

The Florida Green

Spring 2007



Number 6
TPC at Tampa Bay
Lutz
Photo by Daniel Zelazek



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COVER STORY: TPC AT TAMPA BAY

Seventeen years ago golf course architect Bobby Weed and player consultant Chi Chi Rodriguez designed a golf course that was destined to host one of the players' favorite annual events on the Champions Tour, the Outback Steakhouse Pro-Am. The course won Chapter Awards for Public Courses in the annual GCSAA and Golf Digest Environmental Leadership in Golf Awards (ELGA) in 2005 and 2006.

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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: SERVE ON A COMMITTEE

Ever thought of serving on a GCSAA committee? What does it take and how do you go about being picked to serve on one. A veteran GCSAA committee member describes how to apply and what to expect.

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HANDS ON: LIFE WITHOUT NEMACUR

The widely used, industry-standard, chemical nematicide, fenamiphos – distributed by Bayer under the trade name Nematicur – will complete its three-year phase-out May 31.

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INDUSTRY NEWS: GOLF INDUSTRY SHOW

This year's Golf Industry Show Feb. 22-24 in Anaheim, Calif., achieved an all-time high of 23,109 total attendees, surpassing last year's figure in Atlanta by more than 4,000. The FGCSA golf team won the gross division of the national championship.

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INDUSTRY NEWS: OVERSEEDING IRREGULARITIES

Warm temperatures in early winter have had a significant impact on golf course playability. According to USGA agronomist Todd Lowe, overseeding consistency is a factor that the odd weather pattern affected.

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The Florida Green

SPRING 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.

Summer 2007 - Managing and Scheduling Overtime

Fall 2007 - Cultural Programs During Golf Season

Winter 2008 - In-Season Cultural Programs

Spring 2008 - Seashore Paspalum Update.

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.

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

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If the only folks who show up are the ones against us and our products, how do you think the politicians are going to learn?

Do you watch sports on TV? I do, but not too much. I would rather participate in the sport or activity than watch it. Now I'm not saying that I won't sit and watch hours of the Masters or the super bowl on television, but I just can't seem to sit down and watch a sporting event for any amount of time without falling asleep. Heck, I've even fallen asleep at a Dolphins game but I'm sure you're not too surprised at that.

Now if I'm on the sidelines at one of my kids' sporting events, that's a little different. I watch every play with the enthusiasm of a 5-year old on Christmas morning.

Why? Because I am involved! I keep track

of the score, I cheer for our team and will even wear team colors to show my spirit. I guess I do this because it's a little different... it's closer to home if you know what I mean. I guess I would probably watch more sporting events if it

were a little closer to home, and I were more involved.

Here's an idea for a game that is close to home for all of us: What if you could play a game and the outcome of the game could be determined not only by the team with the best players but by the team with the most spirit. That's right. let's not only let the team play but get the fans involved too... all fans. It's their team against our team and their fans against our fans. Ok, the game is set but do we have to have a prize to play for?

I've got it. How about we play for Nemacur? No, can't do that one; we already lost it. How about we play for MSMA? No, that game is already being played and it's in overtime.

I've got it! Let's play for fertilizer!

What's that, you say? This game has already started! But how can that be? Some of the team members (you) aren't on the field yet? The players on the field are doing their best but we are greatly outnumbered. Most of the fans (your members) don't seem to know about the game at all.

How can we win this game – which will be determined by the involvement of the players and their fans – if we are so out-numbered? This really surprises me because if the team

and fans don't get involved soon, we're going to lose this game too. And it's a home game. I don't know about you, but I would hate to lose the ability to fertilize my home turf with what I need and when I need it.

The contest for the use of fertilizers (quick and slow release) is going on in just about every county in Florida. The fans (our members) don't even know that this is going on and, without their support, it will make it a lot harder for the team to succeed.

And this is not the only game being played. What about phosphorus?

There are counties trying to ban any use of phosphorus. If true, peer-reviewed science were being used, I don't think I would mind so much, but to blindly ban products that can be so important to our business is just wrong. How can the fans (our members) help?

Glad you asked.

Who do you think votes for these city and county commissioners? Who votes for these rules changes? Let them know the facts on turf and fertilizer use. Remind them that playing golf is game, but operating a golf course is a business. Show them the science and ask for their support to counter activists' wild claims at commission meetings and before they go to the polls.

I love analogies and this is the best one I could come up with to ask you to get involved. You don't have to stand on street corners and wave signs or picket city hall. Just educate your members, the folks you see every day on your golf course and ask your general manager to help spread the word to other GMs and you do the same through your superintendent chapter.

Yes, it would definitely help those few road-weary warriors out there who are trying to preserve products that we use every day if you attended some of the stakeholder meetings in your city or county. If the only folks who show up are the ones against us and our products, how do you think the politicians are going to learn? They are going to grease the squeaky wheel. It's time for us (for you) make some noise of our own: "Two bits, four bits, six bits a dollar! All for turfgrass stand up and holler!"

P.S. Just got a call from Coach Bruce Adams over at Team South Florida Water Management District. He wants us to get up a team to play the water restrictions game. Says it's important we show up for the scrimmage. Anyone willing to try out?

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Craig Weyandt
FGCSA President



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CHAPTER ROUND UP
**Classrooms,
 Showrooms,
 And Some Golf**

CALUSA

Thanks to USGA Agronomist Todd Lowe for his educational presentation in January at Jim Foster's Coral Oaks GC. We took a break in February for the Golf Industry Show in Anaheim. In March, our president, Ryan Willis, will host the meeting at Kings Gate GC. Our speaker will be Dr. Lee Berndt from Edison College, and our April meeting will be at Michael Pritchard's Westminster CC. Thanks to all the superintendents for volunteering to host meetings.

CENTRAL FLORIDA

Thanks to Stuart Leventhal, CGCS and the Interlachen C.C. for hosting our annual FTGA Research Fund Tournament. Introductory speakers for the business meeting included FTGA President Jay McCord and Executive



**TESTA Tours
 Three Clubs**

During the TESTA Tour, Bay Hill superintendent John Anderson (brown sweater) and equipment manager Albert Sizemore (orange shirt) talk about their equipment fleet and tournament preparations. Brad Reano (left) from Golf Ventures sponsored the Bay Hill stop on the tour. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Equipment managers and technicians from area courses get together to kick tires and talk shop during the 2007 Central Florida Turf Equipment and Service Technicians Association's Bus Tour of Orange Lake, Isleworth and Bay Hill maintenance facilities. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Matt Payne and Hal Richburg, CGCS from the Victoria Hills G.C. in Deland won the Central Florida Research Tournament at the Interlachen C.C. Photo by Joel Jackson.



From left, Joel Jackson, CGCS; Stuart Leventhal, CGCS, Interlachen CC.; Jay McCord, FTGA President; and Matt Modica, Down to Earth Landscaping, at the CFGCSA Research Tournament in Winter Park. Photo by Casey Wohl Pace.

Director Casey Wohl Pace. Joel Jackson with the Florida GCSA gave an update on legislative issues and Matt Modica from Down to Earth Landscape gave a talk on the pros and cons on container vs. field-grown trees.

The Central Florida TESTA chapter held its annual maintenance-bus tour in March. Fifty-plus equipment technicians and a few superintendents toured the facilities at the Legends of Orange Lake, Isleworth and Bay Hill. The stops were hosted by John Deere, Toro and Golf Ventures/Jacobsen. Thanks to Chris Cartin for hosting our annual Superintendent-Vendor outing at the Tusawilla C.C.

Last but not least several of our chapters will once again be donning their NBC Sports caps and radios to act as spotters for the Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill.

COASTAL PLAINS

Shane Bass, CGCS and Jeff Heggen will join FGCSA Director of Communications Joel Jackson, CGCS on this year's FGCS Capitol Hill trip to meet with legislators and allied associations in Tallahassee. They will be attending large functions put on by the Florida Pest Management Association and the Florida Farm Bureau to meet and greet officials and to show unity on common issues.

EVERGLADES

We will be hosting our all-day education bonanza, the Everglades Spring Symposium on April 12 at the Hyatt Coconut Point in Bonita Springs besides

the usual dynamite slate of speakers, symposium chairman Matt Taylor, CGCS has lined up golf media and communications guru Pat Jones as the keynote speaker. This should be a super event.

NORTH FLORIDA

Spring is a busy time with our annual Research Tournament at Glen Klauk's Pablo Creek Club and our Mike Richards Memorial Scholarship event at Greg Tharp's Jacksonville G&CC. Congratulations to Gina Williams on her new position as golf course superintendent at the City of Palatka Golf Club. Thanks to all who volunteered once again to serve as spotters for the television coverage of the TPC Tournament. This year the tournament will be in May as part of the new Tour format leading up to the FedEx Cup. The network makes a donation to the NFGCSA for the services of the 12-14 people who walk the course reporting on the players' scores and who is away or playing next.

PALM BEACH

Congratulations to Joe Hubbard and crew at Broken Sound for hosting the Champions Tour Allianz Tournament. That makes three tournaments in our chapter now including the Honda Classic at PGA National and the LPGA event at Trump National. Several of our members were eyewitnesses to the see-saw battle for Honda Classic as we did our annual stint as spotters for NBC's coverage of the tournament.

