research projects.

The data will provide a basis for comments on proposed regulatory issues that may impact the golf industry.

GCSAA will have the ability to respond to the government's inquiries, answer the public's questions about environmental issues, and promote the great efforts our superintendents are making on their golf courses.



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Silver Signature Sanctuaries

Mediterra Courses Earn Recertification from Audubon International

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Here is yet another example of how responsible development can allow man to co-exist with nature. Congratulations to Bonita Bay Properties.*

By Cheryl Garn

The golf courses at Mediterra, championship courses designed by Tom Fazio, have received recertification as Audubon International Silver Signature Sanctuaries. The Club at Mediterra is the world's only 36-hole facility to carry Audubon International Silver Signature Sanctuary program status.

"Audubon International is proud to recognize Mediterra as a leader in environmental stewardship and resource conservation," said Bud Smart, director of environmental. "The recertification of The North and South courses as Audubon International Silver Signature Sanctuaries is another example of The Bonita Bay Group's philosophy of environmentally sensitive development."

The Bonita Bay Group, the developer of the 1,697-acre master-planned community, is an international leader in the Audubon International program, with more golf holes certified through the Audubon Signature Program than any company in the world.

Recertification signifies that a site and its management are committed to environmental quality and sustainability, the main components of the Audubon program. To achieve recertification, work begun the previous year continued in six key areas: site assessment, wildlife habitat enhancement and management; waste management; energy efficiency; water quality and conservation; and inte-



Win – win – win! Homes, golf course and wildlife co-existing lakeside at Mediterra. Photo courtesy of Bonita Bay Properties.

grated pest management. Silver designation includes two additional steps: the preparation of a natural resource management plan by environmental planning experts from the Audubon International Institute and the submission of periodic status reports plus participation in on-site audits by Audubon International.

Smart conducted an audit of the courses in June. The audit report confirmed the benefits of the golf course as wildlife habitat with the number and diversity of several species increasing substantially. One example of the wildlife diversity, noted in the audit, was the presence of small, medium and large gopher tortoises thriving within the gopher-tortoise preserve.

Another benefit of the site enhancements completed on The North and South courses was the increase in the community's native and migratory bird populations. The enhancements, which included reforestation, preservation of Mediterra's 400 acres of wetlands and the installation of 73 bird boxes, have proven to be successful in attracting native species. During a Christmastime bird

survey, more than 612 birds were counted in 40 different species.

"We are extremely proud to receive the Silver Signature Sanctuary designation a fifth year in a row," said Joey Garon, vice president of operations for The Bonita Bay Group. "This is a true barometer of our commitment to the environment and doing the right thing at Mediterra, and we look forward to a strong, continuing relationship with Audubon International to ensure continued preservation, enhancement and management of both The South and North courses."

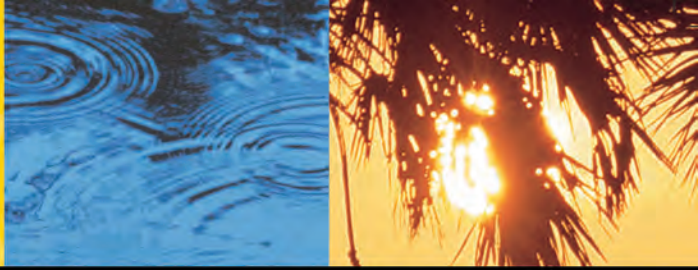
The Bonita Bay Group is developing Mediterra with the same commitment to meticulous planning, environmental stewardship, integrity and attention to detail that is evident at its flagship community, Bonita Bay. Bonita Bay received the development industry's highest international honor when it was named the Outstanding Large-Scale Community of the Year by the Urban Land Institute.

