

# The Florida Green

Fall 2007



Number 1  
Kingsway Country Club  
Lake Suzy  
Photo by Daniel Zelazek



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**SPOTLIGHT: CHANGING OF THE GUARD**

New Association Manager Jennifer Innes was presented to the members at the annual Florida Turfgrass Association Conference and Show in Estero; two Presidents Awards were announced, and two new directors were seated

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**COVER STORY: KINGSWAY COUNTRY CLUB**

Architect Ron Garl and the members of Kingsway Country Club made some great lemonade from the lemons Hurricane Charlie left behind when it flattened the course Aug. 13, 2005. Its signature feature had been trees; now it's waste areas... and the members couldn't be happier.

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**HANDS ON: MANAGING DURING THE SEASON**

Managing turfgrass in the golf season is never fun, but improved equipment and products, flexibility and cooperation among the superintendent, pro shop and golfers, it's possible to get healthy turf with minimal effect to playing conditions

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**INDUSTRY NEWS: NEW DIAGNOSTIC SERVICE**

The University of Florida Disease Diagnostic Clinic was revamped last year, under the guidance of Dr. Phil Harmon, to provide golf courses with a Rapid Turf Diagnosis disease service for turfgrass managers.

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**OFFICIAL BUSINESS: LET THE SCIENCE BEGIN**

The Florida Consumer Fertilizer Task Force was created by the 2007 Florida Legislature to address several issues beginning with phosphorus loading in Lake Okeechobee and eventually expanding to include nitrogen and all watersheds and basins in the state.

**DEPARTMENTS**

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# The Florida Green

FALL 2007

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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.

**Winter 2008** - Disease Management Strategies

**Spring 2008** - Irrigation Management and Water Conservation

**Summer 2008** - Ultradwarf and Seashore Paspalum Greens

**Fall 2008** - Improving communication

Please submit articles via e-mail 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 e-mail text box. Try to limit articles to 1500 words or less. The Florida Green pays \$100 per page and \$50 for 1-3 pictures.

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

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

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Finally the fall season is here. Hopefully a second uneventful hurricane season is behind us by the time this reaches you. With any luck the reality and relief of lower humidity and temperatures is close. Who knows, we may even have a wet fall which would help everyone around the state with lower-than-normal water levels.

Here in south Florida, water restrictions seem to be at the top of the list of issues for many. Through a series of meetings held with the South Florida Water Management District, many chapters have learned that water restrictions at

least for this year will not be lifted. If they are, the relief will likely only be short lived. In other areas across the state, it will most likely not take long before restrictions might be enacted or put back in place. Hopefully this cycle of lower-than-normal rainfall will be over soon and ease the

tensions of managing turfgrass and watching the flow meters every day.

Lately many superintendents and allied professionals have also been busy keeping a watchful eye out and attending local government meetings concerning fertilizer application rates and timing. While most of the attention is being thrust toward lawncare companies and homeowners, you only have to look toward Canada for a glimpse of what lies ahead

By beginning with landscapers' and homeowners' use of fertilizers, it will be much easier in a few years to use these models for many to say that we really don't need to fertilize during the summer months; we really don't need phosphorus in our blends and other assumptions of things we "really don't need."

This is just another reason we need to begin to adopt the BMPs crafted for our industry by industry with governmental and environmental input. BMP's are science-based and show very little emotion... unlike many of our local leaders and environmental groups who do not want to be confused with the facts.

In September the FTGA held its annual conference and show in Estero. This year's event was excellent and was proof of how hard the FTGA staff, board of directors and volunteers worked to make it a success. The education was better than ever with attendance at the sessions up more than 12 percent. The social functions were well attended and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. One of the highlights of the trade

show was the live auction held on the trade show floor; this was a huge success and a lot of fun.

At any three- or four-day event, one of the largest challenges is getting people to stick around on the last day. This year Casey Pace, FTGA's executive director, and her staff made a step in the right direction by scheduling a panel discussion with leading professionals to discuss topics that are at the forefront of what we face today in the turfgrass industry. The closing remarks were given this year by the Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Charles Bronson. He gave an excellent update on many issues, including recent happenings with immigration, the work being done on the Urban Turf Rule, and a new initiative called Farm to Fuel using cellulosic biofuels.

Congratulations to Darren Davis for being elected as the president of the FTGA. I am sure he will continue to guide the FTGA in the right direction. Next year's event promises to be just as good with a change in venue to West Palm Beach. Hopefully we will see everyone there again.

Meanwhile the FGCSA staff is undergoing a couple of changes. One important change is that Joel Jackson is now our new executive director. His title has been changed from director of communications. This change will help to ensure a smooth transition with Association Manager Marie Roberts retiring, as well as provide better continuity between the changing of officers and boards.

In August the FGCSA selection committee, formed to find a replacement for the retiring Marie Roberts, went through 42 resumes to narrow the field down to four very qualified candidates in Orlando for interviews. Out of those four, we hired our first new FGCSA staff person in ten years! Jennifer Innes began full time with us on October 1. She lives very close to Marie on the East Coast, which will facilitate her training and transition process. We feel that she is more than capable of continuing to provide support for the executive director, officers, board of directors and all members of the FGCSA.

Hiring Jennifer has been a bittersweet experience, because her hiring means Marie will be leaving us soon. Marie will officially retire from the FGCSA in late January 2008, and we hope you will join us at the GCSAA Show in Orlando in January to say goodbye and thank you for 24 years of loyal service.

I sincerely hope that everyone has a productive and successful 2007-2008 golfing season.

See you in Orlando.

## A Season of Change



Matthew Taylor, CGCS President



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## FTGA Show Marks End of Summer

Chapters have weathered the summer and are falling into the busy golf season. Most chapters did not hold September meetings and instead encouraged their members to attend the FTGA Conference and Show to fulfill their networking and educational needs.

**CALUSA:** Our 9th Annual Pro-Super-Supplier tournament and meeting will be at Martin Wierengo's Gulf Harbour CC Oct. 11. This is one of our primary fundraisers for the year.

**CENTRAL FLORIDA:** Congratulations to our President Chris Cartin for winning the Crowfoot Open trophy at Grand Cypress this past August. We held our Memorial Tournament at Brett Harris's Lake Nona Club Sept. 17. Proceeds go to our scholarship fund. The team of Gene Stys, John Raycroft, Mike Sullivan and Jimmy Keufeld won the four-man scramble event.

**COASTAL PLAINS:** We are



*Outgoing president Lon Chatfield, left, received a plaque from newly elected President Rip Phillips for service as president of the NFGCSA from 2005-2007.*

looking forward to our November meeting at the St. James Bay Golf Club hosted by Shane Bass, CGCS.

**EVERGLADES:** Congratulations to FGCSA President's Award recipient Steve Durand of Harrell's Inc. Steve received the award at our annual meeting at the Twin Eagles GC hosted by Bob Volpe, CGCS. Our chapter is also happy to donate to the FGCSA Reception Fund for the farewell celebration for Marie Roberts who will be retiring as FGCSA Association Manager.

**NORTH FLORIDA:** At our Annual meeting in July we honored two of our members.

Butch Singo with Harrell's Inc. was presented the FGCSA President's Award for Lifetime Service. Butch has served our chapter faithfully as education chairman for a number of years among other services to our chapter.

Outgoing president Lon Chatfield received a plaque from newly elected President Rip Phillips, for service as president of NFGCSA from 2005-2007.

In August we held a Golf BMP Manual Conference at the Timuquana C.C. with a panel of speakers from government and industry that talked about the various sections of the BMPs.

**PALM BEACH:** We had an outstanding annual meeting at Aberdeen. Many thanks to Brian Main and the entire staff for making it an outstanding day. We had a dash of excitement during the venomous snakes and reptiles of Florida education segment when the 8-foot king cobra got a little frisky. But handler Jim Mendenhal from Squamata Reptiles had things under control.

Steve Wright, CGCS hosted our annual joint meeting with the South Florida GCSA at BocaWest in August where we unsuccessfully tried to retain the Jimmy Blackledge trophy in our traditional Ryder Cup format match. Congratulations also to Steve's daughter Casey for earning a GCSAA Legacy Scholarship. Casey is studying architecture at Baylor University. In October we will be traveling north for our annual joint meeting with the Treasure Coast GCSA at the Jupiter Island Club.

**SEVEN RIVERS:** In July we helped IFAS put on the 2007 Field Days in Gainesville and Citra. Our August meeting was at Mike McNeil's Hernando Oaks G.C., and Ron Rood at Glen Lakes CC will host our October meeting. In November we will host our annual fishing trip outing on Crystal River.

**SOUTH FLORIDA:** Many thanks to Jason Bagwell for hosting for our July meeting at the historic



*From left: Dr. Laurie Trenholm, UF/IFAS; Jan Beljan, Fazio Golf Design, Warren Zwanka, SJRWMD; Mike Thomas, FLDEP; Joel Jackson, FGCSA; Katherine Pordeli, SJRWMD and Bob Cook, Williamsburg Environmental reviewed the history and highlights of the new Golf BMP Manual for members of the North Florida GCSA. Also participating was John Wildmon, LCCC. Photo by Rip Phillips.*



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*New FGCSA Officers for 2007-08 are, from left: Secretary/Treasurer Bill Kistler, President Matt Taylor, CGCS and Vice President Shane Bass, CGCS. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

Westview CC. Seth Strickland won the President's Cup and then turned around and won the FTGA Golf Championship at Bonita Bay in September. Congrats to our team for winning the Jimmy Blackledge Trophy at the joint meeting at Boca West with the Palm Beach Chapter. Our next big event will be our October

charity event, the Missing & Exploited Children's Tournament at Colony West hosted by Dale Kuehner, CGCS.

**SUNCOAST:** September was a busy month for us with our Annual Pro/Superintendent/Supplier Tournament at Bill Tyde's Mission Valley CC a week after the FTGA Conference. The week after that we will be holding our 12th Annual Make a Wish Golf Tournament at Robby Robertson's Bird Bay G.C. On Nov. 4 we will host an outing to the NFL Tampa Bay Bucs vs. Arizona Cardinals game. Later in November (TBA) we will hold our meeting at the Gasparilla Inn on Boca Grande thanks to host Jeff Strother.

**TREASURE COAST:** Thanks to our successful fundraising efforts during the year, President John Curran is pleased to announce a \$5,000 donation to the FGCSA Research Account. Additionally our chapter is donating to the FGCSA Reception in honor of Marie Roberts.

**WEST COAST:** We are looking forward to our annual fall events like the Bud Quandt Tournament in October at the Tampa Palms G&CC, our monthly meeting at Isla del Sol in November and our Vendor Appreciation Day in December.

**FGCSA**

After a lot of recent questions about pending retirements of our FGCSA staff let's set the record

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straight. Marie Roberts is retiring from service at the state level. She will continue to serve both the Palm Beach and South Florida Chapters. As noted in Matt Taylor's President's Message, the FGCSA search committee narrowed down 42 resumes to four possible candidates and, after interviews in August, made an offer to Jennifer Innes. Jennifer resides in Jensen Beach a scant four miles from Marie. She will begin her formal training with Marie on Oct. 1. Jennifer attended the FTGA Conference in September to meet and greet members, vendors and other industry leaders.

At the same time Joel Jackson will assume the title of Executive Director of the



FGCSA directors for 2007-08, from left: Mark Kann, Kelly Cragin, Rip Phillips, John Curran, Tom Barnett, Nancy Miller, Gary Myers, CGCS and Wayne Kappauf, CGCS. Not pictured, Bob Wagner and Kevin Downing, CGCS. Photo by Joel Jackson

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*President Matt Taylor, CGCS checks in with Jennifer Innes and Marie Roberts at the FGCSA booth at the FTGA Trade Show. Jennifer is in training to replace Marie when she retires later this year. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

FGCSA. While Joel will still be focused on large-scale issues like government,

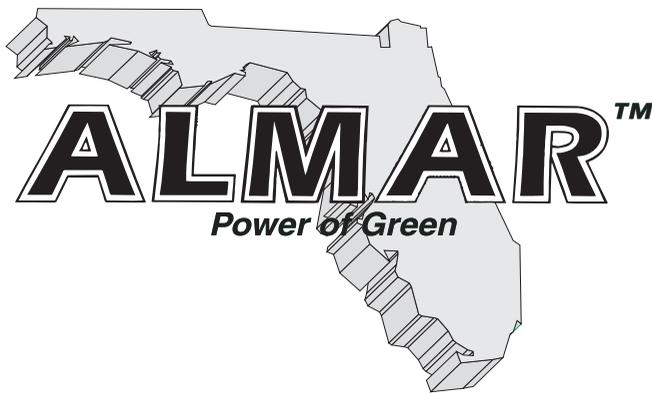
media, public and allied industry relations, he will also take a more active role

in internal affairs working with Jennifer and the board on publications, membership

growth, member and chapter services and non-dues revenue projects. So Joel is not retiring any time soon.

Please welcome the 2007-08 FGCSA officers and directors recently elected at the annual meeting Aug. 3 at Grand Cypress in Orlando: President Matt Taylor, CGCS; Vice President Shane Bass, CGCS and Secretary/Treasurer Bill Kistler (A). Shane and Bill will also serve as their chapters' external vice presidents and FGCSA directors.

Directors are Nancy Miller, Calusa; Gary Myers, CGCS, Central Florida; Shane Bass, CGCS, Coastal Plains; Wayne Kappauf, CGCS, Everglades; Rip Phillips, North Florida; Kevin Downing, Palm Beach;



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*FGCSA Association Manager Marie Roberts received a bouquet of flowers at the annual meeting from Tom Alex and Lisa McDowell of Grand Cypress in token of her service and likely her last FGCSA Board meeting at their conference center. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

Tom Barnett, Ridge; Mark Kann, Seven Rivers; Kelly Cragin, South Florida; Bob Wagner, Suncoast; John Curran, Treasure Coast and Bill Kistler, West Coast.