We bid a fond farewell to one of our legends of



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From left, Chad Kroeger, GCS at Tequesta CC presents Mike and Katie Ballard a \$10,000 check from the Palm Beach GCSA to help with expenses after their home was destroyed by fire. Photo by Steve Pearson.



Broken Sound superintendent Joe Hubbard, CGCS gets a photo-op with pro golfer Fuzzy Zoeller during a pre-tournament reception at the Allianz Championship, Champions Tour event held at Hubbard's club.

leadership with the departure of David Court, CGCS as he moves to the Seven Rivers Chapter to take over the Black Diamond Ranch golf courses. We presented David

with the FGCSA's President's Award for Lifetime Achievement for his long time service to our chapter. Good luck David and Janet. Thanks to the generosity

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of our members and other contributors, we were able to make a \$10,000 donation to Mike Ballard, GCS, of Wycliffe G.C. and his family to offset expenses caused when a fire totally destroyed their home this winter.

RIDGE

Jim Mendenhall and his team from Squamata Reptiles put on quite a show with their snake demonstration and safety talk at last month's meeting. Besides the smaller specimens, he showed a 6-foot diamondback rattlesnake and a 14-foot cobra.

We just held our annual Jack Harrell Memorial Ridge Invitational at Alan Puckett's Eaglebrooke

G.C. in Lakeland. We had great service from the golf and clubhouse staff. Ray Cuzzone got to cook the food in a kitchen for a change. After the divots settled, Scott Scamehorn won the tournament and the Jack Harrell trophy portrait. In the vendor net division, golf course architect Ron Garl, who just completed a renovation at Eaglebrooke, took top honors. Talk about local knowledge! FGCSA director of communications gave an update on the fertilizer ordinance issues facing counties and cities around the state.

SEVEN RIVERS

Florida DOACS held a public meeting at the UF/IFAS Plant Science Center in Citra on the new state



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The FGCSA Board held its 2007 winter board meeting at The King and The Bear G.C. at the World Golf Village. The FGCSA board holds one or two meetings per year around the state. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Fertilizer Rule and gave the participants a tour of the research plots so they could appreciate the science behind nutrient-management recommendations on turfgrasses. Our own Mark Kann is research coordinator for the turf plots, which include three golf holes and a nine-hole putting course. You really need to plan a chapter trip to this great resource for turf science which benefits all of Florida.

SOUTH FLORIDA

We are in our own version of March Madness down here in south Florida as we organize our NBC spotters for the Doral tournament and also prepare for our annual Turf Expo at the UF/IFAS Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center.

SUNCOAST

We will be celebrating the Silver Anniversary of the Suncoast Scramble at the Laurel Oak C.C. March 26. Best wishes to our External

Vice President Mike McCulloch as he moves from Jacaranda West C.C. down to the Cross Creek G.

C. in Port Charlotte. Mike will serve out his term on the board until new elections in May. Meanwhile thanks to

George Cook, Tim McKenna and others who have been monitoring the proposed fertilizer ordinance. We will hold a meeting March 13 to draft recommendations to the county. Thanks to Renze Berg for hosting our 2007 Superintendent-Vendor meeting at the Bradenton C.C. in January. In April we will meet at Bob Wagner's Coral Creek Club in Placida.

TREASURE COAST

Thanks to Scott Bell, CGCS at Red Stick G.C., the FGCSA and all the local chapters that donated funds to ship golf course supplies and used equipment to New Orleans to help re-supply the city-owned golf course.

WEST COAST

On Jan. 16 at Tampa



Scott Scamehorn, CGCS, Mountain Lake G.C. (left) shot a 70 to win the Jack Harrell, Sr. Ridge Invitational. Ridge GCSA President Bob Solms presents Scamehorn with the Jack Harrell, Sr. Trophy portrait drawn by David Pursell. Photo by Joel Jackson.



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*There's the
Rules of Golf ...
and then there's Ridge Rules!*



FGCSA Board meets with GCSAA Board

The GCSAA Board invited the Florida GCSA to attend its Winter Board Meeting held in Orlando. From left: David Downing, CGCS, secretary/treasurer; Sean Hoolehan, CGCS, immediate past president and Ricky Heine, CGCS, president from the GCSAA. Craig Weyandt, president; Joe Pantaleo, past president and Matt Taylor, CGCS, vice president from the Florida GCSA. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Palms we hosted a GCSAA Regional Seminar: “IPM – Putting Together an Effective Plan for Your Course.” Attendance was good in part due to our discount registration fee for chapter members, with the chapter picking up the balance. Everyone was invited, but non-chapter members paid the normal seminar fee.

FGCSA

Our board of directors met with the GCSAA board at its winter meeting in Orlando in January. The GCSAA has been holding meetings around the country to get local chapters involved in the governance structure and to provide grassroots input on the issues and programs. This

push is to help GCSAA to serve its members through the chapters and to help chapters be as effective as possible.

All the candidates that the FGCSA supported for the 2007 GCSAA Board of Directors were elected at the GCSAA Annual Meeting in Anaheim. Congratulations to our own Bob Randquist, CGCS for winning a second term as director.

Congratulations are also due to our Florida No. 1 Golf Team of Bob Harper, Seth Strickland, Stephen Fox and Jim Torba for winning the Team Gross event. Harper finished tied for second. At our GCSAA reception, we raised nearly \$3,000 for the Benevolent Fund thanks

to Steve Ehrbar donating back his raffle winnings to the pot. Steve asked that his portion be used to aid fellow superintendent Mike Ballard, who lost his home to a fire.

GCSAA

Past President Bruce Williams, CGCS will be the presenter at this year’s GCSAA Leadership Series half-day seminar at the Poa Annuia Classic on Friday, May 11th in Naples. Williams will be speaking on “Mastering Your Communications Skills” – a real necessity in today’s world. Naturally PDI and Certification education points will be available

We held our own Winter Board Meeting at the World

Golf Village’s King and the Bear G.C. While we were conducting business inside, Jim Furyk was outside shooting Srixon commercials on the putting green. Inside the business included approval of a slate of research projects to be co-funded with the FTGA and GCSAA. See the Research Section for a breakdown of approved projects.

Additionally, chapters were reminded to announce the first FGCSA dues increase in 14 years to their members. Also a committee was formed to handle restructuring and reorganizing the staffing needs of the FGCSA with the pending retirement of Association Manager Marie Roberts in February.

golf



2007 FGCSA RECEPTION

*GCSAA said "The Answer is Anaheim"
The question was where is the FGCSA Reception?*

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Number 12
Par 5, 495 yards
TPC at Tampa Bay
Photo by Daniel Zelazek



TPC AT TAMPA BAY

Champions Tour Stop, Environmental Leader

By Joel Jackson, CGCS

Seventeen years ago golf course architect Bobby Weed and player consultant Chi Chi Rodriguez designed a golf course that was destined to host one of the players' favorite annual events on the Champions Tour, the Outback Steakhouse

Pro-Am. Additionally under the guidance of golf course superintendent Jason Kubel, the course has won consecutive Chapter Awards for Public Courses in the annual GCSAA and Golf Digest Environmental Leadership in Golf Awards (ELGA) in 2005 and 2006.

According to Kubel, the course

does more than 42,000 rounds per year and the highlight of the season is February, when the Champions Tour comes to town for the Pro Am event. "We draw as many spectators as a regular PGA Tour event," said Kubel. "This year senior 'rookie' Nick Price played the event.

"In the celebrity category, Bill



This steep-faced bunker on No. 14 is among the fairway bunkers slated for reconstruction to improve drainage and prevent washouts. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

Most notable was Nicklaus remembering Kubel from the construction of the King and the Bear courses at the World Golf Village in St. Augustine.

Murray also played this year. Other entertainers who have played include Kevin Costner, Huey Lewis, Mark Wahlberg and Kevin Sorbo of Hercules fame. We also have a strong showing from the sports ranks with Emmitt Smith, Phil Simms, Joe Theisman, Ronde Barber and Derrick Brooks.

“The field is usually 70-80 players and includes approximately 16 celebrities. There is quite a scramble by the celebs to shoot well enough to make the cut and play on the third day. This is the first year we will be telecast live in High Definition on NBC. Most of the Champions Tour events are carried on the Golf Channel so this was a nice boost for us to be on network TV.

“With a \$2.6 million purse, we have one of the strongest fields of the year behind the majors, of course. Outback Steakhouse does such a great job of hosting the tournament that the event

is perennially voted number one on the tournament in several categories. The winner also gets the unlimited use of an Outback Steakhouse card.”

The event originally was called the Verizon Classic and Kubel recalls fond and bittersweet memories of those days when Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus teed it up. Most notable was Nicklaus remembering Kubel from the construction of the King and the Bear courses at the World Golf Village in St. Augustine. Kubel also remembers how the crowd gravitated to wherever Palmer was playing on the course during the practice rounds. Sadly on the first day of competition, the King threw his back out on his tee shot on the first hole and had to withdraw.