Mediterra recently has been named Community of the Year by the Collier Building Industry Association for the fourth consecutive year and

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West



Lake shorelines buffered with native plants protect the water quality of the golf course lakes. Photo courtesy of Bonita Bay Properties.

received the Award of Excellence for Open Spaces from the Florida Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. The community is being created with the intimacy, charm and classical style of the Mediterranean region of Europe. The overall master plan for the 1,697-acre community may include up to 950 residences and more than 1,000 acres of open space. Residents are eligible for membership in The Club at Mediterra, which offers a 25,000-square-foot clubhouse, named best clubhouse in 2004 by the CBIA, and a tennis, swim and fitness center in addition to the two Fazio golf courses,

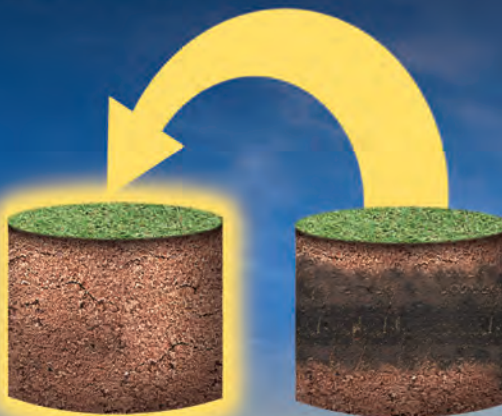
The private Mediterra Beach Club on the Gulf of Mexico features an elevated swimming pool, expansive sundeck, and indoor and al fresco dining overlooking 200 feet of shoreline. All residents enjoy miles of bicycle paths and nature trails leading to a series of themed neighborhood parks.

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Parque Celestial, featuring an array of astrological references, was awarded the American Society of Landscape Architects' Florida Chapter Award of Excellence. The community's second park, Calusa Play Park, offers children and adults an opportunity to learn more about the Calusa Indians, the earliest inhabitants of Southwest Florida.

The Club at Mediterra has been honored with the 2002 Environmental Leaders in Golf Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and Golf Digest magazine in the private course category.

Scott Whorral, CGCS director of golf operations at the Club at Mediterra takes the lead in all aspects of the Audubon certification program. He is also the past recipient of the 2002 Environmental Leaders in Golf Award in the private sector from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and Golf Digest magazine.

Orchid Island G&BC Florida's 71st to be Certified by ACSS

Orchid Island Golf & Beach Club has achieved designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System, the educational division of Audubon International. Matt Turner, superintendent, and Peggy Ogden, Audubon coordinator, have led the effort to obtain sanctuary status on this course and are being recognized for Environmental Stewardship by Audubon International. Orchid Island Golf & Beach Club is the 71st course in Florida and the 570th in the world to receive the honor.

"The Orchid Island Golf & Beach Club has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program. They are to be commended for their

efforts to provide a sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property," said Shawn Williams, staff ecologist for the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Programs,

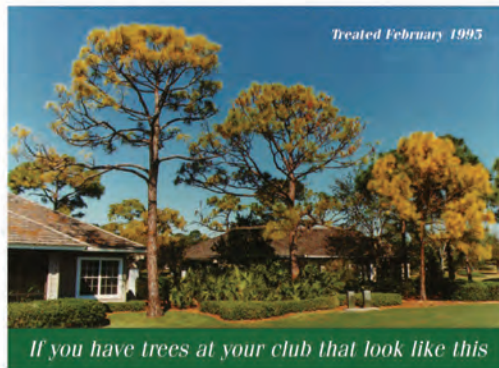
"To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas," explained Williams. These categories include environmental planning, wildlife & habitat management, outreach and education, chemical-use reduction and safety, water conservation, and water quality management.

"The members of Orchid Island are very proud to receive this certification," states Rob Tench, general manager. "Our members are all very concerned about our environment and enjoy the beautiful wildlife throughout our wonderful community. We are especially proud of our diverse bird population. For many years we have been fortunate to have scores of white

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An iguana is a rare addition to the wildlife inventory. This one visits the Hobe Sound Club regularly. Photo by Roy MacDonald.

pelicans return seasonally. They compliment the many other species that make Orchid Island their home. These include snowy egrets, spoonbills, wood storks, cormorants, ibis, several different species of ducks, and many other of our feathered friends. We even occasionally have a bald eagle visit us! “

“It is with great pride that we enter into a long-term commitment with Audubon International and the continued care of our environment.”