The FGCSA has donated \$500 to the Ag Institute of Florida's public relations campaign designed to survey and define the actual public perceptions about Florida's agriculture and green industries. After the data are gathered, talking points, written materials and public service messages will be created and disseminated to target audiences including the general public, lawmakers and the media. This initiative is being mounted to have an arsenal of prepared facts to not only defend against unfounded attacks on our industry but

to also do some positive pre-emptive education. All 12 FGCSA chapters have been asked to support this effort with small donations.

We'd like to thank those superintendents from various chapters who have attended recent county commission and water management district meetings to discuss local fertilizer ordinances and watering restrictions. By speaking up and presenting facts to counter unfounded allegations about golf course operations, these superintendents have helped bring common sense and fairness to the discussions. But we need more general managers and club members to get involved as citizens and community leaders to help guide public policy concerning natural resources and golf courses.



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**31ST ANNUAL CROWFOOT OPEN**

# Sizzling President Shoots Cool 70

It was a scorching hot day Aug. 4 when a full field of golfers teed it up on the North and East Nines at the Grand Cypress Golf Club in Orlando to contend for medalist honors and a spot on the FGCSA team in the GCSAA Golf Championship. There was also a two-man scramble event for those seeking more fun than glory. In the end most players wilted except Central Florida's own President Chris Cartin who carded a 2-under par 70 to beat his nearest competitor, Seth Strickland by six shots. Trailing Strickland's 76 was Jim Torba at 79 and Steve Wright with an 80.

In the Net Division, Dave Hoggard from Citrus Hills finished first with -3 in the Stableford points event. Top vendor was Gary Wilhelm with 78. Scramble team winners were Ryan and Jason Peters in the A Flight and Bobby "Darkside" Ellis and partner Travis Wellman in the B Flight.

Skillful golfers included "Atomic" Tommy Land, long drive winner and closest-to-the-pin winners Dale Dexter, Travis Wellman, Jeff Klontz and Mike Gwaltney.

On a more serious note, the Crowfoot Open Committee named Chuck Garrett from Florida Irrigation as the 2007 Larry Kamphaus Award Winner. The award is alternated between Central Florida chapter superintendent and supplier members and given in recognition to outstanding service to the chapter, the industry and community.



*Chris Cartin, superintendent of the Tuscowilla CC won the 2007 Crowfoot Open with a cool 70 on a sizzling hot day. Photo by Joel Jackson.*



*12-year old Robert Jennings shown here with his dad, T. J. Swaford, and brother, James Swaford, won the Sunday morning fishing contest. He not only caught the biggest fish, he caught the only fish. Photo by Joel Jackson.*



*From left: Tom Alex and Vilma Kamphaus congratulate Florida Irrigation's Chuck Garrett as the 2007 Larry Kamphaus Award recipient during the Crowfoot Reception Aug. 4 in Orlando. Photo by Joel Jackson.*



*Stephen Fox from the Ocean Reef Club in Key Largo, left, and host superintendent and Crowfoot Open Chairman Tom Alex teamed up to win the Sunday Shoot Out. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

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## PRESIDENTS AWARDS

# Chapters Honor Lifetime Service

## North Florida Chapter Says, 'Dwight Got It Right!'

In a career spanning 34 years so far, Dwight "Butch" Singo has been from Lake Placid to Jacksonville and a few stops in between. Singo began his career at the Sun 'N Lake Executive Golf Course in 1973 in Lake Placid. A few years later his company opened the Sun 'N Lake Resort of Sebring and Singo transferred to head up the new operation where he remained for four more years.

In 1979 Singo moved to Winter Springs to take over the Big Cypress Golf Club working with Dr. Harry Day. Big Cypress was originally the Devlin-Von Hagge course called Sheoah G.C.

Even in his early days Singo was volunteering and long before the Ridge Chapter was born, Singo commuted to the Orlando area to serve on the Central



*President Lon Chatfield proudly presents Dwight "Butch" Singo with a 2007 FGCSA President's Award for Lifetime Service at the chapter's annual meeting in Jacksonville for his 16 years of service to the North Florida GCSA.*

Florida GCSA Board of Directors beginning in 1975. Once in central Florida, Singo moved through the board and officer chairs to become chapter president in 1979.

In 1984 Singo went to work for Vigoro Industries. Who doesn't remember Par Ex products? Well maybe not the young whipper snappers. After nine years with Vigoro, Singo accepted a sales representative position with

Harrell's Inc. in 1993. He been there 14 years and Singo says he hopefully expects to retire from Harrell's.

Beside his tenure as an officer and board member of the Central Florida Chapter, Singo served on the Crowfoot Committee for approximately five years before becoming a commercial member and board member of the North Florida GCSA for the past 16 years. Singo has been handling chapter meeting

**Singo previously has been awarded the Larry Kamphaus and Jack Harrell Sr. Awards for Lifetime Service**

reservations for at least the past 12 years.

Singo's service has not gone unnoticed by his peers in the industry. In August 2005 he was given the Central Florida Crowfoot Open Larry Kamphaus Award; in December 2006 he was presented the Jack Harrell Sr. Lifetime Achievement Award; and this year the North Florida Chapter has presented him with the FGCSA President's Award for Lifetime Service.

A man's character and his actions tell the whole story. The quiet unassuming steady and dependable Butch Singo has been getting it right for a long time and his friends in the North Florida wanted to add their thanks and recognition for a job well done.

## Everglades Recognizes Durand's 4 Decades

*By Wayne Kappauf, CGCS*

On July 12, the Everglades GCSA held its annual meeting at Twin Eagles Country Club in

Naples. Long time FGCSA and Everglades member Steven Durand was given the FGCSA's Presidents Award for Lifetime Service.

Outgoing Everglades President Billy Davidson made the presentation and gave an emotional account of Durand's service to the industry and his own personal history with Steve.

Steve Durand has been

in the turf industry for over 30 years and has been a superintendent in four states and in four different decades. Originally from the Northeast,

Steve made his way to Florida in the 80's and never looked back.

Steve has experience from both sides of the superintendent's desk and is currently one of

**Now with Harrell's, Steve Durand has been a superintendent in four states over four different decades**

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*At the EGCSA Annual Meeting President Billy Davidson (left) paid tribute to veteran superintendent Steve Durand in his remarks and presented him with a 2007 FGCSA President's Award for Lifetime Service.*

Creek Country Club in Naples for 13 years. During this period he served on the Everglades Board of Directors and is a past president of the chapter.

Steve's wife Vicki attended the meeting and was thrilled to see her husband so warmly received by nearly a hundred of his peers and friends.

Steven Durand has made his mark on the golf course industry and we all know he had a great time doing it.

From all of us who have known and worked with Steve over the years we say, "Thank you for your service and friendship and congratulations on receiving the 2007 FGCSA's Presidents Award."



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**Photo by Daniel Zelazek**



## KINGSWAY COUNTRY CLUB

# Turning a Challenge Into an Opportunity

*By Joel Jackson, CGCS*

It is just a little over two years ago that Hurricane Charlie took dead aim on Punta Gorda and roared up Charlotte Harbor, gathering strength from the shallow warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico and the bay just before it slammed into the mainland.

Kingsway CC is located about a mile east of I-75 in Lake Suzy, off Kings Highway in Desoto County and only a couple of miles from where the Peace River flows into the upper bay. Many members live

on the course, while others live in nearby communities like Punta Gorda, Port Charlotte, Arcadia, and North Port.

Superintendent Ryan Willis, CGCS says that Kingsway CC was on the western edge of the 20-mile-wide eye-wall of the storm as it roughly followed U.S. Highway 17 northward on its destructive path across Florida on Friday the 13th in August, 2005. Acting more like a large tornado, the storm destroyed the Kingsway clubhouse facilities and conservatively more than 2,000 large trees and many smaller ones

as well.

The day after the storm, Willis couldn't access the property. He came back the next day and made his way through the debris, fired up the front-end loader tractor and began clearing a path so people could get into the property to begin damage assessments and basic cleanup.

Those early days of shock and awe have finally been replaced by more normal operations on a newly redesigned and renovated golf course and clubhouse. Recovery, rebuilding and rejuvenation have

## SUPERINTENDENT FACTS

## Ryan Willis, CGCS

**From:** Born in Newport News, Va. Grew up in Port Charlotte

**Family:** Wife Catrina. Son Taylor (5) and daughter Morgan (2)

**Education:** B.S. in Turf Management, University of Florida, 1995

**Employment:** 2003-present, superintendent Kingsway C.C.; 2002-03 superintendent (IGM) World Woods; 1998-2002 superintendent (IGM) Tarpon Springs G.C.; 1997-98 superintendent (IGM) Poinciana G. & R.C.; 1996-97 assistant superintendent (IGM) Palm Aire Spa & Resort; 1995-96 crew Gainesville G&CC; 1994-95 staff UF Dept. of Soil & Water Science.



*Ryan Willis, CGCS. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

**Professional Affiliations:** 13-year member of GCSAA. Certified in 2004. FGCSA member and 3 years on Calusa GCSA Board. Immediate Past President

**How did you get into the business?** I went to UF to study architecture and building construction. After the initial classes I realized I didn't like being inside all day hunched over a drafting table. I explored other options and discovered turf management and working on golf courses. After a few turf classes I got a job doing research project sampling at the horticulture unit. Soon after that I started working for Jeff Hayden and Buddy Keene at Gainesville G&CC. Jeff was a very big factor in getting me into the the business.

**Work philosophy and advice:** Lead by example. Don't be afraid to get sweaty and dirty. Document or die.

**Immediate goals:** I want to get our Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program back up and running post hurricane recovery. We have been naturalizing areas and have a long-range plan to re-forest them.

**Memorable moments:** It has to be the birth of my children.

**Hobbies:** Golfing, fishing (I jumped my first tarpon recently. Pretty exciting) and the Gators.

become a way of life. The members and employees can never go back completely to the way things were, but they can take pride in a new facility, better designed and equipped to prosper in the future growth of southwest Florida.

Restoration of the golf course to its original condition was not really an option. The pine woods that the course had been carved from by architect Ron Garl in 1976 were gone forever. The club could not afford to plant large tree specimens and neither did it make sense to install thousands of small caliber trees that would take decades to restore the course to its original character and appearance.

It was time for the club to assess its resources and create a vision for the future. It was time for decisive action in order to make lemonade out of the lemon that Mother Nature had just handed the members. A group of members led by Rocky Farhat, long-time resident and die-hard Kingsway booster, contacted Garl about coming back to renovate and redesign one of his early golf courses. Farhat said Garl was visibly emotional as he assessed the damage and discussed possible improvements to the course. After all, Kingsway was one of his babies.

Anyone who takes pride in his work and has labored long and hard on a piece of land and left his or her mark on it will always be tied to that property. It comes with the job. We all move on. It's inevitable. But we always have soft spots in our hearts for those courses we built or maintained. Garl signed on and a new Kingsway began to rise from the jumble of shattered tree trunks and broken branches.

With no stands of trees to define the routing as before, Garl suggested that the committee consider adopting some design features of notable courses that also didn't have many trees. The original Pine Valley golf course came to mind, so the addition of waste areas planted with native grasses became part of the new look to replace some of the former wooded areas left barren by the storm. Other improvements



*No. 12 is still the shortest par-four at 391 yards from the tips, but it is no pushover with a new full-length waste area left and strategic bunkering on the right and at the green. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.*

included new mounding and fairway contouring to enhance surface drainage and expanding several of the current lakes to store more irrigation water and enhance the shot options on some holes that no longer were dominated — or at

least influenced — by trees.

On my ride through the course, Willis recounted how much he had learned about shot values and strategy as Garl moved bunkers that once had merely paralleled the fairways to jut

them into the fairway to provide more risk-and-reward situations. New tees and bulkheading provided additional length and challenging shot-making decisions. The new design has five sets of tees and stretches from 5,100 to

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## COURSE FACTS



## Kingsway Country Club

**Location:** Lake Suzy

**Ownership:** Members Equity

**Playing Policy:** Members and guests

**Holes:** 18; 7,138 yds; Par 72; Slope/Rating: 142/75.2

**Designed by:** Ron Garl. Opened: 1976

**Management Team:** Club Manager: J. B. Belknap; Club President: Rocky Farhart; Green Chairman: Bill McDermott; Head Golf Professional: Jimmy Karr;

**Golf Course Superintendent:** Ryan Willis, CGCS

**Major renovations or ongoing projects:** Rebuild and redesign in 2005 by Ron Garl to repair damage from Hurricane Charley in 2004 and upgrade course playability, infrastructure and facilities.

**Total acreage:** 160; 110 under maintenance

Greens: TifEagle; avg. size 5,000 sq.ft.; 2.5 acres; HOC .110 - .140 in.; green speeds: 10+; No overseeding.

**Tees, Fairways and Roughs:** Tifway 419. No overseeding. Tees 4 A, HOC .500 in.; Fairways 30 A, HOC .500 in.; Roughs 60 A, HOC 1.25 in.

**Bunkers:** 64; Sand type GA26; machine raked.

**Natural areas:** 9 acres of crushed rock (250 mesh screening) waste areas with native plants and trees are machine-raked 3 times per week.

**Waterways:** 15 lakes and ponds, 18 acres. Monthly inspection and maintenance by Aquagenix.

**Irrigation water source:** Reclaimed water from Charlotte County; backup of two small supplemental wells capable only of watering greens. Flowtronex VFD pumping system. Toro Site Pro/Network 8000. Fertigation system.