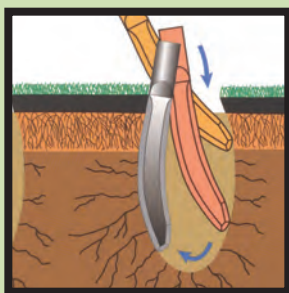
Besides working with the King and the Bear in St. Augustine in 2000-01, Kubel served as an assistant superintendent at the Isleworth G&CC



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COURSE FACTS



TPC Tampa Bay Maintenance Staff

TPC at Tampa Bay

Location: Lutz

Ownership: PGA Tour

Stats: 18 holes; 6,898 yards; par 71

Genealogy: Designed by Bobby Weed and player consultant Chi Chi Rodriguez; construction by PGA Tour;

Opened: 1991

Management Team: Brady Boyd, general manager; Justin Wink, head golf professional; Jason Kubel, golf course superintendent

Acreage under maintenance: 152

Greens: Tifdwarf; avg. 7,000 sq.ft., total 4.0 acres; green speeds: 9-10, 10-11 for tournaments. All greens are overseeded with 3-way blend of *Poa trivialis* @ 20 lbs/M maximum.

Tees, Fairways and Roughs: Tifway 419 hybrid bermudagrass overseeded with Champion GC ryegrass. Tees 6 acres, HOC .425" overseeded @ 600 lbs/acre. Fairways 41 acres, HOC .475" overseeded @ 500 lbs/acre.

Roughs 101 acres, HOC 2.0" May-Oct, 3.0" Nov-April, overseeded @ 400 lbs/acre.

Bunkers: 80, sand type GA26 or USGA Spec. Raking: combination of hand and machine raking. John Deere Hydro-Pro with tines and scarifiers. Broom attachment during dry conditions. Hand rake all for tournaments.

Natural areas: 22 acres of wetlands, cypress bayheads and native areas consisting of cypress trees, mulch, ferns and native grasses.

Waterways: 17 lakes and ponds covering 22 acres managed monthly by Lake Masters. Hand removal of invasive plants quarterly.

Irrigation: Source – deep well; PSI Constant Speed Pump Station; Toro Site Pro/E-Osmac controller. 1,100 heads @ 75-ft. spacing. Fertigation system.

Staff: Total including superintendent, 22 including two part-time; Weekly budgeted hours - 935 ST and 83 OT. No seasonal variation of labor.

Key team members: First Assistant Brad Shaeffer, Second Assistant James Pichler, Equipment Manager Jeff Young, Pest Control Tech Mike McNamara, Irrigation Tech Mark Batchelor and Admin Assistant Kathy Amick.



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View of the 18th green from the TV tower just before the Outback Steakhouse Pro Am tournament. Photo by Joel Jackson.

under Buck Buckner from 1995-98 and got to watch another modern legend, Tiger Woods, hone his game and play “fun” golf with buddy Mark O’Meara. Says Kubel, “It was fun to meet some of these golfing legends and nice that they remembered you, but you have to keep all that fame and glory in perspective and remember that they are really just normal folks like you and me.”

Kubel says he loves the energy and action of tournament preparations. He also has a passion for taking seriously the role of environmental steward. Kubel says, “It’s not hard! Like anything, if you work smart and have a plan, it just becomes your normal operating routine. Adopting IPM strategies and following BMPs isn’t rocket science, most of it is basic good housekeeping. Keeping good records and keeping the shop neat and clean sets an example for your staff, visitors and regulators. It’s scary when you go somewhere and see 6-foot-high dog

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fennel weeds growing in the junkpile out behind some shops.”

Maybe you could call it good turf housekeeping, but Kubel says paying attention to the turf daily also pays off environmentally.

“By following consistent monitoring, mapping and scouting practices we have been able to save the club money and minimize inputs to the golf course. One thing we do is keep the practice area as our control area. We don’t do preventive applications on that area. It becomes our barometer to tell us when pests are emerging and signals us to take a harder look at our traditional hot spots for pest infestation. Once we see pests on the range, then we go out and spot-treat to make sure the turf is protected. It serves as our lightning rod.”

Agronomically, the TPC course is situated in low-lying lake and creek basins, so moisture control on the course is paramount to keep the



Superintendent Jason Kubel and General Manager Brady Boyd work as team at the TPC at Tampa Bay Golf Club. Photo by Joel Jackson.



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Aquatic plantings and tall 4-5 inch St. Augustine roughs buffer the lake on the par-3, 17th hole. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

Learning the land and how it responds is one of the tools a superintendent uses to maximize the budget and minimize turf damage. That's why he stresses good record keeping and mapping of problem areas.

turf healthy and playing conditions manageable. Hence weather is monitored closely every day, and watering cycles are based on ET demand and data from moisture meter readings. Deep and infrequent irrigation is the rule.

Two continuing projects occupy any available spare time. One is reconstruction of the bunkers in three-year phases. The greens were done from 2003 to 2006 and the fairway bunker complexes are next. Kubel says,

“It has been a long process but it has paid off. In the past after a severe thunderstorm it might take two weeks to repair all the bunker washouts. Now it might take two days. We have altered the subgrade slope of the bunkers, installed curtain drains at the top of the slope and improved interior drainage. The sand just doesn't move or get contaminated like it used to.”

The other long-range project is wetland restoration, which involves the removal of invasive plant material that has overtaken the wetlands. With the help of the Lake Masters Company, a program of chemical and mechanical removal has made great progress in opening up the understory in the wetlands so native cypress and ferns can proliferate. Wildlife habitat improvement and better air circulation are benefits along with the improved aesthetics.

Kubel believes success of long-range projects like these along with efficient and practical turf management programs benefit from having a superintendent on board with some tenure. Learning the land and how it responds is one of the tools a superintendent uses to maximize the budget and minimize turf damage. That's why he stresses good record

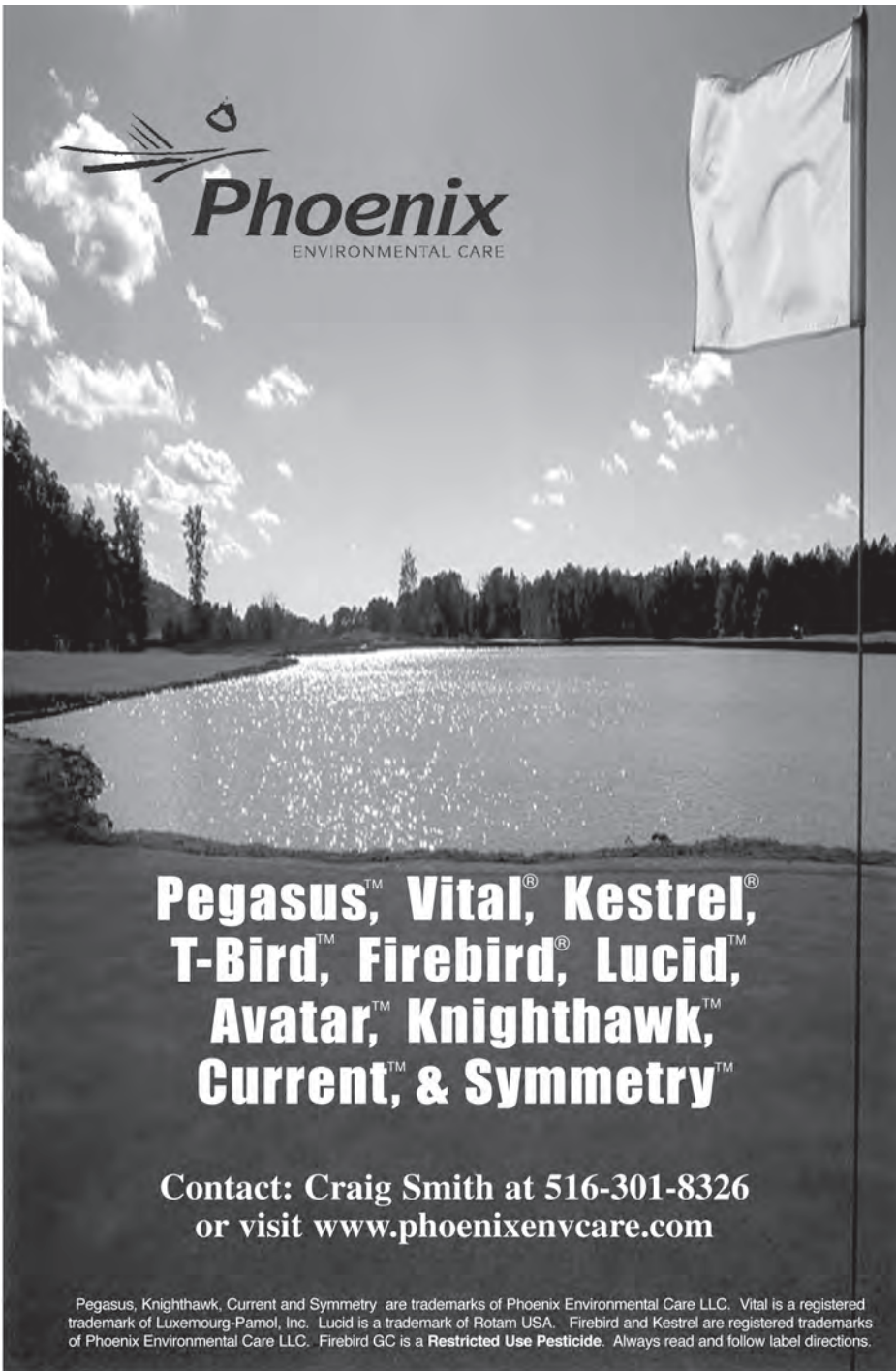

keeping and mapping of problem areas.