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, endorsed by the United States Golf Association, provides information and guidance to help golf courses preserve and enhance wildlife habitat, and protect natural resources. Golf courses from the United States, Australia, Canada, and Central America. Europe

and Southeast Asia have also achieved certification in the program.

Audubon certified courses in the Treasure Coast GCSA in Florida also include Loblolly Pines in Hobe Sound, Hawk’s Nest Golf Club in Vero Beach, Grand Harbor in Vero Beach, The Floridian in Stuart, IGM - Aquarina Golf Club in Melbourne, IGM – The Habitat in Malabar, IGM – Spessard Holland G.C. in Melbourne Beach, IGM – Savannahs at Sykes Creek in Merritt Island, IGM – Sandridge GC in Vero Beach, Harbour Ridge Y & CC in Palm City and John’s Island Club, West Course in Vero Beach.

In addition to golf courses, the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System also provides programs for schools, individual homeowners, and businesses. ■

ACSS Update

Congratulations to the following new Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System member courses and current members that have become fully certified, renewed their certification or are working on certification this year.

New Member Courses and Chapter

Lake Jovita G&CC North and South Courses, Ridge
River Wilderness G& CC, Suncoast
Six Lakes CC, Calusa

Fully Certified in 2005

Audubon CC, Everglades
Crown Colony G &CC, Calusa
John’s Island West Course, Treasure Coast
Orchid Island G & BC, Treasure Coast
Stonebridge CC, Naples

Recertified in 2005

Gainesville CC, Seven Rivers
Hammock Dunes Club Links Course, North Florida
Palencia GC, Everglades

Working on certification (Progress through 2005)

Crandon Golf and Key Biscayne, South Florida - EP
Lakewood Ranch, Suncoast - EP, IPM, RC and WHM
Ritz-Carlton Jupiter, Palm Beach – EP, IPM, RC and WQM
Southwood. Coastal Plains – EP

Six areas of certification

Key: **EP** – Environmental Plan; **IPM** – Integrated Pest Management; **OE** – Outreach and Education; **RC**- Resource Conservation; **WHM** – Wildlife Habitat Management and **WQM** – Water Quality Management.

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New Year's Pause

As I began putting together the files and photos that will make up the 2006 Winter Issue, I took a moment to consider where we've been, where we are and where we are going as the magazine enters its 32nd year.

Looking ahead is not all that easy. I'm sure we will be investigating an online version of the magazine before very long, but that is beyond my ken for now. I marvel at where we are with the magazine and how technology has changed how we put it together.

My job is to collect the editorial material and photographs that will appear in each issue. I write, proofread and edit the material initially for readability and accuracy and I format the photos to send to our publication manager. And that is where we begin our acknowledgments.

Larry Kieffer, president of Janlark Communications has been involved with the Florida Green since the Dan Jones era and has been guiding this superintendent turned journalist-writer for lo these 15 years. He takes the raw materials I assemble and turns them into the respectable publication that is the Florida Green. Larry, thank you for your expertise, guidance and friendship over the years.

And a big thanks to Rinaldi Printing in Tampa for working with us so well for over a decade. The conversion to the digital process has been a big time-saver for everyone.

None of the articles, tips or information would see the light of day if our advertisers didn't buy space in the magazine. Some have been with magazine forever, and thankfully new clients come on board every year. Marie Roberts rounds up materials and deals with the ad agencies. At the GCSAA and FTGA shows she visits booths and presents media kits with a low-key sales pitch. Of course Marie is the chief cook and bottle washer of our bimonthly Green Sheet newsletter. I send her some editorial copy and a few photos, but she puts it all together with her buddy over at Peacock Imaging in Stuart.