**Water Management and Conservation practices:** Monitor and adjust run times daily in conjunction with weather station ET data. Hand water hot spots on greens.

**Wildlife Inventory:** Annual nesting and fledging of bald eagles, strolling sandhill cranes, alligators ambling across a fairway, great blue herons gulping down a fish, members wetting a line to catch and release huge fish from the lakes, and a host of wild birds and other small critters.

**Maintenance Staff:** Total including superintendent 14 (12 plus 2 part time); weekly budgeted hours 40 ST. Key staff specialists: Assistant Superintendent Scotty Helmig; Equipment Technician Paul Gesell; Pest Control Technician William Connelly; Irrigation Technician Norman LeBlanc

**Communications/meetings:** Daily check-in with Pro Shop. Monthly Green Committee meetings. Special crew meetings as needed.

**Special events:** Hosted PGA Charities tournament and will be hosting first round of Charlotte County Open in the fall. Hosted Calusa GCSA Annual Meeting.

7,100 yards for the enjoyment of golfers at all skill levels.

Kingsway CC is Willis' first head superintendent's position after spending eight years with the International Golf Management team, so he had plenty of seasoning before taking over the reins at Kingsway in 2003. Willis laughs now, but in his first major event that first year, a PGA section charity fundraiser, an irrigation blowout occurred in the back half of the third green putting surface. Willis and staff jumped through hoops to fill in the golf-cart-sized hole and remove nearly six inches of sand that caked the lower half of the green. The next year – Hurricane Charlie! What a welcome.

As noted before, things are almost back to normal, but the hurricane also did more than just knock down trees; it also had an impact on membership as some people defected or failed to renew during the recovery and rebuilding. Those who stayed and pitched in have been rewarded with a new layout that has a promising future in the competitive southwest Florida golf market.

Some of those residents who pitch in live along the course and help marshal the holes, generally cleaning up debris, picking up fallen limbs, filling divots and repairing ball marks. Each marshal is assigned two holes, and they also serve as an extra pair of eyes for Willis reporting unusual conditions, etc.

Willis sees progress as he learns how best to manage the new layout with the extensive waste areas. "We selected crushed coquina as the material for the waste areas for several reasons. It doesn't blow and drift like sand. It compacts and the waste areas can be used as cart traffic areas during wet conditions. Unlike sand, pinestraw or other mulch material the coquina is actually not a bad surface to play from. Weed intrusion is kept in check by cultivating the areas two or three times a week. However, we did take the tines of the bunker rakes to keep the material firm and playable."

"Since these are waste areas and not sand bunkers under the rules of golf," he said, "players can smooth away the

*We selected crushed coquina as the material for the waste areas for several reasons. It doesn't blow and drift like sand. It compacts and the waste areas can be used as cart traffic areas during wet conditions.*

stone chips behind the ball to allow for good clubhead contact. Now members are sometimes actually aiming for some waste areas to get more ball roll on a long hole or to avoid a more unforgiving water hazard."

While the waste areas were a good option and solution for the loss of so many trees, there is a master tree-planting plan to add trees where they make sense and when time and the budget allow. Willis wants also to experiment with wildflower beds in some of the now-bare out-of-play areas. If they are successful they will provide an appealing, colorful low-cost and low-maintenance solution. But right now Willis is concentrating on the critical "must-do" practices and adds the "nice-to-do" touches whenever he can.

Nematodes were one of the "must-dos" on the list, and long overdue because of the recovery effort. "We wanted to go with a Curfew application last year, but since it was getting late in the warm season, they suggested we wait to get the best timing and effect from the product and best bang for our buck. So we bit the bullet until this past spring and made the application, and I have to say the turf is looking the best it ever has. In the future we will be rotating the treated acreage annually to cover the most critical areas.

"We also had a bout with fairy ring last year that was hard to get under control. We had a green committee meeting and I brought in Todd Lowe from the Florida USGA Green Section along with a couple of graduate students in pathology from the University of Florida. It was probably one of the best committee meetings I



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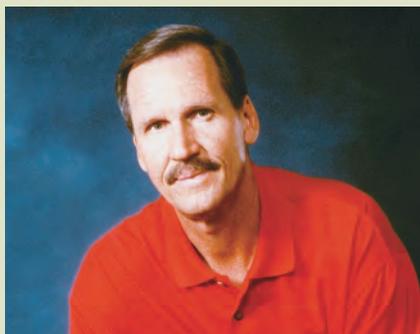
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*Ron Garl has designed 215 courses worldwide with 96 in Florida. Photo from Sylvia Garl.*

## Architect Goes Back to the Future

After Hurricane Charlie, Lakeland-based golf course architect Ron Garl was commissioned by a post-hurricane task force at Kingsway CC to put all the pieces back together and make a new, modern course out of the rubble. For Garl, it was going back to the future since he had designed the original layout back in 1976 and then he was asked to create a design for the future.

Garl also is a course owner, avid golfer and longtime member of the Florida Turfgrass Association. He appreciates that a course is a business that must return a profit and, as a golfer, he knows that good design and maintenance elements enhance and build golfer loyalty to a course. The challenge now was to come up with a design that would please the old members while attracting new ones.

Garl related the story of the resurrection of Kingsway during a lull in the International Network of Golf spring conference.

“The sheer magnitude of the power of the storm and its devastation to the golf course was unbelievable,” he said. “The majority of the trees on the course were gone and the resulting litter covered the whole course. With the clubhouse destroyed, and the whole region reeling from the effects of the storm, it was critical that someone take charge and lead the effort to decide

what the club was going to do. It literally became a battle for survival of the club and its members.

“They formed a task force and, utilizing the talents and specialties of various members, began to hammer out a path to recovery and created a timetable and strategic plan not only to rebuild the course and clubhouse, but to think ahead five to ten years and project what the club would be like. I was honored that they asked me to come back and help them revitalize the golf course with a design that would fit the altered setting and appeal to golfers of all skills.

“I suggested that since most of the hole-defining trees were destroyed, why not look at successful designs that didn’t depend on trees. Pine Valley and Fiddlesticks both used waste areas to help shape holes. We also expanded the lakes by five acres to provide fill to construct new tee complexes and fairway mounding. But first we needed a plan to clean up the golf course and at least get the doors open to give the members something play.

“We decided to clean up the greens first so we could perform basic maintenance and keep the turf alive. Then we would clear tees and fairways and move the large debris to the roughs for cutting up and removal. Finding a contractor at a reasonable price was a challenge since they were in demand. We struck a deal with one outfit that had the proper equipment to do the work with the minimal damage to the turf areas. We also had to work out an agreement with Charlotte County to pick up the debris if it were cut and tacked along the county road at the entrance. I have to say they were great to work with.

“The new look of the golf course required replacing and repositioning bunkers and creating waste areas to offer shot-making options all the while incorporating existing features and the remaining stands of trees. We also created a total tree plan — including type, size and location — that the club could execute as funds became

available.

“The redesign allowed us to make improvements to the irrigation and drainage systems. Technology has changed dramatically in recent years and Kingsway needed to upgrade to be competitive. This opportunity allowed us to improve weaker holes like No. 12, a short par-4 by today’s standards. We added a new back tee, which makes the hole more challenging with the new bunker and waste area complexes.

“During the whole process Ryan Willis, the superintendent, was helping to guide the clean-up and keep the turf alive. He’s a great young superintendent who had to reorganize and revitalize his crew to face the challenges. The members certainly appreciated the efforts to get the course back into playing condition.

“Keep in mind all this recovery work began without power for several weeks. Insurance companies weren’t easy to deal with either, with all the chaos in the region. But I give a lot of credit to the members who decided to turn this disaster into an opportunity to modernize the club. With Rocky Farhat leading the charge, they made timely decisions to get equipment and services they needed to get the project under way and stay on track. This committee put in thousands of hours hashing out details and decisions, and getting permits and equipment. They all stepped up. It was great to see how much they cared for their golf course.”



*In appreciation for Garl’s innovative redesign at Kingsway, the members dubbed the entrance road “Ron Garl Lane.” Photo by Joel Jackson.*

have ever had. They were able to explain the total situation from the stresses and causes to the solutions including cultural needs control costs.

“We make pre-emergent herbicide applications with fertilizer in the early spring and late fall to control weeds. Like most courses we spot treat any weeds that do emerge. We also combine fertilizer with our mole cricket control application in late spring.

“I really appreciate that the members realized from that meeting that we haven’t been in a normal maintenance mode for several years as we have been making a comeback from mass destruction.

“Before the storms we had a good reputation for competitive greens and our goal is to have the best greens, tees and fairways in the area. To achieve that goal we are exploring revenue options of opening up for outside play and charity events. This time of year most clubs have “reciprocal season”



*A snapshot of a few of the 2,500 large trees that were destroyed. More trees have died due to internal damage from twisting in the wind. The oak at 17 tee is lying 90 degrees to the large pine in the background showing the wind shift as the eye of the storm moved through. Photo by Ryan Willis.*

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*Thanks to five sets of tees, the par-3, 13th hole can play from a respectable 147 yards to a challenging 246 yards from the back tees. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.*



*Here's another Fun Fact: Willis says members intentionally hit into the crushed coquina waste areas for more ball roll and legally improved lies. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

**FUN FACTS**

***The Wild, Wild Willis***

- 1. Vehicle:** 1995 Ford Ranger Work Truck
- 2. Last good movie I saw:** Deja Vu
- 3. I stay home to watch:** Any UF Gator sporting event
- 4. The book I've been reading:** The Boys From Old Florida, The Gator Nation by Buddy Martin
- 5. Favorite meal:** Pizza
- 6. Favorite performers:** Jimmy Buffet and Drivin' and Cryin'
- 7. Prized possessions:** My children
- 8. Personal Heroes:** My parents for supporting me in everything
- 9. The one thing I can't stand:** People who talk down to you like you are stupid

- 10. Nobody knows that I:** Hate to lose
- 11. I'm better than anyone when it comes to:** Not catching fish
- 12. I'd give anything to meet:** Urban Meyer
- 13. If I could do it over:** I would not change a thing
- 14. My fantasy is:** Win the lottery and spend my time golfing and fishing
- 15. If I could change one thing about myself:** I'd lose weight
- 16. My most irrational act:** Was thinking I could do it all myself
- 17. Most humbling experience:** Birth of my children
- 17. Words that best describe me:** Hard working and dedicated
- 18. My best fish story:** Still working on that one

where members from area clubs can play each others' courses. We want to generate more traffic so area golfers can see we are back and in good shape. We have hosted the Calusa GCSA annual meeting the last two years and the club will also host the first round of the Charlotte County Open this fall."

While touring the new clubhouse facility, head pro J. B. Belknap and club president Rocky Farhat chimed in that they wanted the green speeds at 12 as part of their quest to have the best greens in the area to help draw more play. I didn't see them wink, but they were smiling as they also gave Willis kudos for the progress made since Charlie.

On the course data form sent to all cover story courses, Willis put down 10-plus as the green speed goals, so these folks are serious about being competitive. To achieve those speeds Willis has turned to more rolling of the greens while adjusting the height of cut between .110 to .140 inches depending on the weather conditions. "We have been able to keep the turf healthier and keep the speeds up by rolling," he said.

I asked Willis if there were any other built-in challenges with the site itself.

"The course does have a few muck pockets with No. 14 being the worst when we get lots of rain, but we deal with it and install drainage where we can. Managing our lake levels is also something we are quite aware of since we store reclaimed irrigation water and it mixes with stormwater. By expanding the lake acreage during the renovation to supply fill for the additional tees and



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*The new bulkhead on No. 6 is evidence of the five acre expansion in lake area to generate fill for the new mounding and to store more irrigation water. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.*

mounding, it has helped store more water. We do need to look at some lake banks in the future to prevent undercutting when the lake levels rise and fall.”

I asked Willis what were the

biggest challenges facing today’s superintendents in the industry overall.