On the 152 acres of maintained turf on the course, Kubel treats only about 50 acres per year with a product like Curfew when warranted for nematode, mole cricket and grub control. He said they sometimes have been able to get three years' control in some areas, which helps reduce the total amount used on the course overall.

"Today we have to be very aware and sensitive to our role in the environment. We are under the proverbial microscope and we can all use a little common sense to improve our position in the public eye. For instance, ants sometimes become a problem on the putting surfaces. Rather than treat the whole green, we just make a perimeter pass around the green with some Top Choice and we have solved the problem while using less product which is good for the budget's bottom line and good for the environment."

But Kubel, like many other turf professionals, gets frustrated sometimes with the hypocrisy of regulatory concerns over golf in relation to environmental issues. He said, "Recently I had to fight tooth and nail to keep from having our consumptive use permit reduced from 101 acres to 60 acres. They said our roughs weren't revenue producing acres and we were wasting water. Meanwhile there are eight houses on my street and four of them are watering their yards in the rain."

But Kubel has been making TPC



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Morning view of the 456-yard, par-4, 18th hole from behind the green. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.



Audubon Scrapbook informs members and guests of environmental stewardship. Photo by Joel Jackson.

good for the environment ever since he arrived four and a half years ago. The course has been certified in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program since 1997 and it was re-certified on Kubel's watch. Besides the 2005 and 2006 ELGA awards, Kubel has made it a point to engage residents and local school kids in the efforts taking place on the course.

He writes newsletter articles on practical lawn care and irrigation tips for the residents. The kids have constructed many of the bird nesting boxes seen on the course. Golfers are kept aware of the course wildlife and environmental activities through newsletter articles and the Audubon Scrapbook in the lobby of the clubhouse – thanks to the scrapbooking talents of his administrative assistant Kathy Amick.

Besides Amick, Kubel has high

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SUPERINTENDENT FACTS



Kubel briefs PGA Tour office on Outback tournament-prep progress. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Jason Kubel

Membership: Class A, GCSAA

From: Daytona Beach, FL

Family: Wife Marcy; two daughters Ashley (8) and Brooke (6) and son Austin (2)

Education: A.S. Golf Course Operations, Lake City Community College 1994

Employment: 2002-Present, GCS TPC Tampa Bay; 2002 GCS, Cypress Head, Port Orange; 2000-01 GCS, The King & The Bear, St. Augustine; 1998-2000 GCS Baytree National GC, Melbourne; 1995-1998, AS, Isleworth G&CC, Windermere; 1994-95, Second AS LPGA International, Daytona Beach; 1993, Intern Doral Resort, Miami; 1992, Intern, Cypress Head GC, Port Orange; 1988-91 Foreman, Oceanside G&CC, Ormond Beach.

Professional Affiliations & Awards: Class A member of the GCSAA since 1991; Florida West Coast GCSA – board member past two years. Winner of GCSAA/Golf Digest ELGA Chaper Award for Public Courses in 2005 and 2006.

Memorable moments: Getting to know and work with the legendary Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus during the construction and grow-in of The King and The Bear course.

Hobbies: Offshore fishing, cooking, tennis, family vacations.

praise for his entire staff. He said, "Our team demonstrates commitment and loyalty on a daily basis as they go about their assignments. I can't thank them enough for the services they provide."

Teamwork is obviously a key part of the TPC culture as General Manager Brady Boyd had his own praise for Kubel's leadership and management style. Boyd said, "We're very proud of Jason and the job he's done the past four and a half years. Much of what he's accomplished is "underground" and isn't always immediately obvious, but we see the end result and overall improvements to the course. His leadership style has his department more involved and engaged in club and network activities and he has reduced the turnover rate in maintenance tremendously. I often say he's the best hire I ever made."

Once upon a time Kubel had aspirations to be an architect. In seeking some part time work, a friend mentioned a possible "cart boy" job at a nearby golf club that he thought would offer great tips and a work schedule that would fit his school schedule. When he applied the only position open was in golf course maintenance. He got the job and never quit. He ended up with his AS degree from Lake City.

Currently in his mid-30s, Kubel says one of his goals is to retire at age 50. When asked what he would do if he retired from golf he said, "Well, I love to cook!" That makes sense coming from a guy who wrote that he stays home to watch the Food Channel cooking shows. Look out Emeril!

The life and career path of a superintendent often means changing jobs and locations as you move up the ladder from assistant to head superintendent. Kubel says his biggest supporter has been his wife, Marcy. He said, "It takes a special person to commit to a relationship with someone in this industry. I wouldn't have made it this far without her."

Another important relationship is volunteering time to his local superintendent chapter. Kubel is currently serving on the Florida West



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Fun Facts

Jason's Stats

Vehicle: 2000 Dodge Ram, 4x4

Last good movie I saw: Outlaw Josie Wales, or any 007 movie

I stay home to watch: Cooking shows

The book I've been reading: Current events & research in trade magazines

Favorite meal: Ahi tuna on beansprouts with wasabi sauce and onion rings

Favorite performers: Clint Eastwood, AC/DC, Kenny Chesney, Jimmy Buffet, Neil Young, Brooke

Burns, Rolling Stones, and Aerosmith

Prized possessions: My children and the WWII memorial on our wall showing my grandfather receiving the Bronze Star Medal from General George Patton.

Personal Heroes: My wife Marcy. How she tolerates me I'll never know. She's the best

Nobody knows that I: Passed up an opportunity to caddy for Jack Nicklaus

The one thing I can't stand: Disrespect

If I could do it over: I'd do it again

I'd give anything to meet: Any of our U.S. Presidents

If I could change one thing about myself: Learn to be more patient
My most irrational act: Losing my patience

Most humbling experience: The births of all of my children

The words that best describe me: Outgoing and straightforward

My best fish story: You should have seen the one that got away

My most lucky golf shot: All my shots are lucky

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Close up of the approach to the Par 5, 12th hole from the layup position. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

... one of the lessons learned from those mentors was, 'Don't let the new technologies get in the way of the basics. Keep it simple and practical.'

Coast GCSA's board. His responsibility is meeting planning and education. He often calls on former meeting chairman Duane VanEtten for backup when he needs a helping hand. Kubel admits that his volunteer duties are the last thing on his daily agenda. But Kubel also recognizes the value of the time spent on chapter business.

"Last year," he said, "I was in charge of the newsletter. It wasn't easy for me. I don't consider writing one of my best skills. But by having this responsibility it forced me to become better and now I am writing articles for our club newsletter, and case studies and applications for the GCSAA ELGA Awards and our ACSP certification requirements. It has been rewarding personally and professionally to be involved."

If Kubel has any regrets so far in his career it was the time he declined the

opportunity to caddy for Jack Nicklaus when he was paired with Arnold Palmer at the Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf at the World Golf Village. He followed the group but let his boss at the time, Steve LaFrance, have the honor. During the round, Palmer was lining up a putt and asked Kubel, outside the ropes which way the putt broke. Kubel asked, "Is it legal for me to tell?"

Kubel says if you're not having fun doing what you do then it's time for a change. He credits all of the superintendents he's worked for with contributing to his success. He said, "They each have played the role of a mentor and more importantly as a friend." He added that one of the lessons learned from those mentors was, "Don't let the new technologies get in the way of the basics. Keep it simple and practical."

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*Jason Kubel and his club for being selected
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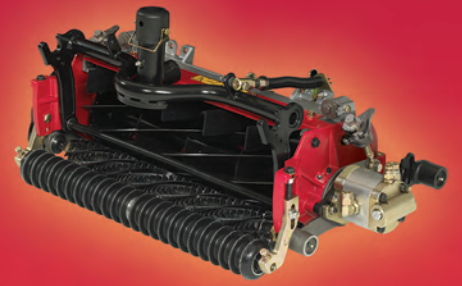
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Count on it.

Serving on a GCSAA Committee

By Bob LaChance, CGCS
The Golf Center at King's Island

Ever thought of serving on a GCSAA committee? What does it take and how do you go about being picked to serve on one?

Over the past 10 years I've served on several: Publications, Strategic Communications and Chapter Relations. I'll try to answer those questions and give a little insight into how the GCSAA operates.

I serve because I belong to the organization and firmly believe that sometimes you've got to give something back to that organization. I grew up in the 1960s believing you are either part of the problem or part of the solution. When you join an organization you become part of it; and if things aren't exactly how you want them, you work for change.

I volunteered to edit our local association newsletter in 1995 when the position became open. I had the interest, the skills and a desire to see the job done well. As a consequence I have been a board member for more than 10 years and learned how to edit and manage a publication. I felt my opinion on the running of our association mattered. I've met and got to know a lot of really good people too.

One day it dawned on me that I could possibly influence our profession on the national level. Every year since I joined GCSAA, I saw the invitation to volunteer to serve on a committee. "Why not?" I thought. "I'm probably qualified. I'm involved at the local level and I'm not afraid to express myself. I am willing to serve. What more could they want in a committee member?"