Our most senior "employee" is photographer Daniel Zelazek, who travels from his home and job in Connecticut to shoot the courses for our cover stories. An

industrial photographer for the Pratt-Whitney Company, Daniel's artistic eye has seen your handiwork through his custom-made camera that looks like a throwback to the civil war era. Thanks "Z" for capturing the beauty, contrast and unique settings of our Florida golf courses.

Should old acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind...

Over the years several dedicated individuals have lent their talents to the magazine. Our venerable editor emeritus Dan Jones and his wife Irene shepherded the magazine for over 13 years back in the days of cut-and-paste layout. And today I send stories and photos with a click of a button; simply amazing.

Others who were instrumental in the growth and development of the content and quality of the magazine were regular writers and photographers like the Bailey brothers, David and Mike. Dean of all columnists is my friend, Mark Jarrell. Mark's soul-searching commentary made us all take a good look at our industry. Long ago in a galaxy far, far away he used to write a column about superintendents for Golfweek. He set the stage for us with his integrity and intensity.

We'll take a cup of kindness yet...

And as we start this New Year I salute my cohorts who like their predecessors devote their time and energy to fill our pagesy. Darren Davis with his wonderful Super Tips is the consummate "Hands On" contributor. Our resident curmudgeon, Jim Walker, takes often nostalgic and witty looks at various slices of superintendent life and the human condition. And last but not least, Shelly Foy has been the voice of hope and reason to give us access to success stories on the environmental front. Environmental and natural resources issues remain the most contentious and misunderstood facets of our business. Thanks to Shelly and our friends at Audubon International.

And days of auld lang syne...

And to those of you who have written articles and submitted photos, we thank you for your contributions as well. Keep them coming.

Belated Happy New Year everyone and whatever you do in 2006 - Keep the Green Side Up!

The Quarterly Question

Given the very active hurricane seasons of 2004 and 2005, with numerous Florida landfalls, what if anything are you planning or doing differently to prepare for the next hurricane season?

I would continue to make sure that I had local contractors set up prior to hurricane season, ones that you can rely on to be there and hopefully you have done enough business with over the year or years to get their best prices. There are a lot of people that come into town or raise their rates through the roof after the hurricane.

(Editor's Note: *There is a law against price gouging. Contact Commissioner Bronson's Office in Tallahassee if you suspect this is happening*).

After the hurricane we contracted a company that installs our palms trees to come out and stand and stake as many trees as possible, which took a lot of work off my staff and got the trees up quickly.

At the beginning of the season we will buy a pallet or so of water and numerous non-perishable items to feed the guys who are working after the storm — lunch, breakfast etc, — until power is restored.

One thing that was very helpful and that my administrative assistant, Jean Mears, came up

with was to go to the Board and have them approve all expenses that had to do with the storm be put into the capital budget, which saved my operational expenses.

*Matthew R. Taylor, CGCS
Royal Poinciana Club, Naples*

We go into hurricane preparation 48 hours prior to storm hitting. I am proactive in making an early decision. Park large equipment in front and behind all overhead doors.

Our chain saw inventory has tripled and chain inventory is 10 times what it was before 2004.

We stockpile fuel. We usually only keep 500 gallons each of unleaded and diesel on hand for insurance reasons and we have a 1000-gallon capacity for each.

We have purchased two 12-volt pumps for the fuel tanks in case of power loss. We have a generator big enough to run miscellaneous shop items.

We do our major tree-trim projects early in the summer — June or July — instead of waiting until September.

During the summer we minimize golf-course items on the course — hazard stakes, ball washers, trash cans, etc. There are many more things you could do if you had unlimited funds, such as purchase a large generator for the pump station.

Secure a tree-trimming company's service but they are going to go where the big money is. When they finish with high-



income projects, they come and take care of Hobe Sound Golf Club.