“You hear people say about our jobs that growing grass is the easy part, and it’s true. I think the biggest challenge is finding really good people. Finding

people that you can build and coach into a core group of reliable crew members. Managing, organizing and communicating effectively with them is vital. No less important is being able to communicate and work with the whole

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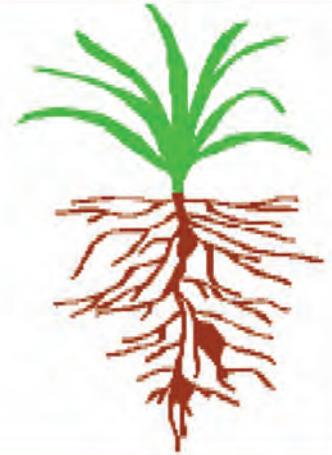
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*Kingsway doesn't have wall-to-wall cart paths, so this new waste area on the 5th hole serves a dual purpose as hazard and cart path. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.*



*Working together to create the best playing conditions and amiable atmosphere for members are, from left, head golf professional J. B. Belknap, club president Rocky Farhat and superintendent Ryan Willis, CGCS. Photo by Joel Jackson*

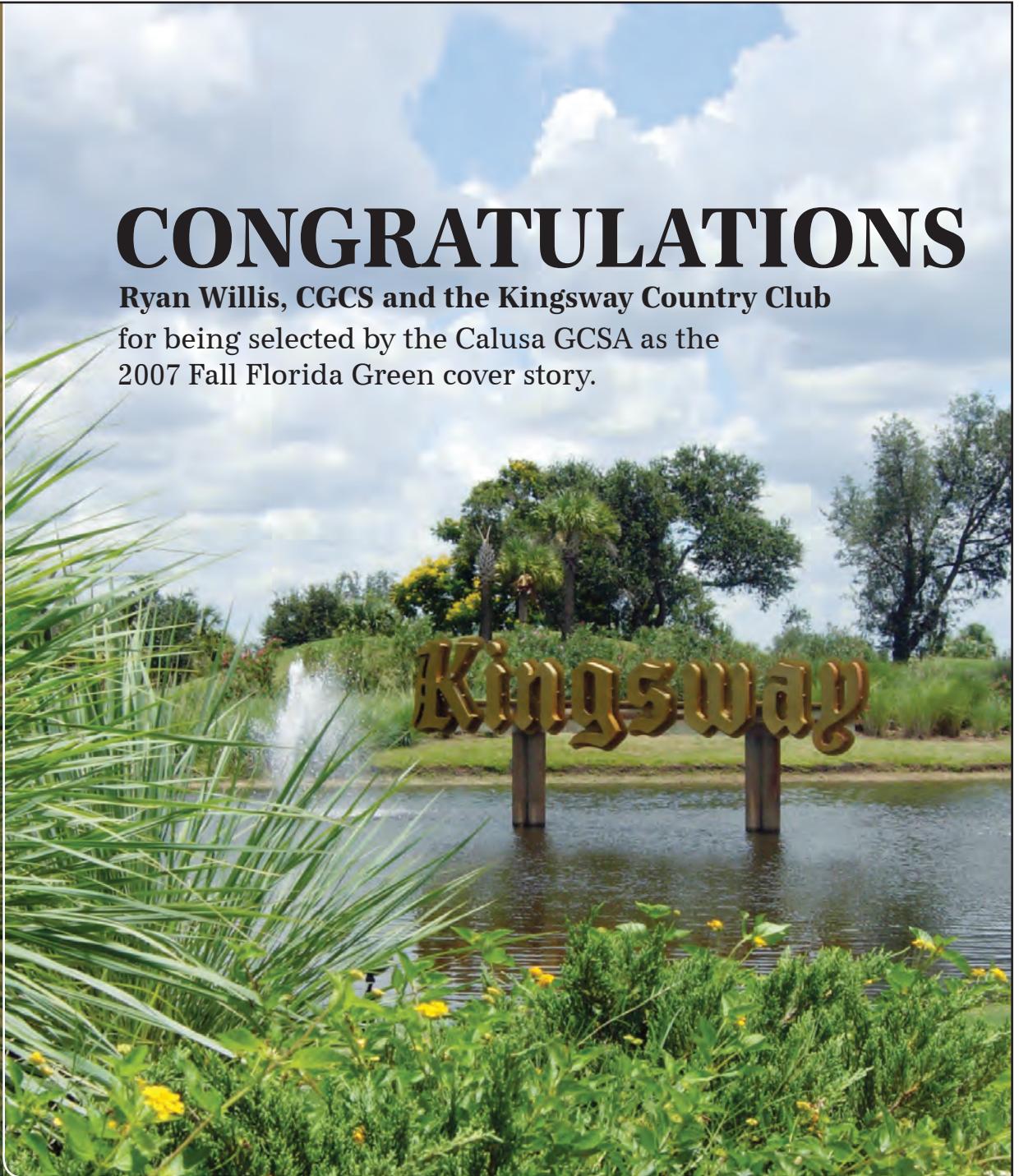
management/ownership team and the members on committees and general members as well.

“The labor market around here is just beginning to improve again now that the housing construction has slowed down, but finding good quality people can be a challenge. On the other side of the chain of command, I am playing golf once a month with the men’s association. I am only a bogey golfer, but I can’t imagine a superintendent not playing golf. It has helped me get a different perspective on playing conditions on the course and the vision and expectations of the players.”

Kingsway Country Club has come a long way since the devastation of Hurricane Charlie to fulfill the vision of a better golf club with the hard work and leadership of a lot of people. People who turned the challenge of destruction into an opportunity to rebuild for the future.

# CONGRATULATIONS

**Ryan Willis, CGCS and the Kingsway Country Club**  
for being selected by the Calusa GCSA as the  
2007 Fall Florida Green cover story.



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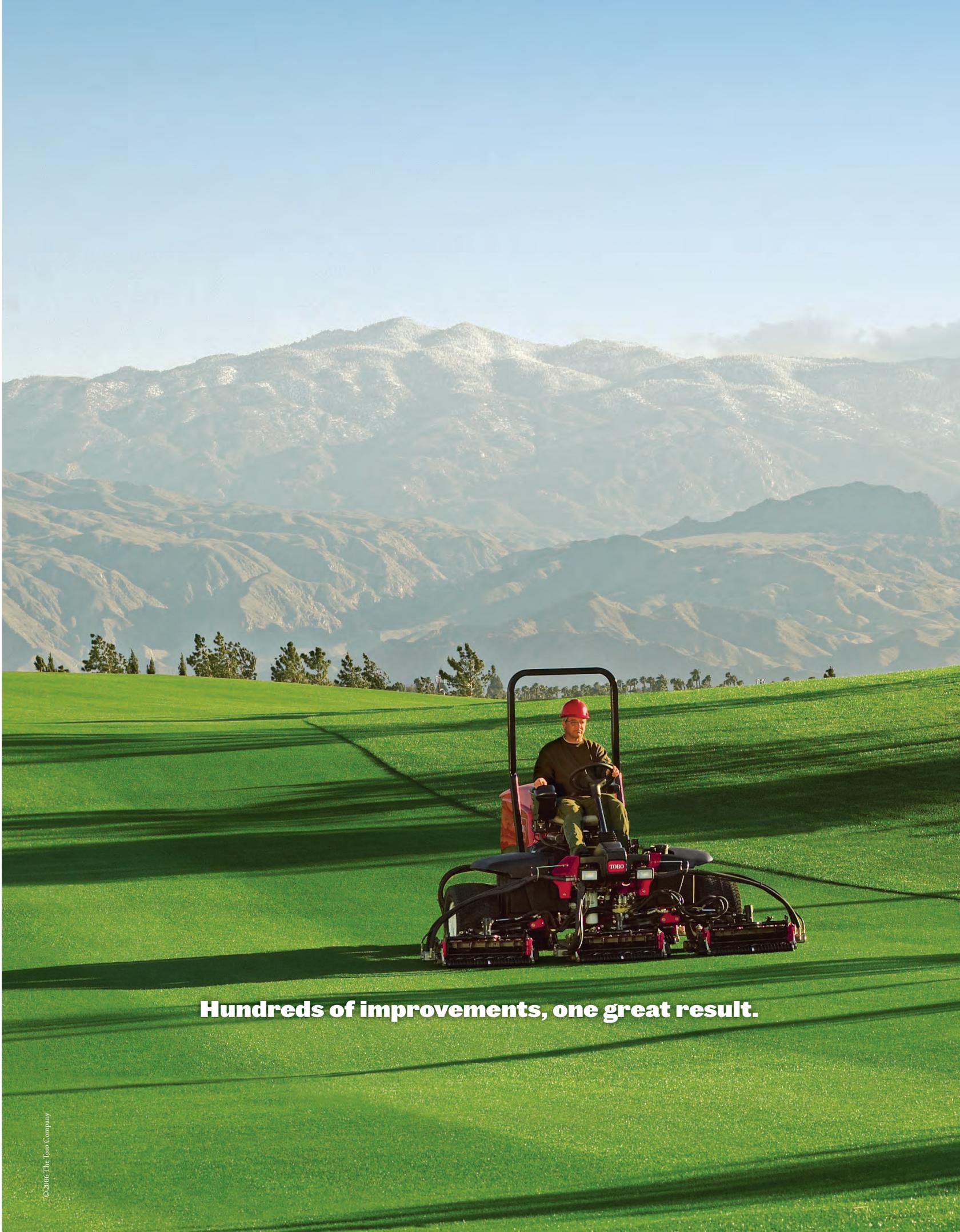
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# Managing Turf in the Golf Season

By Joel Jackson, CGCS

We are blessed or cursed with year-round growing conditions. While many northern clubs shut their doors during the winter season, we get to look forward to a busy golf season during our cooler months. Meanwhile, our native turf either keeps growing or, in north Florida, we sow seeds to grow a winter crop of cool-season grass if our turf goes dormant. In any case the turf must be managed to provide acceptable playing conditions while keeping any disruptions to the playing surfaces to a bare minimum.

In the summer months, it is usually easy to find time to close the course or at least nine holes to schedule some needed — but also disruptive — cultural practices like aerifying, verticutting and top dressing. In the money-making winter months, with all the increased traffic and often less-than-ideal growing conditions, we still need to do those same practices, but closing the course may not be an option. Certainly any procedure that detracts from suitable playing conditions for days on end is becoming even more unacceptable.

But thanks to improved equipment and products, flexibility and cooperation among the superintendent, pro shop and golfers, healthy turf and minimal effect to playing conditions is being achieved. Here are some tips and ideas from around the state on how to manage your turf during the busy golf season.

## **PUBLIC COURSE: WINTER PINES GOLF CLUB, WINTER PARK**

Really we are busy year round thanks to our moderate prices and loyal customers, but play does pick up from Thanksgiving to Christmas — when it starts to cool off — and from January to May, we are wall-to-wall golfers. When it gets that busy, we don't have lots of bells and whistles that our six-man crew can employ to



*Superintendents must adjust maintenance practices in the busy winter golf season to keep the turf healthy and golfers happy. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

groom the golf course, so we settled on some basic practices that produce results for our needs.

After we overseed in November and the *Poa trivialis* is established, we attach brushes to our Cushman spiker for a once-a-week grooming of the greens. After January we begin aerifying one a month with 1/4-inch solid tines on a tractor-mounted Mustang Verti-Drain machine with heavy rollers. We use that set up on our push-up greens followed by a cleanup cut. Because we can't go as often as we sometimes need, we are considering testing 3/8- or 5/16-inch tines to see if we get longer compaction relief. On our new greens we use a Sysis slicer, which does a great job of relieving compact with little surface disruption. Again we do a cleanup cut behind the Sysis.

Whatever machine we are using, we start at 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning and go as far as we can with the greens and collar mowers behind us cleaning

up. It usually takes two mornings, Monday and Tuesday. We double-cut greens twice a week regardless during the cool season as a matter of regular maintenance.

Our only topdressing takes place after the three or four major aerifications and none during the cool golf season. Fertility during this time is also all foliar with approximately half of nitrogen going out with minors every two to three weeks depending on appearance and performance.

Joe Ondo, CGCS

## **PUBLIC COURSE: STONEYBROOK GOLF CLUB, ESTERO**

Performing cultural practices on our greens during peak winter season at Stoneybrook is a definite challenge. We are a public facility, so our first tee time is 7 a.m., with most practices done in front of play.

I subcontract a pencil-tine aerification. They have the equipment

and manpower to do this with enough speed to stay ahead of play. When we lightly verticut and topdress, we will do nine holes a day. We do the back nine first, then start play on No. 10 the following day while we complete the front nine. This system has worked well for us, with few complaints. Fertilization is almost 100 percent foliar and ahead of play. We will do a granular 0-0-22 applications ahead of play once a month and water it in.

*Matthew Nieder, GCS*

**RESORT COURSE: RITZ CARLTON GOLF CLUB, GRANDE LAKES, ORLANDO**

We do not overseed anything on the golf course. We use fertigation to help keep overall color. We also lighten up on the intensity and frequency of our cultural practices, performing only light grooming, brushing, and topdressing on greens during the winter.

In the late winter and early spring, we needle-tine or hydroject to help reduce compaction from the traffic. We continually foliar feed to stimulate growth. During the winter, when needed, we will use turf paint to keep color, usually four to five applications per winter.

The obvious major benefits of our approach in prime golf season: No down time for seedbed preparation or seeding; no saturated conditions to germinate seed; and no over-watering during any warm spells during fall or winter. Normally we can maintain very good putting conditions October thru June when overseeding can pose many issues.

*Andy Ragsdale, GCS*

**PRIVATE CLUB: ROYAL POINCIANA GOLF CLUB, NAPLES**

Each Monday during the season we close the first hole on one 18 (We

are lucky to have 36) at 1 p.m., and keep that course closed the rest of the day. We get behind the last group and lightly verticut with a triplex, topdress lightly, carpet drag, spike with a sand pro/spiker and then add whatever amendments we are scheduled for.

The next day we have Ladies Day and we always have them play the course that did not get top-dressed. The men who play the verticut course do not seem to mind. They are used to it and, because we keep up with the thatch/mat, we do not have to go as aggressively. On the course that was top-dressed we mow the greens for the next two days with a Triplex so we do not trash out our walkers and save a little on labor; we use that labor to mow the other course prior to the ladies shotgun.

Years ago we started to use Ideal sand, which is very fine, during the winter months. It brushes in easier and does not cause issues days later.

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*Michael J. Kyle*  
 Superintendent, Quality Inn Suites and Golf Resort, Naples, FL

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## Get the Habit of Communicating



By Darren J. Davis

In keeping with the theme of my most recent Super Tips, “A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words” - Spring 2007 and “Words that Stick” - Summer 2007 the following tip addresses an employer/employee communication issue.

An excellent communicator himself, the ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle taught, “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.” As all golf course superintendents are aware, instilling good habits or breaking bad habits in employees can often be a challenge. However, repetition is one of the keys to success and the following tip has been beneficial in the training and/or retraining of crew members in our operation.