I volunteered one fall and, after GCSAA checked with our local chapter, I was called that winter to serve. I understand now that it can take up to three years to get on a specific committee, but I had lucked out. I thought I might be in over my head, but I knew my reasons for wanting to serve

were valid. I decided to take my place on the committee.

When you are picked to serve on a committee, you are invited by a member of the GCSAA staff who calls on behalf of the committee chairperson, which is usually a board member. Editor-in-Chief Ed Hiscock called me and outlined the responsibilities of serving on the Publications Committee and all my questions.

The first thing he wanted to know was, could I make a meeting in May of that year? I would need to fly in the night before and there would be a day and a half of meetings. After lunch on the second day we would return home. Simple enough. I could do that.

GCSAA takes care of all expenses for attending the meeting. You call GCSAA Travel and book a flight and the staff takes care of arranging your local transportation, a room and meals. All they ask is you show up and participate.

When traveling to GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, Kan. you fly into Kansas City, Mo. Lawrence is about an hour's drive west of Kansas City. They will arrange for you to rent a car or share a limousine ride. I've done both over the years.

One of the best parts of committee service is that you meet a lot of people in the business you probably would never have met otherwise. The committee is picked to represent the diversity of our membership. There are people from all regions of the country and from all types of facilities. There are directors of golf and superintendents of public nine-hole courses. They are all superintendents in the broadest sense of the word and all are trying to help our association in their own ways. Besides superintendents on the committee, I have met people from the USGA, chapter executives and other industry advisers with special skills.

Accommodations while in Lawrence are good. We stay at hotels usually within walking distance of downtown Lawrence, which is a great college town

(Kansas University) with rolling hills in an otherwise flat landscape. Spring can be a stormy time in Kansas, so tornado warnings are not unusual late in the afternoon and early evening. Take that as a travel tip when booking your flight. On the night of your arrival an optional dinner is scheduled. This is social time to meet and greet your fellow committee members, who can be old and new friends.

In the morning, a staff member meets you in the lobby and makes sure everyone has a ride to headquarters. The first time you see the building, it can be quite a sight sitting on a hilltop in west Lawrence. I had been in the industry for 20 years and GCSAA was an organization I belonged to, but it was still an abstraction. The building is quite a "concrete" reality and impressive. Even more impressive is when you take a tour of the building and see all the departments and all the people working hard every day to serve our needs.

The committee meetings start early each day and the first day goes a full eight hours with brief breaks and lunch on site. Staff members come in and out and the ambitious agenda is dutifully followed. There are state-of-the-association presentations and then presentations and discussions on committee business leading to decisions and recommendations for action to the board of directors.

The people you met the night before in a casual atmosphere become very real as you learn what is and isn't important to them. You come to respect them not just for their insights and opinions but for their commitment to serve. The GCSAA staff clearly sees its purpose as serving members. Their attention to detail and nuance is awesome. At each meeting I have attended, our CEO Steve Mona discusses the state of the association and how your committee fits into its mission and goals. He also checks in on the committee at breaks or lunch and at the wrap-up session

to make sure all has gone well and to meet individual members.

After the first day of meetings, I am usually exhausted. I have thought and spoken so much more than I usually do in one day. After a brief break at the end of the day, you are off to the official committee dinner at a local restaurant where discussion of the day's events mingle with talk of golf courses, careers, hobbies and home life. You drift off to sleep early knowing that the car leaves for headquarters again early in the morning and you will need to be packed and checked out first.

The first meeting on the second morning recaps the discussions of the first day with an emphasis on those that may involve policy changes. Then you move on to new matters. By the time you pick up your box lunch and head for the airport you are invigorated but on the brink of exhaustion. I'm glad I have that flight home to take a nap.

Serving on a GCSAA committee is rewarding. I have seen policies adopted and changed due to the input from committees I have served on that is studied and considered by the board of directors. It is a serious commitment that entails taking time away from work for a couple of days to serve your profession. It also means keeping in contact during the year by emails with staff and other members when input is needed.

It is a commitment to our profession, but as I stated in the beginning – sometimes you've got to give something back.

Reprinted and edited with permission from The Green Breeze, February 2007

EDITOR'S NOTE: I met Bob while serving on the Publications Committee and he has reprinted several Florida Green articles in his newsletter. If you can't get on a national committee right away, your local chapter can use some help, and your service will improve your chances for a spot on a GCSAA committee.



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MANAGING NEMATODES

Without Nemacur

Nematode damage on a putting green. Photo by Todd Lowe

By Joel Jackson, CGCS Retired

The widely used, industry-standard, chemical nematicide, fenamiphos – distributed by Bayer under the trade name Nemacur – will complete its three-year phase-out May 31. The turf industry will have to manage nematode damage without this product.

Casual and imprudent applications of Nemacur too close to golf-course water bodies did result in a few cases of fish kills and certainly the toxicity level and re-entry restrictions made it a very sensitive product to use. But like most pesticides, it was not a problem when used properly.

Under the Food Quality and Protection Act, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency was mandated to review all pesticides and recalculate the risk factors. The organophosphate family of chemical which included Nemacur was one of the first on the list, and Nemacur was given the ax.

So what to do next?

Bayer, with the support of the golf industry including the Florida GCSA, was able to negotiate a three-year phase-out in hopes of discovering some alternative products to manage nematode infestations and, more importantly, the damage

that could be caused to intensely managed turfgrass, especially the putting surfaces.

Dr. Billy Crow, nematologist with the University of Florida, was provided a grant from Bayer to study alternative products. The results from his two-year study indicated that an extract of mustard seed oil appeared to be the most effective deterrent, but that product is not available commercially. The other products had varying degrees of success in the test-plot environment.

More recently one compound – sodium azide – that Dr. Crow used in one trial had showed promising results in reducing nematode counts and providing good turf response. Reportedly the byproducts are salt water and some proteins. Commercial availability is years away, so keep looking for other ways to manage nematodes, keeping in mind that turf density and color – not the number of nematodes – are what matter.

Curfew (Telone) is available and provides effective control of nematodes

and mole crickets.

It is slit-injected by licensed applicators. It requires 100-foot setbacks from any structure (residence) and is not allowed in Dade County. There is a 24-hour re-entry restriction. If you have a critical problem that needs quick response and control, Curfew is an option to consider.

According to USGA Agronomist Todd Lowe, nematode populations and damage can be collateral results of shade, compacted soil, poor soil moisture and nutrient levels, so be sure to look for and eliminate the other stresses as well. He also said there are several other products that claim nematode control and many have nutrients involved, so one would expect to get a turf response. We must rely on managing the turf and not just focus on eliminating nematodes. There are no silver bullets, but there is some ammunition to consider.

One product that is readily accessible and has been mentioned most by several superintendents as providing satisfactory results is NeoTec distributed by Parkway Research. During the Nemacur studies by EPA, Parkway scientists claimed that NeoTec was successful in suppressing nematode activity. Superintendent

Curfew and Turfcure 376

http://entnemdept.ifas.ufl.edu/Crow_NRP_16.pdf

Biologically derived alternatives to Nemacur

http://entnemdept.ifas.ufl.edu/Crow_NRP_03.pdf

skepticism and desire for university research results kept NeoTec under the radar.

Another factor that kept NeoTec from being heralded as a replacement for Nemacur is the nuanced, variable results from nematode sampling. So many factors – from the actual sampling method, location and timing to the lab handling and mortality from a variety of causes – made consistent verification of results a tough process. Thus the belief and faith that a sesame-seed-oil-extract could effectively control nematodes was never established.

The following accounts are not to be construed as endorsements of NeoTec as the preeminent replacement for Nemacur, but they are anecdotal comments by several superintendents who feel they have been successful in managing and minimizing nematode damage on their courses. Here are their comments on the practices that have given them satisfactory control of nematodes from courses in Central Florida down to Palm Beach County:

Several years ago, after the phase out was announced, Ridge superintendents Alan Puckett (The Club at Eaglebrooke) and Steve Ciardullo (then at Mountain Lake CC), reported satisfactory results using NeoTec in the sandy Ridge area of Florida.

Just recently, in preparation for this article, Central Florida superintendent Chris Cartin reported using NeoTec with success for the past eight years on three different golf courses. Additionally, I stumbled into a discussion among

Boca West superintendents Steve Wright and Darden Nicks and consultant Larry Smith about a NeoTec and Bovamura program at the 54-hole complex in Boca Raton.

At the time (two or three years ago) I did not get hard numbers from Puckett and Ciardullo, but they both claimed that the product did provide relief from nematode damage symptoms and were happy with the results. In the cases of Cartin and Wright I did get more data to share.

When polling others on their plans to manage nematodes, the answer was a quick one – “Stockpile product.” But escalating prices and dwindling inventories of product made that choice unrealistic.

Enter the NeoTec programs.

According to Wright, the label describes NeoTec as containing 50 percent sesame seed oil and 50 percent lecithin. It does not claim to be a pesticide and thus does not have an EPA pesticide label or classification for use. For the sake of this discussion we will consider it to be a soil conditioner.

What it appears to do is to create an environment in the soil that turf-damaging nematodes do not like. Exactly what the mode of action is, I don't know. What I do know from Cartin and Wright is that they appear to be able to manage their nematode populations with the product and that's the bottom line – results.

Cartin has been using the product for the past eight years.