*Roy MacDonald, GCS
Hobe Sound Golf Club, Vero Beach*

I have considered this question since your original e-mail. As a cracker and resident of Southwest Florida since 1964, I was shocked when we were hit by a hurricane in 2004. I really had convinced myself that it would never happen. Some of these items may sound ridiculous, but since you asked:

Mentally prepare that we may/will have a hurricane.

This winter prepare the materials necessary to secure my house and course. When/if we have a potential hurricane, try to keep the staff well informed, but do not allow the potential storm to be

an obsession.

Have a safety plan for family if the potential becomes great, so you can also go to work knowing they are safe and secure.

Encourage the staff to have a safety plan, but also communicate the need for them at work after the storm passes. Stay calm and organized during the clean-up. Try to communicate realistic expectations up the chain of command. Remain positive in all things.

*Mike Mongoven, CGCS
Shell Point Golf Club, Ft. Myers*

There are a few things I would do differently from what I have done in the past.

I normally rent a medium-size loader with tree boom or backhoe before the storm. Instead I would get a very big loader with tree boom next time. I also would rent another dump truck to help with removal of material. I have done this once before but didn't for Wilma, unfortunately. I would get a tree company lined up to come in the day after the storm. It seems that other courses

have established relationships with a lot of the local tree companies. I have connections, too, but if a local company is not available, then I would contact a tree company in another part of the state that would not be affected by the hurricane. It is even possible to contact others in another state. They like coming down if the price is right.

Get your generators ready, especially to run your fuel tanks. Everyone, I'm sure, gets their tanks fueled up. If money isn't a problem, then get a generator large enough to run at least the irrigation jockey pump at the pumphouse. I always get one or two more chain saws with oil and gas mix to handle the increased tree work and breakdowns.

*Craig Weyandt, CGCS
The Moorings Golf Club, Vero Beach*

Photo Contest Results

Category 3 – Native Areas and Plants



First Place – Snapdragons give some snap to this native area on the second hole at the Lansbrook G.C. Photo by Teri Hoisington.



Second Place – Bright red bromeliad bed under the oaks at No. 18 tee. Photo by Tom Biggy.

2006 PHOTO CONTEST RULES

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

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

Category 3 – Native Areas: beds of native

plants including trees, shrubs and grasses used in naturalized areas to reduce turf inputs and aquatic vegetation plantings used to create habitat and protect water quality.
Category 4 – Scenic Hole: includes any view of a golf hole (panoramic or close up) that demonstrates the scenic beauty of a golf course.

EASY RULES

1. Color prints or slides. Prefer prints. Only one entry per category. Digital images: Digital-image entries must be taken at a resolution setting of 300 dpi or higher and saved as jpeg or tif format images. Images taken, saved and sent at lower resolutions will not qualify for the contest. If you're not sure. Send a print instead.

2. Photo must be taken on an FGCSA member's course. Photo must be taken by an FGCSA member or a member of his or her staff.

3. Attach a label on the back of the print or slide which identifies the category, course and photographer. **DO NOT WRITE DIRECTLY ON THE BACK OF THE PRINT.** Each print shall be attached to an 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper using a loop of masking tape on the back of the print. Slides should be in plastic sleeves for easy access for viewing. Digital images must be accompanied by the same information in an email or document, or on a CD.

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

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

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

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



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Not-so-Instant Replays Rewinding Year 2005

As I sit at my computer on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, it distresses me to realize there were more turkeys on the football field with whistles and zebra stripes than there were on America's dining room tables.

Granted there was a lot of football on TV the last few days, but the number of bad calls seems to increase with each passing week. Even instant replay doesn't help much with the bad calls turning games around more than the teams on the field.

I think the game is too fast now for all the gray-beards they have calling the games. A former NFL official whom I know — and who worked five Super Bowls — told me that you have to work in a major conference for 10 years before you even get a sniff of working in the big show.