The idea originated last year at the height of our busy winter golfing season. It was then that I worked with my counterpart in the pro shop to develop a series of messages aimed at educating the golfing membership on basic course etiquette. The messages were displayed in the information holders routinely mounted in golf cars. During the process a “light bulb went off in my head” and I asked myself - if

repetitive messages to the membership are beneficial, why wouldn't the same approach work on my crew?

I located the “Hard Plastic Information Holder” through Club Car (Club Car part No. 101808302) for approximately \$24 each. We determined that, on our Carryall Turf 252 utility vehicles, the best location to mount the information holder was on the dash just above the ignition key switch. The mounting bracket was secured in this location using two stainless steel sheet metal screws. Thumbscrews on the mounting bracket are then used to affix the clear holder. The thumbscrews enable quick installation and removal of the holder.

On one side of the information holder is an opening that accepts a standard 8-1/2 by 11-inch piece of paper cut or folded in half. The crew message that we display is usually changed weekly, and has included topics such as; keeping utility vehicles on cart paths, a reminder on hand-pulling weeds, safety items or concerns, motivational sayings, etc. You are truly limited only by your imagination on what can be displayed.

My assistants and I also use the information holders for our personal benefit. For example, I use the information holder in my vehicle as a “cheat sheet” for the hand-held radio commands for the irrigation system.

During a busy, hectic day, we all need reminders to get certain things done. This is one tool you might use to provide that extra communication when you can't get around to see everyone.



Since we aggressively aerify in the summer months we have not seen an issue with layering of sands. The course that has the off week is spiked on Monday morning ahead of the mowers, which causes little if any disruption.

In addition to the spiking on the course that is not being verticut, we also groom and/or brush during the week as needed. You can only really do this on the off weeks from verticutting or you will pull up sand.

Since getting on a 52-week Primo

program and the use of brushes, we have really been able to take the greens to a consistent level without peaks and valleys usually caused by fertilizer applications. We have also been able to keep the HOC up during most times of the year.

*Matt Taylor, CGCS*

### PRIVATE CLUB: SHADOW WOOD COUNTRY CLUB, NAPLES

We set up our event schedule during the height of our season at

Shadow Wood Country Club to provide for both member play and adequate maintenance time. Shadow Wood has 36 holes at our main facility, and 18 holes approximately 5 miles north of the 36-hole complex.

Starting in January, our offsite facility has an 8:30 shotgun every Monday. We are able to close this golf course following the morning shotgun every week. Our weekly men's and ladies' events are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and also are 8:30 shotguns.

We are also able to close these

golf courses during the afternoon, following these events. These closures are imperative to our success, because — other than these shotgun events — we do a 1 and 10 tee start on each course every day. During most of these closures, we are flexible enough to allow for several additional tee times if needed.

This all is dependent on what projects we are trying to accomplish. For example, if we are attempting to mow our rough, we can still allow 4 to 5 groups to go off No. 1. We start mowing No. 10 forward, and by the time we make the turn, the groups on the front are far enough along that we never run into each other.

If we are verticutting or topdressing greens, or applying fertilizers, we do not allow any groups to go off following the application for two important reasons:

The first is to avoid subjecting

our members to a lack of uniform playability due to the topdressing or verticutting process.

Second, we are able to make our material applications and water them in appropriately, minimizing any contact with our golfers. This is both for the safety of our members, as well as eliminating any opportunity for tip burn associated with driving a golf cart over the fertilizer before it is adequately watered in.

We do a tremendous volume of play at Shadow Wood, as much as any private club in our area.

Through a great relationship with our members, who understand what it takes to provide quality conditioning, and our Golf Staff, and Club Management, we are able to maintain healthy turf and provide consistent playing conditions and adequate availability of golf.

*Kenyon Kyle, CGCS*

**PRIVATE/EQUITY CLUB: GATEWAY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, FT. MYERS**

We have a two-hour gap in tee times every Monday from noon until 2:00 p.m. This is consistent Oct. 1 through April 30. The rest of the year we are closed on Monday as are many clubs. During the two-hour gap in tee times, we lightly topdress, brush and apply granular K religiously and lightly water-in. It is easy for us to stay in the time slot following the noon group around and finishing in about four and a half hours

During the winter season we do many different cultural practices.

We use pencil tines often, at least monthly, and walk-mow right behind it, then roll. The holes are virtually undetectable. About three days a week we use the brush attachments on our walkers. We have been using vibratory rollers for a couple of years with excellent results. We roll three times per week, occasionally more.

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At Gateway, we rarely verticut in the winter. (I can see the raised eyebrows now!) We get very aggressive in summer, and with weekly topdressing and brushing we find that grain is a non-issue for us.

Our Tifeagle greens are very good here. We are quite blessed. In fact we often get comments about the surfaces being too fast. This winter we are going to see how a height of cut at .130 does for us. Last year we maintained green speed around 11 to 11.5, and often quicker, on the Stimpmeter while mowing at .120.

*Jim Phelps, GCS*

**PRIVATE: QUAIL CREEK COUNTRY CLUB, NAPLES**

We have a pretty simple approach to our greens management during season. Every other week we try to topdress and fertilize with half a pound of N and 10 pounds of

Dolomite per 1,000 sq.ft., and spray a foliar fertilizer including Primo® weekly with a nice selection of minors.

We really do not get too much into verticutting after Sept. 1, but will do so in March when the weather heats up.

We do use groomers often when the grass is actively growing, which helps to keep us from having to verticut when the weather isn't prime. I used to use brushes before I had groomers on all my walk mowers but thought the brushes had a tendency to bounce when they became worn.

I make it a point to Hydroject all my greens one time per month from October to April and throw in a pencil-tine aerification in January for good measure. I also try to get in a soil flush each month heavily with a calcium product and a wetting agent. Last year I started using a product called Terrox (now the name has

changed to Agriox). It is a calcium peroxide powder that gives off oxygen as it dissolves.

We had a great year with really no bad areas on any greens and had to do very little hand watering. I made a comment to my irrigation manager last spring that I was pleased with the number of small projects he was able to complete last season and he indicated it was largely due to the extra time they had because they were not hand watering all morning every day.

I generally try to stay on a preventive fungicide program splitting applications between a contact and a systemic every two weeks. Last year was a bit different. We were hit so hard with leaf spot I sprayed almost weekly, more fungicide than I have ever sprayed before.

*Dave Fenton, GCS*

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# 55th Annual Show Completes FTGA's Estero Run

**'Greatest Show on Turf' Moves to PGA National in Palm Beach Gardens Sept. 16-19, 2008**

By Joel Jackson, CGCS (Ret.)

There at the podium during the 2007 Awards Luncheon stood Ralph White, senior statesman of the FTGA. I met White when he worked for Southern Turf Nurseries when I was just a high school kid working a summer job on the Apollo Beach Golf Course near Tampa. Now, 47 years later, we have been colleagues in this great industry. White said he had missed only two of the 55 conferences over the years. He commented on past leaders and future generations of the turf industry in his impromptu remarks. He also lauded the FTGA for its trend of inclusion to make sure all sectors of the turfgrass industry are being represented on the board of directors. He praised the FTGA on its vision and direction.

This was the FTGA's last meeting at the Hyatt Coconut Point in Estero for awhile. Next year, the conference



*New 2007-08 FTGA Officers open Trade Show. From left: Secretary/Treasurer Greg Pheneger, Vice President Todd Himmelberger, President Darren Davis, Executive Director Casey Wohl Pace and Immediate Past President Jay McCord. Photo courtesy of The Marketplace.*

moves to the PGA National Resort in Palm Beach Gardens. The dates are Sept. 16-19. The FTGA is trying to serve its members by making the education and networking accessible to as many members as possible.

This year the conference started off with some fun events — the fishing and golf tournaments. This year the golf tournament had special meaning for FGCSA members as the winner of the individual low gross event automatically gains a spot on the FGCSA's golf team to compete in the GCSAA National Golf Championship in Orlando in January. Seth Strickland from the South Florida GCSA and Miami Shores CC took home the trophy.

For those not playing golf, workshops and pesticide license classes filled the day Wednesday leading up to the annual Toro Corn Boil steak dinner that evening prepared by Wiley McCall and company from Environmental Turf. The rains held off and everyone ate his fill.

Thursday morning was full of concurrent education sessions for every sector of the turf industry. At the Awards Luncheon, former NFL All-Pro quarterback Jim Hart, now a Southwest Florida resident, entertained the crowd with a recap of his career and life experience from a "right time – right



*FTGA President Jay McCord (left) presents Roy Bates with the 2007 Wreath of Grass Award for Lifetime Service to the FTGA during the Awards Luncheon at the 2007 FTGA Conference and Show in Estero, FL. Photo courtesy of The Marketplace.*



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*After his keynote address at the 2007 FTGA Awards Luncheon, All-Pro Quarterback Jim Hart spent an hour at the Trade Show signing autographs and chatting with NFL fans. Photo courtesy of Leading Edge Communications.*

place” perspective. Then the new FTGA officers and directors were installed, scholarships were awarded and Roy Bates received the Wreath of Grass Award after a friendly roasting from his longtime pal, Jerry Redden.

For me and the FGCSA, our new association manager, Jennifer Innes, made her public debut at our booth at the trade show and met lots of our members and other key industry folks. We made several promising advertising contacts for the Florida Green and got a chance to touch base with Hannes Combest from GCSAA as the national group fulfills its mission to be a solid resource for chapters and members to succeed. I met more turf industry professionals from other sectors such as parks and recreation and sports turf, which bodes well for the FTGA and for our united turf interests and issues in the state.



*Seth Strickland won the 2007 FTGA Golf Tournament at Bonita Bay West and a place on the FGCSA Golf Team for the GCSAA National Championships in Orlando in 2008. Photo by Joel Jackson.*



*From left: During the Trade Show in Estero, Dale Mitchell and Richard Coyler from Golf Agronomic Supply and Handling presented President Darren Davis with a \$3,000 donation for the FTGA Research Foundation. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

# No-Till TifEagle is Landing



## No-Till Renovation vs. Conventional Reconstruction

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# UF Turfgrass Faculty Back to Full Strength

## Former Extension Agent to Teach and Conduct Research in Golf and Sports Turf Management

GAINESVILLE – The University of Florida environmental horticulture department has hired Jason Dettman-Kruse as a turfgrass science assistant professor. Beginning August, he has been teaching several hands-on courses to Gainesville students and starting his research program on athletic fields.

Students in Dettman-Kruse's undergraduate courses will be using the Turfgrass Envirotron on campus and the Turfgrass Research Unit in Citra. In these facilities, students get to practice hands-on management of turf, including irrigation, mowing, topdressing, overseeding, and fertilization. He is also team-teaching a Landscape and Turfgrass Management class.

"Having worked in both the industry and as an Extension educator, I recognize the value of hands-on learning opportunities," said Dettman-Kruse. "I look forward to working with my colleagues and the industry across the state to help establish the Golf and Sports Turf Management Program at the University of Florida as one of the best in the nation."

Dettman-Kruse comes to UF/IFAS



*Dr. Jason Dettman-Kruse is the newest addition to the UF Environmental Horticulture Dept. He will specialize in sports turf management and will focus on developing students in all phases of turfgrass science.*

from the University of Wisconsin's Extension program, where he worked as an educator for the commercial horticulture industry. There he developed and taught curricula to Wisconsin's green industry on turfgrass identification, weed control, spreader calibration and pesticide application.

Dettman-Kruse received his B.S. in crop science from the University of Idaho, his native state. He earned

an M.S. in soil and water science at UF, studying the management of ultradwarf bermudagrasses, and a Ph.D. from Iowa State University. His research at Iowa involved the use of remote sensing systems in nutrient and water resources management.

Research will be a priority for Dettman-Kruse in his new position as well. His research program will focus on the management of athletic fields as related to player safety and site-specific management of soil and water resources in urban turfgrass systems.

"Turfgrass beautifies our environment and protects against injuries during athletic activities, while working to filter our air and water resources," said Dettman-Kruse. "My teaching philosophy is focused on creating a learning environment that combines traditional classroom and laboratory experience with a variety of hands-on learning activities and on-the-job training. Students successfully completing the Golf and Sports Turf Management program at the University of Florida will leave with the education and experience necessary to be successful turfgrass managers and good stewards of the environment."

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *Dr. Dettman-Kruse essentially replaces the position vacated by Dr. Grady Miller. We were lucky to fill the position before the recent budget cuts necessitated a university wide hiring freeze.*

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– Current Toro/John Deere Customer

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**2007 PLANTS OF THE YEAR**

The exotic Cardboard Palm wraps up our review of the 2007 Plants of the Year selections. These plants are selected annually by a panel who look for their native ability to exist in Florida's three geographic zones.

**Zamia maritima** (formerly *furfuracea*)

**Common Name:** Cardboard Palm

**Zones:** North protected areas, Central & South

**Mature Height and Spread:** 3.5 x 4-6 ft.

**Classification:** Cycad

**Landscape Use:** Specimen, foundation planting, container

**Characteristics:** Exotic-looking seed cones surrounded by tough green fronds arise through the green, cardboard-like fronds making this plant a standout in the landscape. New growth appears as light olive above the mature dark green leaves. This cycad is drought tolerant and also tolerates neglect well. Its use adds a tropical flair to virtually any landscape. It is exceptionally salt tolerant and tough, making it ideal for use in coastal regions.