“My program is to apply 83 ounces

per acre to my known problem areas every six weeks. The key is to be aggressive and consistent to get ahead of the populations. Once you reach a comfort zone you can back off applications, depending on time of year and conditions that you monitor.

“We apply the liquid version, NeoTec SL, with a flow jet, and water it in for approximately 5 minutes to get it off the leaf blade. We also use either granular or liquid wetting agents to help it penetrate into the soil where the nematodes are. We start in April and stay pretty diligent throughout the summer and only back off when we feel nematode pressure is off, but you do have to be vigilant on your greens and known hot spots on tees and fairways. We apply some fertilizer to boost the plant health following an application during the growing season.

“Our nematode counts are going down. I believe the product acts as a “sickening” agent that either drives the nematodes out of the treated areas or makes them so weak they can't function enough to cause severe damage. It is safe, so you don't have to worry about health and environmental issues and it's economical. There may be times when you have to tolerate some slight off-color appearance but if you beef up your treatments, they seem to respond very well.”

When Wright took over at Boca West a few years ago, the nematode counts read from 750 to 1140 Lance nematodes and 15-45 Sting nematodes per 100 cc of soil. The older courses had a thick



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organic profile and the roots on the turf were really short. The roots were so weak that initial aerifications were rolling up the sod.

In consultation with agronomist Larry Smith, Wright developed a NeoTec program that has drastically reduced the nematode counts and damage. He says you have to be aggressive and patient.

"We began using NeoTec in the spring of 2003 at a rate of 2 gallons per acre twice a month, and made our last application in September of that year. We saw results and verified declines in the numbers of nematodes.

"On some persistent greens, hot spots and mounded areas, we did resort to limited spot treatment with NemaCur in early 2004. In June 2004, our counts were low but they did spike up a little in August, but we did not apply NemaCur. The following year in 2005 our counts were in the "non-detect" range. We did find that testing can be nebulous and

the best guide is to watch your turf and react to the conditions that you see.

"In 2004 we added 1/3 gallon of Bovamura (5-0-0) per 1,000 sq.ft – or 12 gallons per acre – to our NeoTec applications. While the NeoTec seems to retard the nematode activity, we wanted to stimulate the plant growth and other soil microbes to maximize suppression of nematode activity. As noted, our counts are showing reduced numbers and the results in terms of appearance and performance of the turf have been good.

"I think that managing moisture also has a great deal to do with minimizing nematode damage. It seems when the greens get too dry, the nematode problems can accelerate. We don't want to over-water, but we don't want to get too dry either. So water and feed your grass properly to keep your turf healthy enough to withstand nematodes.

"If you do have a problem that needs addressing, you need to be aggressive

and persistent with the NeoTec. The 2 gallons, twice per month worked for us. As we gained a comfort level we could back off to once per month when turf and stress conditions permitted. I'm happy to say that in a world where minimizing chemical use is becoming an issue, using NeoTec has given us results we can live with."

A few other products out there seem to be working for folks who have been willing to experiment, but they haven't made the headlines. Lowe also has shared that Bob Bittner has had good results using a walnut-extract product at The Club at Pelican Bay.

The key is that several superintendents have taken the steps to wean their courses from NemaCur dependency and are trying various products and programs to simply rather than simply eliminating nematodes.

It takes more diligence and persistence and it's an ongoing process, but it can be done.

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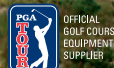
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SUPER TIP

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

By Darren J. Davis

It has been said throughout time that a picture is worth a thousand words. I have used this familiar proverb numerous times in my career as a golf course superintendent, and I believe it often holds true. Over the last year, while attending Everglades Golf Course Superintendents Association board meetings, I noticed that current EGCSA President Bill Davidson printed and pinned two pictures to a bulletin board in his break room. The pictures depicted the correct and incorrect method for edging a golf-course sprinkler head. After looking at these two pictures for a few board meetings, I came to realize that, due to staff turnover or just less-than-perfect mindfulness by my existing staff, I often find myself repeating instructions or retraining crew members on similar basic tasks. I took Davidson's idea and expanded upon it and offer my results as this issue's "Super Tip."

In developing a plan for this picture project I decided that I wanted to continually rotate the subject that was showcased. I also realized that the tasks/items which I would illustrate with photos could be recycled indefinitely. This led me to purchasing two Advantus "Grip-A-Strip Display Rails" at Office Depot. The display rails use a patented roller system to organize items on a wall. They are like a bulletin board but with no tacks and are available in 12-, 24-, 48- and 96-inch models. Depending on the quantity of pictures I wish to display I use either a 24- or 48-inch display rail. The cost of a 24-inch model is \$16.99, and the 48 inch model sells for \$30.99.



Photos showing proper way to install traffic control ropes and stakes. Photo by Darren Davis.



Photo reminders of necessary "detail work" tools to take each day. Photo by Darren Davis.

When I decide on an item that I wish to convey to my staff, I use my digital camera and gather photos that depict the situation. Sometimes I show a "right" and "wrong" photo or, for some issues, a single picture will suffice.

After downloading the images to my computer, I print them on 8½ by 11, 9 mil HP glossy photo paper. A 100-sheet package sells for \$29.99 at Office Depot.

The next step in the process is to decide on a caption for the printed photos and to translate the word or phrase into Spanish. I print the text on an Avery 8160 (1x 2-5/8-inch) address label and affix it to the photo. A 750 pack of the labels sells for \$11.99.

Finally, since I want to reuse

the photos I insert them into Avery nonstick sheet protectors which are made of polypropylene and sold at Office Depot in packs of 25 for \$5.79.

To date I have used the system to remind the staff of the correct method for installing rope and stakes at Olde Florida, the desired depth on a bunker lip, tee marker placement and alignment, and to prompt staff to make sure certain items ("weed popper," ball mark repair tool, etc.) are in their possession at all times.

As you can imagine I am only limited by my imagination to the number of items that I can depict in photographs for the staff. My total cost was less than \$100, and in my opinion an extremely wise investment of my club's resources.



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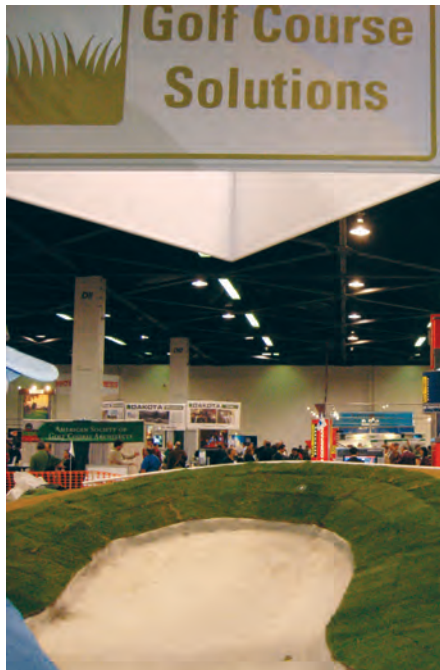
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Golf Industry Show breaks records

Exhibitors, buyers, total attendees set new marks; Florida golf team takes national championship

This year's Golf Industry Show Feb. 22-24 in Anaheim, Calif., achieved an all-time high of 23,109 total attendees, surpassing last year's figure in Atlanta by more than 4,000. The most impressive number was the 9,697 qualified buyers (those who are part of the purchase process) in attendance. A three-year best, those buyers were greeted by a record 981 exhibitors covering another record 291,250 square feet of exhibit space.

Leaders from all areas of the golf industry participated as exhibitors, attendees and contributors to seminars, forums, sessions and special meetings. Sixty-eight countries were represented,



In Orlando in 2005 the Golf Course Builders Association built a green on the trade show floor. In Anaheim they built a bunker in the Golf Solutions Center. Photo by Joel Jackson.

with 1,931 international attendees.

Florida's FGCSA golf team finished first in the Team Gross Division and South Florida's Bob Harper tied for second with Paul Jett of Pinehurst, finishing two shots behind Jason Regan of Selma (Ala.) CC. Jim Torba from

the Everglades GCSA finished fourth overall.

Around three hundred people attended the FGCSA Reception in Anaheim at the Sheraton Park Hotel just down the street from the convention center. The annual FGCSA Benevolent Fund raffle earned nearly \$2300 thanks to raffle winner Steve Ehrbar, CGCS, Lost Tree G, who donated back his share to be used for the Mike Ballard Relief Fund in Palm Beach.

The Old Tom Morris Award was presented this year to Charlie "Just Let Me Play" Sifford, the first African-American to win a tournament on the PGA Tour. A video of Sifford's battle to break the color barrier highlighted his playing career and a taped message from Tiger Woods, who calls Sifford his uncle, preceded the award presentation.

Next Johnny Miller, the often critical King of Grain golf announcer, proved to be quite human as his love of the land and of his role as family man came through a surprising and emotional keynote address during the memorable and diverse Opening Session. The session began with a couple of Native American songs played by members



One of the largest post session crowds ever stayed around to meet and greet Johnny Miller after his emotional Opening Session speech. Photo by Joel Jackson.



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Charlie Sifford receives the Old Tom Morris Award in Anaheim from GCSAA President Sean Hoolehan, CGCS. Photo by Joel Jackson.

of the Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Walla tribes from the Umatilla Indian Reservation, where GCSAA President Sean Hoolehan, CGCS oversees the Wildhorse Casino Golf Resort.