AS IT LIES



Jim Walker

So, my point is? Out with the old and in with the new on the football fields of America. Let's get guys in those Zebra outfits who can run, see, and have a brain in their heads.

It's Masters Sunday, 16th green; DiMarco leads Woods by 2 shots. Tiger hits it in a horrible spot to try to salvage par with the traditional Sunday placement. The chip plops on the green, trickles across the slope feeding down the hill and then, in slow motion with the Nike logo on display to the entire golfing world, the ball drops into the hole for birdie, paving the way for Tiger to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat and win his fourth Masters title.

Bad call of the year award goes to the officials who ruled that Michele Wie dropped her ball improperly, paving the way for her to be disqualified. Remember the re-enactment took place the next day and was guided by TV footage from a bad angle. And yes, the infraction was pointed out by an armchair knucklehead. Reminds me of the time the Walrus was disqualified for building a stance by placing a towel on the ground to keep his pants from getting ruined by the muddy area where his ball had come to rest.

While we're at it, let's get the USGA to re-evaluate some of the goofy rules we have in our wonderful game and let common sense rewrite the book. Think it doesn't need to happen? Remember the time 20 people who moved a boulder the size of Rhode Island out of Tiger's line of

sight under the loose impediment rule? No penalty? I rest my case.

How fantastic was it to see Michael Campbell win the US Open and break down in tears of happiness and relief that his career was reborn by that gusty performance?

How marvelous and funny was it to see Fred Funk slip into a skirt after being out-driven by Annika at the Skins Game? Then, knock it on the par-five ninth in two and roll in an eagle putt for \$225,000... and a new Explorer for some lucky duck who picked his name out of the hat and thought to himself, "Great, I've got the guy who was out-hit by the girl a few holes ago." This is the same Doctor of Funk who won the Players Championship in March, and will turn 50 in a few months. Go Freddie. Go Terps. P.S. On Sunday Fred won every hole on the back nine and finished with \$925,000 for the event. Not bad for a guy who averaged only 275 off the tee.

Back to the grid-iron: Another bad year for Hurricane fans who thought that since all their players were out on bail or parole, they would have a great chance to win the National Championship. They went to Tallahassee for their season opener, played a dreadful game and lost to "Aw shucks, it wern't nuthin" Bowden. Then they win eight straight, culminating with a butt-whipping of Virginia Tech at Blacksburg, only to return to the Orange Bowl the next week and get out-played and out-coached by the Rambling Wreck. Their lack-

luster performance in that game brought former Cane Warren Sapp to call it an "embarrassment and disgrace to the program." I guess it's not all bad since the Gators handed the 'Noles their fourth loss of the season, which kind of made Urban (sprawl) (Oscar) Meyer's year.

Can anyone stop the Colts? Remember, the season will be over before this is read, so I'll go out on a limb and say, "maybe." I can say that if anyone duplicates the Dolphins perfect season, then Peyton Manning and Tony Dungy are the type of good guys who should do it.

Wasn't it great to see George's \$175 million All-Star team *not* make it to the World Series again?

Tiger won \$10 million again this year. Annika won 10 times this year. She only played in 20.

I almost forgot to bash the Dolphins. No, I won't kick a sick dog when it's down. I did notice Jerry Glanville is still alive and coaching in Hawaii. South Florida has the same big hotels and white sand beaches. The weather is about the same, although it's hotter in Miami in the summertime. Maybe there's still a chance and maybe there's hope for the Fins.

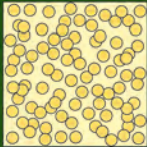
Seems our beloved Marlins are threatening to leave our fair city again. The taxpayers are still being stubborn about building that \$350 million stadium with the retractable roof. And the city, county and state governments won't pony up either.

Happy 2006 to all of you and your families.

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The New Year is upon us and life goes on. There will be good days and there will be bad days. That's life.

We've all heard the cliché, "It's not what happens to us, but how we handle what happens to us." So, how are you going to handle these chunks of reality that surely will happen to us in the very near future?