**Possible Insect/Disease Problems:** Occasional scale or mealybug

**Propagation:** by seed



*Exotic-looking seed cones surrounded by tough green fronds arise through the green, cardboard-like fronds...*



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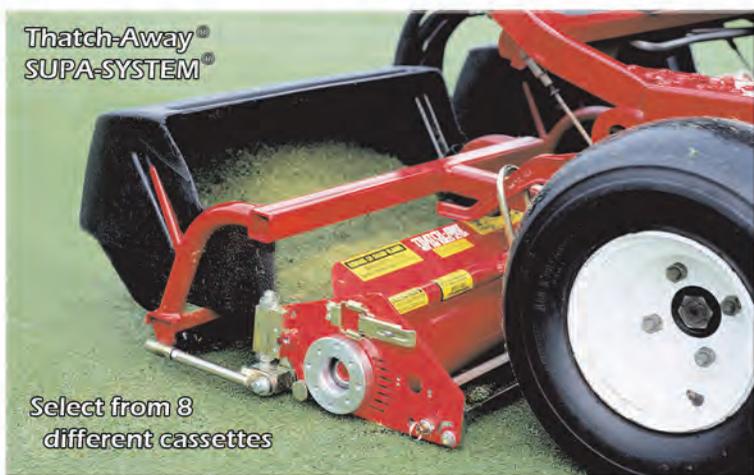


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*It is interesting to note that no pathogens were found in many samples sent to the clinic. This result can be frustrating for a golf course superintendent who suffers turf damage or loss that is not caused by a pathogen.*

## Top Ten Florida 'Diseases'

By Todd Lowe

The University of Florida Disease Diagnostic Clinic was revamped last year, under the guidance of Dr. Phil Harmon, to provide golf courses with a Rapid Turf Diagnosis disease service for turfgrass managers. The new service has been a value to the golf course industry in our region, as it provides reliable and timely disease diagnoses and management suggestions. In its first year, the laboratory received 165 samples and has received 61 samples as of April this year. The results from those samples yielded the following results:

| <u>Disease</u>                    | <u>Samples 2006</u> | <u>Samples 2007</u> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| no pathogen.....                  | 42 .....            | 10                  |
| Pythium Root Rot.....             | 35 .....            | 7                   |
| Rhizoctonia Lear/Sheeat Spot..... | 18 .....            | 2                   |
| Bermudagrass Decline.....         | 17 .....            | 3                   |
| Pythium Blight.....               | 16 .....            | 16                  |
| Fairy Ring .....                  | 13 .....            | 0                   |
| Brown Patch.....                  | 12 .....            | 3                   |
| Dollar Spot .....                 | 9 .....             | 3                   |
| Take-All Root Rot .....           | 8 .....             | 0                   |
| Bipolaris Leaf Spot .....         | 5 .....             | 4                   |
| Anaerobic Soil.....               | 3 .....             | 0                   |

Other pathogens found included Nigrospora blight, Rhizoctonia circinata brown ring patch, Limonomyces pink patch, Fusarium blight, Michrodochium patch, gray leaf spot

It is interesting to note that no pathogens were found in many samples sent to the clinic. This result can be frustrating for a golf course superintendent who suffers turf damage or loss that is not caused by a pathogen. Samples are sometimes submitted following fungicide treatments, which can provide a false diagnosis. Oftentimes, other environmental, mechanical, chemical or climatic factors cause the damage and the problem cannot be easily fixed with a fungicide treatment.

A disease laboratory technician cannot determine whether turf loss occurred because of trees surrounding the putting green, improper drainage, or mechanic/climatic stress. Such factors can easily cause turf damage without the presence of pathogens and it may be necessary to conduct a Turfgrass Advisory Service visit by a qualified agronomist to assess the putting greens.

The clinic also provides updates on turfgrass diseases throughout the region. Dr. Harmon and associates also are receiving research funds from the USGA to study diseases on seashore paspalum. We appreciate the value that the University of Florida provides the turfgrass industry and the game of golf.

Updates on turfgrass diseases can be found at  
[http://turfpth.ifas.ufl.edu/turfgrass/rapiddiag\\_disease.shtml](http://turfpth.ifas.ufl.edu/turfgrass/rapiddiag_disease.shtml)



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## ANALYSIS

## Critical Flaws in MeBr Critical-Use Exemption Process

By Joel Jackson

The phase-out of methyl bromide (MeBr) has been decreed by the international Montreal Protocol signed by the USA in 1987. Under the agreement, critical-use exemptions (CUE) would be granted for commodities that could show critical need, no viable alternatives and market disruption if MeBr were not available.

Originally, golf courses and sod production were granted a CUE. Subsequent applications have been denied. The science and data haven't changed but EPA's position has.

Strike one.

When a commodity is not approved for critical use, producers may use MeBr in stockpiles. Our stockpiles are dwindling rapidly, thanks to EPA's aggressive annual cuts which supersede the amounts required by the International Body.

Strike two.

How it works: U.S. farmers and growers have consistently justified the amount of MeBr they need annually.

EPA cuts that amount and submits its nomination to the International body. That group usually approves an allocation for all users and it is always less than EPA's request. Then the EPA again cuts the amount approved by international group.

Why?

EPA's Office of Stratospheric Protection has been charged with overseeing the phase-out of MeBr. Officials do not appear to be swayed by arguments of national interest in terms of having no safe effective economic alternatives to grow our crops, fumigate stored grains, fumigate soil to keep yields profitable and competitive in the global market. Their job is to phase out MeBr and, at the rate they are double-cutting supplies, it will take only another year or two. They are not tasked with weighing risks and benefits.

The science and data remain debatable depending on whether you have zero tolerance for this product that is generally recognized as the only reliable and effective fumigant. Arguments revolve around naturally-occurring MeBr and manmade quantities. Some cite biomass burning and leaded gasoline combustion as producing more MeBr than agricultural uses. But these debates rage on while our access to this product is vanishing. Rather than continue the

debate, we must ask congress to step in and do just one simple thing: Require EPA to explain why it takes two cuts to the annual allowable amounts of MeBr.

Meanwhile golf-course use has not been granted a CUE in part because U.S. golf and turfgrass don't hold much sway in the international community. The international body did approve MeBr use for golf course development in some Caribbean countries. And they have seen fit to allow MeBr for cut flower production. So cultural biases have been endemic in the process.

Strike Three.

We are not married to MeBr if an effective alternative were available. After USDA spent \$192 million on research, we still have the same flawed alternatives which potentially have more damaging environmental effects and inconsistent performance. If you are contemplating regrassing your golf course in the future, your chances of encountering off-type contamination are pretty much guaranteed.

If not challenged, EPA's aggressive cuts will deplete MeBr stocks as early as 2009. If it's important to you, your business and your club, write your senators and representatives and ask them to require EPA to explain and justify its accelerated phase-out process at the expense of transparency and due process.

---

Following are excerpts of comments made on the record at the September 11, 2007 Methyl Bromide CUE Hearing at EPA. Please use these ideas in your own letters to your legislators asking for their help. We are past arguing science and data. We are asking for fairness and due process:

*We are concerned that the EPA has not forwarded our repeated Critical Use Exemption applications to the International Body.*

*We understand that golf is the only commodity held to the market disruption standard, which we did address in amended applications. Golf courses and sod production were granted a CUE originally. The data and need has not changed but now we are denied. Why?*

*We do not understand why soil fumigation for the protection of certified turfgrass varieties is not deemed worthy of consideration, especially since reliable or safer alternatives have not been developed. The only alternatives have been shown to perform dramatically inconsistently and pose devastating impacts like fish kills in nearby waters.*

*Without a modest supply of methyl bromide for pre-plant fumigation of new courses or regrassing of existing properties, more quantities of traditional pesticides must be applied during the critical grow-in phase when the turf cover is thinnest and susceptible to runoff and leaching of materials to control soil-borne diseases, weed seeds and nematode and insects.*

*This seems counter to the mission of EPA.*

*There are roughly 15,000 golf courses in the U.S. They do not all need methyl bromide annually, and as the golf market adjusts to current trends new course construction has slowed appreciably since its boom in 1980s and 90s. Annual course renovations calling for the installation of newer varieties – which generally call for fewer inputs that impact the environment – (are not many). The point is that golf does not need large amounts to ... serve its customers, yet our applications have been summarily dismissed at the entry level.*

*It appears that the denial of consideration for a CUE for golf in the U.S. rests on arbitrary value judgments or biases against the worthiness of golf or*

turfgrass in general as if they are trivial or frivolous. These concerns have merit, considering international exceptions have been made for cut flowers and golf course development in other countries. Contrary to common belief, golf is not "just" a rich man's game or "elitist pastime." Well over 70 percent of golf courses in the U. S. are public access venues.

We were told by members of EPA in a meeting last year that "political pressure" at the international level is the main obstacle to overcome in terms of the golf CUE. Essentially other countries do not see the value in using MeBr for golf courses or grass in general. Those... pressures... should be dealt with in the proper forum.

Those "opinions" are not part of the Montreal Protocol, which specifically created critical use exemptions to help support industries until such time as viable alternatives could be found.

We also do not understand why

the agency makes additional cuts to production and reserves beyond the levels called for in the treaty.

By making deeper than necessary cuts to supplies, golf will likely be squeezed out when allocations are made. We understand food production and safety are number one, but why isn't the EPA actively supporting our own national interests?

...Owning and operating a golf course is a business that competes for and serves millions of customers. We deserve some consideration.

We annually support ongoing research to produce new grasses that require less water, fertilizer and pesticide inputs. Trying to breed, produce and install these grasses without access to a fair and reasonable amount of MeBr to insure their success without using increased amounts of conventional pesticides or more questionable alternatives is counter productive for the environment and the industry.

Other background information on Methyl Bromide can be found at the following Web sites:

<http://methyl-bromide.com/faq/plenty-of-skepticism-remains-about-the-phase-out-of-methyl-bromide/>

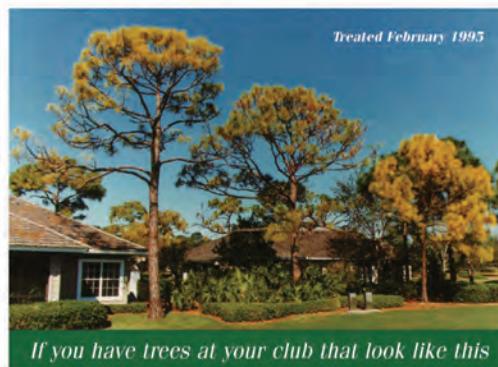
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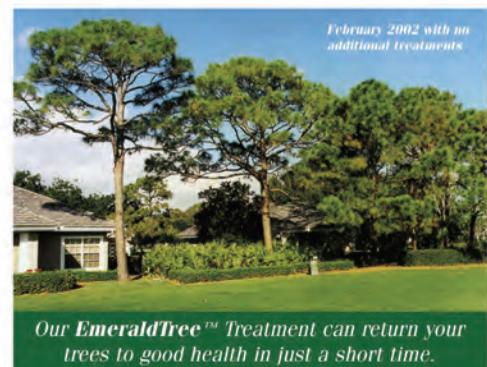
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Florida Consumer Fertilizer Task Force

# Let the Science Begin

By Joel Jackson

The Florida Consumer Fertilizer Task Force was created by the 2007 Florida Legislature to address several issues beginning with phosphorus loading in Lake Okeechobee and eventually expanding to include nitrogen and all watersheds and basins in the state.

The clean-up of Lake Okeechobee began with addressing agricultural uses of fertilizers but quickly spread to addressing urban uses of fertilizer including residential and commercial lawns, sports fields and golf courses. The rule deals primarily with the amount of phosphorus (P) and nitrogen (N) that can be formulated and put into containers of fertilizer products weighing less than 49 pounds, also known as specialty products. The law does not regulate improper application of the products.

However, limitations have been placed on the amount of total P and N that can be applied per application and per year. Intensely managed sports and golf turf can use tissue- and soil-testing results to justify additional nutrient applications if needed. The golf industry is guided by the nutrient management recommendations contained in the newly published Golf Course BMP Manual.

Copies of the BMP manuals were sent to every golf course in the state. If you did not receive one contact the FGCSA at

407-248-1971 or FLGRN@aol.com.

As of Sept. 30, at least two local ordinances (Sanibel Island and Sarasota County) have cited the Golf BMP Manual recommendations as the guidelines that golf courses in their jurisdictions must follow regarding nutrient management. Both ordinances also ban the application of N and P during the “rainy season” which they each define with different dates. The state hopes that by drafting a standardized statewide rule based on science that local governments will use that rule to educate and guide homeowner use to help minimize any negative effects of residential fertilizer use.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

“The Florida Consumer Fertilizer Task Force, representing diverse stakeholder interests from around the state, will provide recommendations to the Florida Legislature to improve efficiency, effectiveness and consistency in Florida’s regulation and use of consumer fertilizers. The Task Force’s task will be to review, discuss and seek consensus (10 of 13 votes is agreed as consensus) on a package of recommendations to the Legislature for proposed refinements to Florida’s regulation and use of consumer fertilizers to ensure they are based on the very best available science and uniform(ly) subject to variations necessary to meet mandated state and

**Task Force Members and Representation**

Mayor Jay Arend, Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Sen. David Aronberg, Florida Senate  
Peter John Barile, Environmental Community

Jerry Brooks, Department of Environmental Protection

Richard Budell, DACS Office of Agricultural Water Policy

Casey Fitzgerald (Vice-chair), Water Management Districts

Richard Martinez, National Fertilizer Industry

Representative Bryan Nelson, Florida House of Representatives

Ron Olson, Florida-Based Fertilizer Industry

Andy Rackley (Chair), Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Jerry Sartain, UF Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences

Karen Taylor, Registered Landscape architect

Commissioner Jon Thaxton, Florida Association of Counties

**Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDOACS) Florida Consumer Fertilizer Task Force Project Development and Delivery Schedule**

Nov. 2, 2007: Task Force Meeting 3 - West Palm Beach

Nov. 14, 2007: Task Force Meeting 4: Draft Recommendations Approval Public Workshops—Round One (Following Task Force Meeting) Tallahassee

Dec. 17, 2007: Task Force Meeting 5—Review of Public Comments Public Workshops—Round Two (Following Task Force Meeting) Apopka

Jan. 11, 2008: Task Force Meeting 6—Adoption of Final Package of Recommendations - Tallahassee

Jan. 15, 2008: Delivery of Final Recommendations to DACS and Florida Legislature

federal water quality standards.”