Check out the photos highlighting the week that was in Anaheim.



Steve Ehrbar, CGCS donated his raffle winnings back to the Benevolent Fund to help Mike Ballard and family recover from a fire that destroyed their home. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Stephen Fox, the fourth member of the FGCSA Team. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Seth Strickland, Bob Harper and Jim Torba celebrate the Florida Team victory at the FGCSA Reception in Anaheim. Photo by Joel Jackson.



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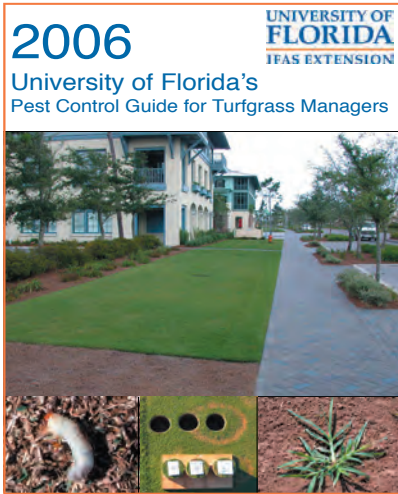


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USGA UPDATE

Overseeding Irregularities and Diseases Continue



2006
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 Pest Control Guide for Turfgrass Managers

The University of Florida produces an excellent pest control manual for turfgrass managers, with a list of recommended pesticides for common turfgrass pests at the following website:

<http://turfpath.ifas.ufl.edu/turfgrass/2006TurfPestControlGuide.pdf>

By Todd Lowe

Warm temperatures in early winter have had a significant impact on golf course playability. As mentioned in previous updates, increased disease activity on putting greens and the need for increased cultivation occurred in early winter. Overseeding consistency

is an additional factor that the odd weather pattern affected.

Some golf courses in our region overseed playing surfaces with cool-season grasses to improve color. Certain factors dictate overseeding success, and one of the most important of these is temperature. Ideally, seeds are applied as soil temperature decreases and bermudagrass becomes dormant or semi-dormant. Increased soil temperatures occurred this past fall, which encouraged prolonged bermudagrass growth during the overseeding establishment period. As a result, the bermudagrass turf became more competitive creating spotty overseed establishment.

Overseeding irregularities were less obvious when the bermudagrass turf was green, and were not observed until frosts occurred in January and February. Low temperatures caused the bermudagrass to temporarily lose its color, accentuating non-uniform overseed establishment and causing numerous golfer complaints. Winters like these have certainly caused clubs to take a long, hard look at whether the practice of overseeding is worth the aggravation and increased resources necessary for good overseed quality, particularly in southern Florida.

Some disease pressure continues to plague golf course putting greens throughout the region. In particular, *Pythium* was observed on several courses in South Florida during recent visits. Temperature fluctuations have, at times, been conducive for *Pythium* outbreaks and it is important to scout, observe weather patterns, and utilize reliable products for *Pythium* control as needed. Just because a product is labeled for the control of a particular

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TURF SPECIES, CULTIVAR, PLANTING TYPE _____
 GREEN OR FIELD NUMBER, IDENTIFIER _____

Check/Fill-in all that apply

SYMPTOMS INCLUDE: Leaf spot Blight Patch Ring Decline
 SYMPTOMS ARE: 12" or less Larger than 1 ft Mild and scattered Severe and widespread
 SYMPTOMS DEVELOPED: Suddenly Within the last week Over several weeks
 SYMPTOMS OTHER INFO _____

TURF MAINTENANCE: Height of cut _____ Irrigation water quality/reliability _____
 Growth regulator and frequency: _____ Recent fertility schedule _____
 List fungicide applications for the past month (product and rate): _____

 Additional information that may be helpful: _____

I would like: diagnostic confirmation Fungicide management recommendations Other: _____

Winters like these have certainly caused clubs to take a long, hard look at whether the practice of overseeding is worth the aggravation and increased resources necessary for good overseed quality, particularly in southern Florida.

pathogen does not necessarily ensure that it provides the best control.

The University of Florida produces an excellent pest control manual for turfgrass managers, with a list of recommended pesticides for common turfgrass pests at the Web site shown on the opposite page.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The University also has a Rapid Turfgrass Diagnostics Service which provides accurate disease diagnosis within 24-48 hours. See IFAS form in this section for more information.

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Sealsle Supreme – The new kid on the block

By Joel Jackson

The seashore paspalum grasses have made a big splash in southwest Florida the past few years, with WCI Communities and Bonita Bay Properties choosing to use these varieties for their acknowledged “Wow!” factor. There is no denying seashore paspalum is a good-looking grass and it has some appealing features.

First and foremost, Tim Hiers, CGCS will flat out tell you that without seashore paspalums the Old Collier Golf Club would not exist simply because there was no available fresh water for the club to access. Because paspalum can thrive on higher salinity water, they were able to use a brackish water source for irrigation. For coastal regions, where fresh water is becoming more scarce thanks to continued development, these grasses offer a practical alternative for golf courses.

Sea Isle Supreme is one of the newest varieties developed by Dr. Ronnie Duncan, famed researcher out of Griffin, Ga., and is currently installed at Old Collier and a few other courses. I met with Dr. Paul Raymer, UGA, Harold Pirkle of Pike Creek Turf and John Holmes from Jennings Turf Farms during the 2007 GCSAA show in Anaheim to discuss Sea Isle Supreme.

“What excites us about this grass besides the inherent tolerance for lower quality irrigation water is that it is truly a ‘tee-to-green’ variety,” Holmes said. “All you have to do is change the height of cut for tees, greens, fairways and roughs. That is unique in turf management.”

Like other paspalums, Supreme has good color retention in cold weather. Holmes mentioned that, when compared to other plots in Georgia, the Supreme was the last to go off-color following Tifway then TifSport when cold weather set in. In Florida from Orlando south, it performs very well in cool weather and comes back quickly from cold snaps.

While acknowledging the attributes



Sea Isle Supreme on the Old Collier Golf Club. Photo courtesy of The Branding Firm

of its ability to use lower-quality water, potentially less water use, and less nitrogen use as definite environmental positives, I asked the group about concerns with diseases.

Pirkle responded, “While paspalums may be more susceptible to disease pressure, that is a variable situation related to growing conditions and stresses. Meanwhile water and nutrient requirements are constant universal inputs and so on balance I would say the grass definitely comes up on the positive side environmentally.”

There obviously are good reasons to use paspalum. I asked the group if they feared that the “silver bullet” label would be put on the grass and too much expected of it.

“We went through a learning curve with the ultradwarf grasses, and the same will be true with SeaIsle Supreme and the other varieties,” Holmes said. “The longer time we work with them, the more we will continue to tweak the best management practices and become more comfortable in our management programs. Tim Hiers certainly has started on the ground floor and continues to evaluate and re-evaluate his programs to get the best results.

“A grass like Tifway after 40-50 years is a proven, known entity. We are just

'All you have to do is change the height of cut for tees, greens, fairways and roughs.'

at the beginning of the Sealsle Supreme story. In 10 years we will know a lot more. Right now it's not ready for general consumer use, but as we learn to adapt to the nuances of this grass like we have done for others it might just become very common in home lawns.

And Pirkle added, “All the research in the world on test plots can give you some confidence, but it doesn't matter until you finally install the grass on a golf course and subject it to the day-to-day, real-world stresses.”

Right now Sea Isle Supreme is the new kid on the block and so far so good.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This piece is in part an “advertorial” on SeaIsle Supreme because we somehow managed to leave out their ad scheduled to appear in the Winter 2007 Issue. I appreciate the candor of the interviewees to discuss all aspects of the product.

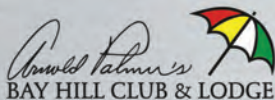
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PLANTS OF THE YEAR



Dracaena deremensis 'Limelight'
Zones: Interior Plant, exterior in South Florida
Mature Height and Spread: 5' x 4'
Classification: Houseplant, tropical
Landscape Use: as a low-light interior plant throughout state and can be used in the exterior in South Florida
Characteristics: With striking bright glossy lustrous lime green leaves, this tropical foliage plant thrives as a low-light interior plant. It's durability makes

it ideal for home or office settings and a low-light location helps maintain its lime coloring. This plant grows more quickly than its relative the Dracaena 'Janet Craig' and can also be used outdoors as a shade plant for south Florida gardens.
Possible Insect/Disease Problems: possible mealy bug, but not common
Propagation: rooted cuttings or air layers