I mention these coming bites of reality because you need to be communicating their possible effects on your turf management programs so you can say, "I told you so." And you need to be checking out possible alternative solutions, supporting turf research and getting your owner and members to speak to regulators and politicians. Doesn't sound like much fun does it? Sometimes reality does bite. Here are three items that may have varying effects on your course conditioning and ultimately maybe your job retention.

Reality Bites

NO MORE NEMACUR

One thing we know for sure: Nematicur will be gone as of May 31, 2007. As far as I know, the only other available product that offers fairly effective control is Curfew, and its slit-injection method can be problematic depending on your root system. Green applications continue to be tested and modified to reduce and/or eliminate possible damage from the process. The product isn't cheap, but cost becomes relative when you need a solution to your "tode" problem.

There are some anecdotal reports of various organic/biological products offering some control of nematodes. Research by Dr. Billy Crow at UF has uncovered a mustard-seed product, but it isn't in commercial production. Are you prepared to modify cultural practices to ease the problem if you can't afford the chemical solution? Are you preparing your members for the possibility of raising heights of cut and using more water and fertilizers to outgrow the damage? Might be a good time to talk about the future before it becomes reality.

METHYL BROMIDE WARS

Second is the geopolitical football, methyl bromide. They say it's an ozone depleter and even if planet earth releases more MeBr into the atmosphere than man's use, the USA and other developed nations must cut back on their use of the product. Meanwhile, Third World, or developing, countries may use more; so it's bad for the environment but OK to use if you're having trouble competing with the U.S. and others.

So my take is that this is a political game about redistribution of wealth and not really about scientific fact, but the *reality* is that we in turf are like-

ly to be hoping for allocations from current stockpiles of material manufactured before the phase-out. It may last my lifetime, but will it be available for you 20- or 30-something supers? Who knows? The point is, we have no viable alternative product that is as safe as MeBr. Construction and renovation of golf courses may require much more time, effort and money for growing in. Better start letting owners, developers and members know about this potential setback.

ARSENIC AND OLD MSMA

And last is the latest hot potato, concern over arsenic levels and the use of the herbicide, MSMA. You can put a soil or water sample in boiling acid and reduce it to calculate the total arsenic in the sample. The trouble is, you can't tell what the source of the arsenic is. Arsenic is a naturally occurring element like carbon, calcium, magnesium, iron, silicon, lead, gold, silver, etc. Besides being found in a monosodium methanearsonate molecule, arsenic can be found in rock formations, mineral deposits, sea shells, mulch, treated lumber, soil (native and exotic hauled in for construction), reclaimed water and fertilizer.

I mention fertilizer last because if there's one thing we apply more than MSMA, it is fertilizer. Food for thought as EPA and Florida regulators take a hard look at the possible link between the herbicide and the high levels of arsenic associated with golf course samples. MSMA is the only currently available herbicide that offers some control of tropical signalgrass and it's the primary crabgrass control for many.

Are you ready for possible limits on the use of MSMA? EPA is currently doing a re-registration study on MSMA and, given the emotional baggage that the word "arsenic" generates, the pressure is on regulators to come up some plan of action and it likely translates to label changes at the least and banishment at the worst. If you depend on MSMA to control some of the more persistent grassy weeds, you need to be preparing your chain of command that this tool may soon be removed from the toolbox.

The reality is that we will continue to lose products — especially old generic chemistry — as new specific products are developed. And in many cases that loss is not a bad thing environmentally. But the reality is that your programs will change and costs will go up. The threshold levels of infestations may have to change and providing flawless, pristine conditions may be a thing of the past.

As the steward of nature's resources *and* the club's financial resources, it falls on you to provide the best playing conditions possible. Meanwhile keep your chain of command informed and diplomatically give them a bite of reality so they aren't in denial when these products go away and some pest effects are more noticeable. ■

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