Here is the remaining meeting schedule for the Task Force. It would be a good idea for representatives of all green industries to attend one of these public meetings in their areas so they can monitor the progress and make appropriate comments.

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** *I attended the first meeting in Sarasota and it was primarily to set up the process and ground rules for conducting the business of the Task Force. They elected Andy Rackley of FDOACS as chairman of the group and Casey Fitzgerald from the water management districts as vice chairman. While all members cited using best available science, several members of the group also were involved in local ordinances which ban the use of nitrogen and phosphorus during warm-season turf-growing (rainy) season. That ban is not based on science. It is based on intuition that if fertilizer is applied and it rains it automatically must run off. That’s why we need to stay involved.*



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ACSP CERTIFICATION

# What Does It Mean to You?

By Shelly Foy

I don't know how long I have been urging Florida golf course superintendents to join the Audubon International's Cooperative Sanctuary program. Now with the publishing and distribution of the Florida Golf Course BMP Manual the past few months, there are even more excellent reasons and motivation to join.

First, many of those BMPs were based on guidelines suggested by Audubon International. Second, several cities and counties have said that golf courses would be exempt from their local fertilizer ordinances if they followed the new BMPs. To follow the BMPs you need to have a plan. What better plan than the AI Cooperative Sanctuary Program to help you fill out the checklist in the back of the BMP manual?

If you are reading through Audubon International's Web sites ([www.auduboninternational.org](http://www.auduboninternational.org) or [www.golfandenvironment.org](http://www.golfandenvironment.org)), chances are you might run across this list of the "Top Ten Reasons to get Certified." I think there is a lot we can add to this list and I encourage you to do so by sending me an e-mail at [sfoy@usga.org](mailto:sfoy@usga.org).

**TOP TEN REASONS TO GET CERTIFIED**

- Do the right thing for the environment
- Enjoy a new and rewarding aspect of your job and be able to share it with others
- Gain positive publicity for your golf course
- Better organize and coordinate your environmental management efforts
- Track environmental improvements
- Save money through reduced resource use
- Build your skill set and your resume
- Promote your stewardship efforts
- Be recognized as a community and golf industry environmental leader
- Gain valuable feedback from Audubon International

It is plain as the nose on your face that environmental issues in general and concerning golf courses specifically aren't going away. You guys are always interested in citing peer-reviewed studies when arguing about environmental activists coming after golf courses. Well, here are some reviews from your peers about what the Cooperative Sanctuary has meant to them and their golf courses. Read what your peers have to say about the program. If you can't believe them, who will you believe?

*Your top ten reasons are right on the target. The only other one I can think of... Best and most practical program available to ensure highest standards of environmental stewardship in the Golf Industry... and of course Audubon International's track record speaks for itself.* Bill Iwinski, PGA, Golf Course Manager, Ironwood Golf Course

*Since we have become certified, it has heightened our awareness of everything around us. We now notice how rapidly our (wildlife) populations are increasing, such as osprey, blue heron, red fox and many other animals. We have reduced significantly our most toxic pesticides to near zero and always are looking for the safest methods available.* Fred Klauk, Superintendent, TPC at Sawgrass, Ponte Vedra Beach

*Water quality has greatly improved over the past year. Visually the lakes are no longer full of algae and weeds and the aquatic plants and wildlife are thriving.*

*Since my arrival here at Audubon CC, I have totally changed the way fertilizers and chemicals are used, especially around the lakes. Fertilizer is NO longer thrown into the lakes and chemicals are used as needed.*

*I have also started a bank naturalization plan which catches and filters any runoff going into the lakes. The golfers are also happy because this catches their golf balls. I plan to make*

*these areas wider in the future.*

*This project is its infant stage. I have had great response from the community on my efforts. I will continue to use BMPs to reduce costs and improve the environment.* Ryan J. Costello, CGCS, Audubon Country Club, Naples

*I believe the majority of our members are really interested in protecting our environment and participation in this program is one way to demonstrate this interest. Then there is the matter of community pride. It's kind of nice to have our little golf course appear in the same list containing the names of some of the most famous courses in the world.*

*In a broader sense, we need to be aware of the 'bad rap' that golf seems to be gaining; that we are the 'bad guys' polluting and destroying the environment without caring. Our participation in the ACSP along with that of so many other courses seems to provide a powerful message that this game, played and enjoyed by so many millions throughout the world, is, in fact, a responsible member of the world society.* Jim Toth, Six Lakes Country Club

*I don't think it's an option (to join the ACSP for Golf). What better way is there to showcase your environmental efforts and prove that golf and nature can be harmonious? Our efforts clearly show that golf cares about the environment.* Scott Welder, Golf Course Superintendent, Walt Disney World

*As we all know, golf course superintendents are environmentalists.*

*Being a member of Audubon International helps show our commitment to protecting the environment and providing habitat for Florida's wildlife.* Robert R Bittner CGCS, The Club Pelican Bay

*Achieving certification as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary was a goal that brought immense satisfaction once accomplished. I always believed I was a good steward of the environment, but the program enabled me to quantify my achievements as well*

as provide me tools to demonstrate the value of the golf course and the programs that we have in place. In a nutshell, it is the right thing to do and it feels good!

**Darren J. Davis, Director of Golf Course Operations, Olde Florida Golf Club**

The Habitat Golf Course just went through our site visit for recertification last week. It was nice to be able to showcase our golf course not only as a golf course, but as a sanctuary to numerous species of birds and animals. I feel very fortunate to be able to preserve over 200 acres of habitat suitable for maintaining wildlife, so that all generations to come will enjoy. Jim Moller, GCS, IGM@The Habitat

I believe when you have everyone involved, you have a higher long-term success rate. This generates more creativity and support for programs that may not be well received initially by the members. I see my role in the ACSP as 'facilitator.' I enjoy helping bring other people's ideas to the table and helping them to gain a better understanding of how these programs impact our club. Audubon provides a tremendous amount of depth. Kenyon Kyle, Golf Course Superintendent, Shadow Wood Country Club

The fact that we are a certified sanctuary is just as important in our decision making as sound agronomic practices. Matthew Taylor, Golf Course Superintendent, Royal Poinciana Golf Club

For us the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses was a natural fit. It reinforced the ongoing stewardship efforts that we had been involved in for several years. The certification process, from beginning to end, was an education for my staff, my membership and me.

As golf and environmentalism continue their travel down the same path, the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses sets goals and procedures that can put your course on the leading edge of environmental awareness and promote your efforts throughout the

industry as well as your local community.

The role of today's golf course superintendent must include an awareness of our environment. Golf Course Maintenance Operations are scrutinized by employers and the public alike. Involvement in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses proves that your operation is committed to a higher environmental standard.

Once you take the first step, you'll find the hardest part was taking that step. Set certification as a goal for your career at your club. Your knowledge of your property and understanding of your complete operation will increase as you go through the process. It's a win-win! **Kyle D. Sweet, CGCS, The Sanctuary Golf Club**



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*My club's involvement in the ACSP is a statement to our members, our residents and neighbors alike that our maintenance programs are well planned and executed; and deliver the highest in turf quality and environmental care. We do it right and want everyone to know about it. The ACSP is a well respected environmental leader and to be positively associated to such an organization will only benefit the club. The Cooperative program costs nothing and is a great way to show your community you care.* **Ryan J Costello, CGCS, Audubon Country Club**

As the program succeeds club officials, members of the management team and influential golfers are infected by the positive results. Read on:

*Hammock Dunes has two courses which are certified by the ACSP. The program has been well received by the membership. It has caused us to focus our attention on our beautiful environment and to seek methods to maintain and enhance nature's great gift to us. It also bought our community together behind a noble endeavor.* **Bob Haley, MD**

*It gives you a chance to share your passion for wildlife with others and then see that passion spread throughout the entire community.* **Peggy Ogden, Landscape Manager Arlington Ridge Country Club**

*The ACSP has provided us with a method to perform self analysis of our BMP's. It gives us guidance on how our cultural practices have a positive impact on the environment. Everybody is on the GREEN bandwagon these days and anything that we as a company can share with governmental agencies is viewed in a positive light.*

*As an Audubon Certified Golf Course we are often used as a model club for responsible stewardship. The ACSP was the first step in propelling our club into a leadership role in Sarasota County. The County Commissioners look at this club in a very positive light and often solicit our input as it relates to environmental issues. The club continues to be recognized for our environmental leadership.*

*The cost to join the ACSP was low but the benefits have been substantial. I highly recommend this to all golf courses. At the very least it will bring about a self assessment to determine where you are and what you can do to improve.* **Jim Schell CCM, General Manager, Venice Golf & Country Club**

*As a leader of the Flagler Audubon Society, I wanted to gain first-hand insight into the AI programs for golf courses. I am really impressed with the overall quality of the programs and in how extremely well the programs are being managed at Hammock Dunes. I plan to propose that my own golf course apply to join this program,* **Neil Davies, Co-President, Flagler Audubon Society.** (Quotes from Hammock Dunes Creekside Course site visit recertification)

*Everything we've done as a result of participation in the program has enabled us to be better stewards of the 200 acres of land we control. We have been amazed at how little cost and little effort there can be in a program making a golf course more compatible with the environment. To anyone considering the program, I would point out that they should expect a great deal of interest and support from their membership.* **Fred Yarrington, The Hole in the Wall Golf Club**

*Efforts to achieve designation as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary have generated interest, participation, and appreciation of what is required to create and maintain our habitat and ecosystem. We have done this while still maintaining and interacting in a compatible fashion with a quality golf facility. Everyone in the FoxFire community is proud of this accomplishment.* **Ted Beisler, General Manager, FoxFire Golf and Country Club**

*The open space of our golf courses and community is utilized not only by golfers, but is a habitat for a variety of wildlife and plant species. Our goal in being part of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program is to manage our golf courses in a matter that is conducive to maintaining and enhancing the environment.* - **Robert**

**Norton, General Manager, Tournament Players Club at Prestancia**

*The Green Committee is keenly aware of our interest in mitigation efforts to enhance habitat and are supportive of suggestions for plantings that provide food and cover for birds and other small animals. I think it is important to have members of the club involved with Audubon activities, as it is an avenue for them to become stake holders in the Club, its golf course and our community.* **Dr. H. Bernton, Chairman, Audubon Committee and Member, Windstar Country Club**

*I have the ability to provide support for projects the superintendent feels will enhance the ACSP. From a corporate perspective I am able to gather the financial support, and from a club standpoint, I can involve our members. Involvement brings knowledge, and the more a club is involved, the greater our ability to educate not only our members, but our critics as well.* **Susie Stiegmann, General Manager, Shadow Wood Country Club**

*What a wonderful sense of achievement it is to know that the participation of Frenchman's Reserve in the ACSS has had an immediate effect on the wildlife and the fragile flatwoods ecosystem that they inhabit. Having finally completed this intensive certification process, I am thrilled to report that we are already seeing dramatic changes and improvements throughout the golf course.* **Elizabeth Gilmour, Landscape Superintendent, Frenchman's Reserve, Palm Beach Gardens.**

*Programs such as this represent the types of positive partnerships that need to be created across the country. This type of an effort is the only way that we can positively deal with the many, serious environmental issues that we face as a nation.* **EPA Administrator, Christine Todd Whitman, presenting Audubon International with the EPA Region 2 2001 Environmental Quality Award.**

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# Nearly 200 Attend UF Turfgrass Field Day

## Event Showcases New Research, Environmentally Friendly Management

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *In the last issue we listed the research projects the FGCSA is funding in cooperation with the FTGA and others. Here is a report to the state's general news media from the University of Florida's Envirotron and GC Horn Turf Plots, where that research is being conducted.*

By Georgia Gelmis

GAINESVILLE — Nearly two hundred green industry professionals visited University of Florida facilities July 17-18 to learn about the latest Florida-friendly turfgrass management practices. The two-day event highlighted research on pest control, fertilization and nutrient leaching.

The North Central Florida Turfgrass Field Day allows industry professionals to learn about ongoing UF research and to network with peers. With over 5 million acres of home lawns and 200,000 acres of golf courses in Florida, UF scientists are continually developing better methods for managing turfgrass, as well as breeding new species that require less water and fertilizer and with higher pest resistance.

The first day of the 2007 Turfgrass Field Day included tours of the Envirotron greenhouses on the UF campus, where turfgrass experiments are conducted in a controlled environment, and of the sports turf at the recreational sports fields and Ben Hill Griffin Stadium. The second part of the afternoon was devoted to educational sessions on weed control and fertilization conducted by UF/IFAS faculty.

On the second day, participants gathered at the UF/IFAS Plant Science Research and Education Unit in Citra,

the premiere turfgrass research facility in the nation. Faculty-led tours of the outdoor turfgrass plots were followed by a lunch sponsored by Environmental Turf and a putting contest on the greens.

Event attendees included UF faculty and students, horticulturalists, golf course managers and pesticide operators

with the facility in Citra and the research studies under way there. The Envirotron Unit on campus continues to also generate excellent data and information in more controlled growth environments.”

Billy Crow, associate professor of entomology and nematology, talked about his work on new methods for managing nematodes with beneficial parasites such as the fungus *Paecilomyces lilacinus*. If used together with water, this fungus can significantly suppress nematode numbers in the soil.

