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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.