Carol Stiles, assistant professor of plant pathology, explained the effectiveness of fungicides such as Insignia, Heritage and Prostar, in combination with soil-wetting agents, for controlling fairy ring in bermudagrass and increasing turf quality.

Phil Harmon, assistant professor of plant pathology, explained the UF/IFAS turfgrass disease diagnostic program, made possible by support from FTGA and FGCSA. This rapid diagnostic program for managers of high-quality turf costs \$75 and can provide a preliminary diagnosis within 36 hours of receiving a sample. The final report provides a diagnosis based on culture plate results, and will include fungicide recommendations based on UF research.

Members of the student body were involved in the event as well. Entomology and nematology graduate student Scott Portman's presentation on the *Larria bicolor* wasp as a biocontrol for mole crickets made golf course managers aware of this economical, effective alternative to chemical controls.

The 2007 Turfgrass Field Day also showcased research by Laurie Trenholm, Jerry Sartain, Eileen Buss and Michael Dukes that hopes to shed new light on fertilization, pest control and



*From lab to turf plots Dr. Jerry Sartain continues to find the best sustainable nutrient application rates that will be environmentally responsible. Photo by Joel Jackson*

eager to learn new techniques for sounder, more efficient management of lawns and sports turf.

Golf course managers are always interested in finding new ways to combat pests and diseases harmful to bermudagrass. The 2007 Turfgrass Field Day spotlighted research being conducted by faculty members Billy Crow, Carol Stiles and Phil Harmon on ways to effectively deal with golf course pests and diseases at the lowest cost and in the most environmentally sound ways.

“We should be pleased and proud of the results our support is helping to produce across the whole spectrum of turf management issues,” said Joel Jackson, executive director of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association. “We were very impressed



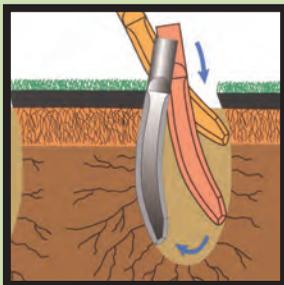
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A five-year DEP grant allows UF/IFAS professors Laurie Trenholm and Jerry Sartain to explore the effects of nutrient leaching from fertilizer on a variety of turfgrasses. The study is under way at three locations in the state, including sites in the Panhandle and South Florida. The unique Citra facility affords these researchers an opportunity to test a number of different grasses at once in a single location. Turfgrass Field Day participants were able to walk the plots and see for themselves the visual qualities of various grasses under different fertilizer and irrigation regimes.

“I enjoyed meeting with the researchers and learning more about growing healthy turfgrass in Florida,” said Jeff Michel, in field development and technical science with Bayer Environmental Science. “The information Dr. Trenholm presented on zoysiagrass nutrient requirements was very interesting. I also enjoyed seeing the turf disease trials on seashore paspalum, bermudagrass and St. Augustinegrass.”

Eventually the findings of the nutrient leaching study, which is currently in year three, will be used to determine new fertilizer policies around the state.

Kevin Kenworthy, assistant professor of agronomy, updated Field Day participants on the University of Florida’s turfgrass breeding program, a program that has focused on developing environmentally sound turfgrass cultivars since 1943. Nineteen cultivars with increased disease and pest resistance, that require less water and fertilizer, have been released by the program since its inception. As Floridians face greater restrictions for water and applied nutrients, this work becomes more relevant and important than ever.

Eileen Buss, associate professor of entomology and nematology, is looking at the short-term effects of nitrogen on chinch bug fecundity in St. Augustinegrass. Though healthy turf typically has a good resistance to pest invaders, Buss’s experiments may necessitate a reevaluation of the relationship between fertility regimes and feeding a major pest species.

Michael Dukes, associate professor of agricultural and biological engineering, tests irrigation controllers known as Smart Water Application Technologies (SWAT), which consist of evapotranspiration controllers, soil moisture sensor controllers and rain sensors that are commonly found in irrigation systems. According to UF scientists, these water savers can reduce water use by 10-60 percent during dry years, and up to 90 percent in normal to high rainfall years.

A highlight of this year’s Turfgrass Field Day was the tour of Ben Hill Griffin Stadium at Florida Field and the recreational sports fields on the University of Florida campus. John Mascaro, executive director of the North Florida Sports Turf Managers Association, arranged the tours of the sports facilities.

“There are a huge number of people involved in the sports turf industry here in North Florida. We are trying to provide additional educational opportunities for them in conjunction with the NFSTMA and the University of Florida,” said Mascaro.

Mascaro led a group of about 50 Field Day participants in an hour-long tour from the Southwest Recreational Fields over to the stadium. Along the way he spoke about the necessity of keeping UF fields safe, playable and looking good for the TV cameras.

Wayne Zurburg, maintenance superintendent for UF’s Recreational Sports division, gave Field Day participants an overview of the intensive care regimen employed on the Southwest Recreational Fields. Zurburg’s team manages 19 acres of Tifway 419 bermudagrass and a four-field softball complex. His job includes keeping the turf in prime condition for events like the annual Swamp Bowl football tournament.

“I’ve been to other colleges around the Southeast and I’ve never seen facilities to match ours,” said Zurburg. “People are blown away when they come here. Our kids get to practice on turf that’s of the same quality as Florida Field.”

Zurburg and his team mow three times a week, topdress multiple times



Besides training lawn care technicians in Green Industry BMPs, Dr. Laurie Trenholm along with research assistant Basil Wetherington, is conducting fertilizer leaching studies funded by the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection. Photo by Joel Jackson.

a year, fertilize on a strict schedule and aerate every 30-45 days to reduce compaction. Zurburg credits UF’s 10-year capital-outlay plan with having money in place for new equipment when it’s needed.

“We have a great crew with a real passion and love for the turf,” said Zurburg. “That’s really what keeps it looking so good.”

Mike Cheeseman, maintenance turf manager for Florida Field, spoke to participants in the stadium about management practices employed on Florida Field. The stadium turf had just been aerified, verticut and topdressed, so it was in top condition for the Field Day.

Turfgrass Field Day happens every year and brings together a dynamic cross section of industry professionals and researchers. The event affords a unique opportunity for business and science to intersect and allows participants to share ideas and techniques for continued improvement of Florida turf.

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**Peek- A -Boo!**

**As I See It  
By Jim Walker**

Oh my god. Excuse me for a moment while I go and change my shorts. I just watched the Boo Weekly interview which followed the third round of the PGA Championship. They don't spend nearly enough money on "edgecagation" in Milton where Boo was born July 23, 1973.

This man, who turned pro in 1997 and has won over two million dollars in 2007, doesn't know squat about the

Ryder Cup, the FedEx Cup, and "ain't no good at math." His player profile indicates he attended Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, but doesn't say how long he stayed. I'm shocked he went anywhere that has a five syllable word in its title. While he enjoys the PGA Tour, he says it would be "funner" to be back home catchin' 10 pounders with his buddies.

I have always liked Boo's

playing skills but have never heard him speak before. Now that I have, I still like him except he says after 10 or 12 years on the Tour, and he has enough money in his bank (Sealy Posturepedic Savings and Loan). He is giving up the grind and plans to sit home and do whatever folks living on the Redneck Riviera do.

Boo, it's not nice to take what you want from golf and not plan on giving anything back to the game that will put you in a Jon boat or duck blind instead of the local chemical plant. I have always liked John Daly as well, who is a good old boy from Arkansas, but Boo makes John seem like a Rhodes Scholar. Hellfire, Jeff Foxworthy could do a 30-minute routine on the Boo'ster without even trying. God love ya' Boo.

Bobby Clampett, who almost drove himself into the looney bin trying to hit the perfect golf shot (Do you remember the book, "The Golf Machine" by Homer Kelly? Bobby took it to heart) says you have one of the ten best swings he has ever seen. You are a helluva player with clearly the right mental attitude for the game. Git 'er done!

Many years ago, I went to Perdenales, Texas to try and sell "The Red Headed Stranger" (Willie Nelson) some orange iron when I worked for Watson Distributing. They had some strange rules at his nine-hole course. A couple that stick in my mind are, "A foursome shall consist of no more than 15 players," and, "The guy with the fastest golf cart always gets the best lie."

I tell this story because I want Boo to know that I like country music and I'm no snob.

Good ol' boy golf is just fine. To each his own. It is the game of a lifetime. But when you have the title "golf professional," there is a small burden of proof to act like a professional.

Arnie's folks taught him table etiquette and, while he did puff cigarettes on TV back in the 50s and 60s when it was still politically correct, I never saw any tobacco juice dribbling down his chin. Tim Finchem must have felt a migraine coming on during Boo's interview.

Now imagine if you will, a Golf Channel reporter is interviewing a golf course superintendent about fertilizers or pesticides When asked about nitrogen or phosphorus applications he says, with a chaw or pinch of tobacco in his lumpy cheek, "I don't know nuthin bout no BMPs, PPEs, MSDS, OSHA and all that gummint crap! I've been putting out fertilizer every other Monday for dern near 20 years now." Now Steve Mona is the one reaching for the Extra-strength Excedrin.

Of course the difference is that Boo and the pros are the entertainers and performers and superintendents are the technicians. We know — from recent and all-too-frequent media stories about personal train wrecks — that entertainers can self-destruct instantaneously and sometimes say the darndest harebrained things on the air.

Thankfully superintendents tend to be

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just a tad more practical and generally reticent about putting their feet in their mouths. Maybe it's just as well that we don't get more air time than a cameo appearance at the major events. Professionalism may be different things to different people. I might not be able to define it, but I sure know what it when I see it, or when I don't.

Boo left me wanting so much more from a person with such a talent for the game, but one having so little interest in the finer points of the history and opportunities of the profession. Boo certainly isn't one of those bland golf clones. He's more of a golf clown just joking around. Golf just doesn't need him to be the punch line.



## It's Not My Job!

**GREEN SIDE UP**  
**BY JOEL JACKSON**

### *(Is Anybody Listening?)*

*Acknowledgement: A tip of the hat to Richard Staughton, president of the Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association*

*whose recent President's message in the GGCSA's Through the Green Magazine revived this old chestnut and provided the opening lines and inspiration for this column.*

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. However, Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

• • •

It seems to me that the above scenario could easily be applied to our world in the area of volunteer participation on our local chapter boards of directors and committees. Also the act of providing data and input on local, state and national surveys dealing with economic and environmental issues that affect how we conduct our golf course maintenance practices. Anybody can fill out the survey, but usually Nobody does. Sometimes 30 percent is a good return. How much more effective would the data be if we had a 70 percent return?

Here is a little quiz to measure who you are in the little story above. Did you participate in the recent FGCSA Golf Course Maintenance Survey? Did you participate in the GCSAA member surveys on fertilizer use, water use and environmental

resources? Did you send any comments to EPA regarding methyl bromide, MSMA or Namacur when their cancellation notices were posted? Have you ever attended or volunteered to serve on a Green Advisory Board of your regional water management district? Have you attended a city or county commission meeting held on fertilizer regulation issues? Have you paid or made sure your 2008 dues were renewed on time?

I'm sorry. You may not like it but, in today's world, it is your job. I know they didn't teach advocacy in turf school. Call it one of life's lessons. I call it survival, given today's rush to judgment and regulation of our industry. If we don't speak up as a unified group, who will?

Everybody should, Anybody can but Nobody does except for a precious few.

You manage 100-plus acres in one of the state's many watershed basins, and a goodly portion of them have been declared impaired. Florida's DEP will be assigning Total Maximum Daily Load limits for everybody living and operating in those basins. The more you participate, the better informed you will be about your role and the responsibilities that are tied to your practices. Plus you owe it to your club to make sure they (you) don't get into any hot water over these issues.

So Everybody has a stake in best management practices to minimize any negative impacts and Everybody affects the public perception of golf

course operations. Nobody should take shortcuts with environmental stewardship. Anybody can do better and Everybody should.

You are fortunate that in our associations — from national to local — there are people who are willing to deliver positive messages, provide testimony at hearings, engage and educate regulators and lawmakers. It is your job to support them. It is your job to respond to surveys and to provide information that can be used to defend your practices. It is your job to inform your club officials about the issues facing our industry so we build public support.

Today Anybody can become the target of a negative news story. Nobody is exempt. It only takes one phone call from a disgruntled employee or an unfortunate accident. Somebody could be fired and a reputation ruined. Everybody will suffer the consequences.

So to Everybody out there, is Anybody listening?

### **ATTENTION!**

New Association Manager  
**Jennifer Innes** started Oct. 1.

New FGCSA office contact information:

Watts line: **800-732-6053**

Phone: **772-334-7515**

(Fax number TBA)

**jensinnes@comcast.net.**

**1293 NE Oceanside Circle,  
Jensen Beach, FL 34957**

*Marie and Jennifer will be working together until complete transition has occurred.*

# It's hard to beat the performance of TMI turfgrass varieties!

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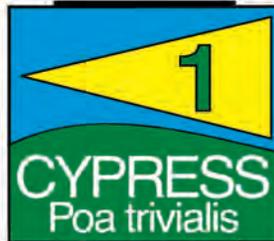
Butch Gill.....706-883-8970  
Roy Bates.....239-825-8064  
Michael Bonetti.....561-236-3468

Bodie Boudreaux.....251-752-0198  
Pete Giauque.....678-910-1215  
Jeremy Harvey.....770-205-8754  
Brent Holmes.....904-476-0413  
Richard Kirkland.....863-698-8328  
Glenn Zakany.....239-851-1541  
Jeff Brown.....863-581-0175



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