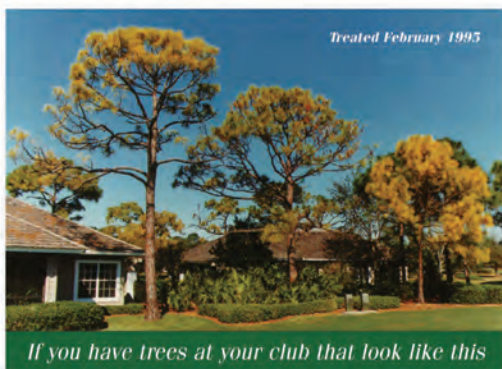
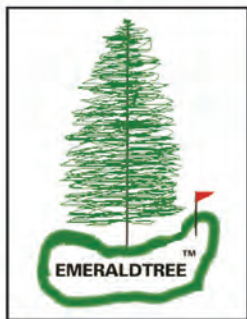
Cyrtomium falcatum
Common Name: Holly Fern
Zones: North, Central & South
Mature Height and Spread: 18" x 30"
Classification: Perennial, Ground Cover
Landscape Use: shade border plant, shade

ground cover, indoor specimen, covered patio container, woodland garden
Characteristics: A low-growing clumping evergreen fern sporting holly-like leaflets. Holly Fern is a shade-loving plant requiring ample moisture for best performance in the landscape. Erect and spreading glossy, dark green fronds arise from a central crown.
Possible Insect/Disease Problems: scale is possible, but not common
Propagation: by division and spread by spores which are visible underneath the leaves

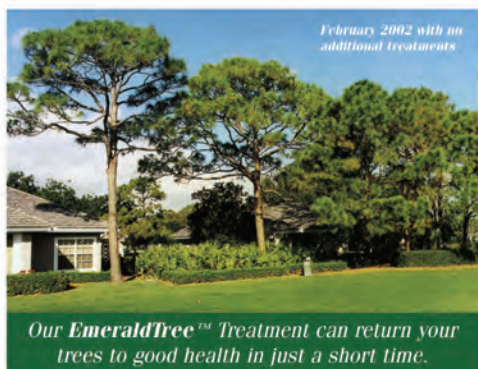
Launched in 1998, Florida Nursery, Growers & Landscape Association (FNGLA) Florida Plants of the Year program designates plants friendly to each of Florida's three geographic regions as Florida Plants of the Year. For 2007, five plants were selected by a jury representing different facets of the state's diverse nursery and landscape industry.



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Golf BMP Manual Completed!

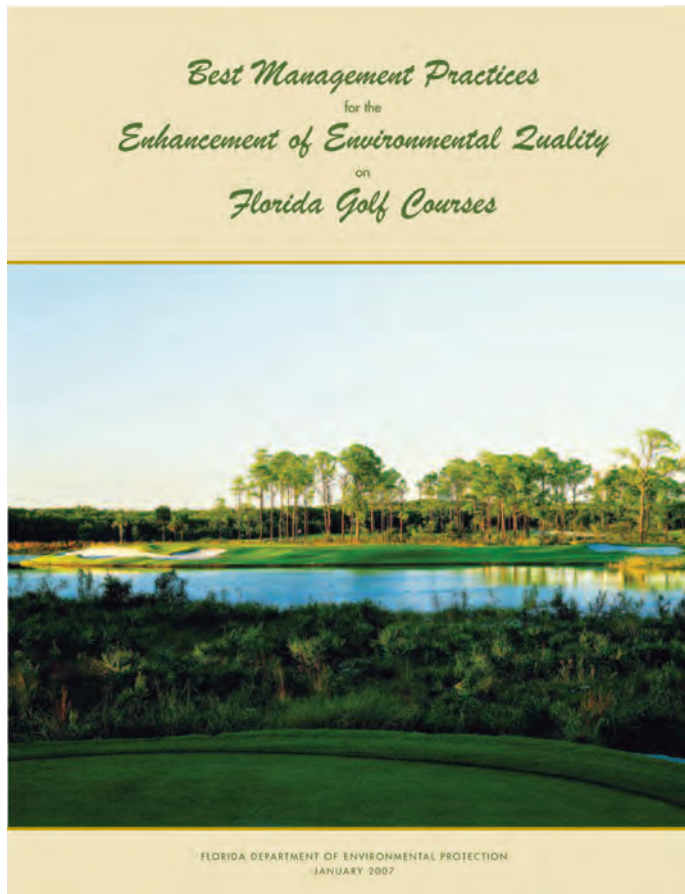
IN AN ERA of growing environmental sensitivity Florida agriculture and green industries joined with the state regulatory agencies and water management districts to write a series of Best Management Practices for the various commodities. Following in the footsteps and building upon the experiences of the citrus, cattle, dairy, aquaculture and forestry industries, the turf industry also has produced a library of manuals that will provide guidance not only to end users but also to local governments when considering local ordinances. The Green Industries BMP manual was published in 2002 and soon after the Golf and Sod Industry BMP Manuals were begun in earnest.

After a three-year period of drafting and editing, a comprehensive Golf BMP Manual is currently in final production. A copy will be mailed to every golf course superintendent and general manager in the state. By formally declaring intent and showing by documentation, any course that complies with the BMPs will be recognized by the state as being in compliance and not subject to any regulatory action. Here are the introductory statements from



Michael W. Sole, Secretary Florida Department of Environmental Protection and FGCSA President Craig Weyandt that appear in the Manual:

I AM PLEASED to present the new edition of Best



Management Practices for the Enhancement of Environmental Quality on Florida Golf Courses. This manual reflects the collaborative efforts of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association, the University of Florida and many private sector partners to develop nonregulatory guidelines for minimizing pollution and conserving Florida's precious water resources. Water conservation is one of our most crucial environmental issues. By adopting and applying the practices recommended in this guide, industry as well as individuals will help protect our natural resources, minimize the need for future regulations, and continue Florida's commitment to sound environmental stewardship.

Michael W. Sole, Secretary Florida Department of Environmental Protection

enhancing the environment on Florida's golf courses. There is a reason that wildlife gravitates to golf courses even in urban settings, where they serve as greenbelts. Golf courses present opportunities for many diverse wildlife habitats. By following the practices in this manual, the golf course industry will be able to demonstrate the positive contributions that golf courses make to communities across the state of Florida.

Craig Weyandt, President Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association



'...demonstrate that environmental stewardship is a responsibility that is taken seriously'

THESE BEST MANAGEMENT Practices were born from the desire of Florida golf course superintendents to demonstrate that environmental stewardship is a responsibility that is taken seriously. The Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association wishes to acknowledge the time, effort, and expertise of the staff of FDEP and other regulatory agencies, the University of Florida–IFAS faculty, and other members of the private and public sector who partnered with us to help develop these voluntary guidelines for



This is the way your pest control room should look. All it takes is a broom, some paint and some steel shelving. Photo by Jason Kubel.

Operation Cleansweep Collects 1 Million Pounds Of Pesticides

By Terence McElroy and Sarah Williams

Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles H. Bronson and Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Michael W. Sole announced in mid-March that "Operation Cleansweep" had collected more than 1 million pounds of pesticides during the program's 12 years of

operation. A partnership between the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the program collects canceled, suspended or unusable pesticides from Florida farmers, nurseries, golf courses and pest control companies for proper disposal.

"Our agency's efforts, and that of DEP, have removed more than 1 million pounds of unused and outdated pesticides from farms, businesses and other commercial sites – chemicals that otherwise could pose a danger to our environment," Bronson said. "This program illustrates what government can accomplish when it works together."

Operation Cleansweep collects and disposes of pesticides to protect agricultural workers, emergency responders, the public and the environment from potential health and environmental risks from stored pesticides. Some products are old and may be stored in containers that are deteriorating, while others, such as chlordane and DDT, can no longer be used legally. To date, pesticide products have been collected from nearly 1,500 participating farms, dairies, ranches, nurseries, golf courses and professional pest control operations in 65 counties.

"Operation Cleansweep is a convenient, cost-effective, public-private partnership to dispose of unwanted or outdated pesticides, providing free collection and disposal for Florida's pesticide consumers," said Sole. "This program provides a safe method of collection and disposal that is more

protective of Florida's natural resources and our agricultural economy."

Proper disposal of pesticides can be costly and a complicated regulatory burden for small farmers and other pesticide users. Operation Cleansweep offers an opportunity to avoid these formidable barriers and promotes safe and environmentally-sound pesticide use, handling and disposal.

In addition to disposal of unwanted pesticides, participants in the program also receive educational material that includes tips on purchasing pesticides; inventory control; stock rotation; proper labeling, storage, and handling; and how to respond to leaks, spills, and exposure incidents. Funded by in-kind contributions from public and private partners and the Florida Legislature, the program's goal is to collect and dispose of unwanted pesticides as well as prevent the need for future Operation Cleansweep collections through proper storage, labeling and pesticide purchasing.

To sign up for Cleansweep collection and disposal service, e-mail Robin Waddell at waddelr@doacs.state.fl.us at the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; or call toll free at 877-851-5285, or fax at 386-418-5527.

For other information about Florida's Operation Cleansweep, e-mail John L. Price at ljohn.l.price@dep.state.fl.us at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, or call him at 850-245-8751 (SunCom 205-8751) or fax at 850-245-8811 (SunCom 205-8811).



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Colorful wildflower beds make great habitat for butterflies and other pollinators. Photo by Kyle Sweet.

Get a Little Wild!

...wildflowers that is.

By Kyle D. Sweet, CGCS

Several years ago, while touring a golf course with a fellow superintendent here in southwest Florida, I came upon a flowering area like I had never seen before. This “typical” bedding area surrounding several pine trees and running alongside the cartpath from green to tee was beautiful and had been established in wildflowers.

All it took was that one area and I was hooked.

Within a couple of weeks I had contacted a seed seller, decided planting areas, determined my planting methods, and done the first of many wildflower plantings here at The Sanctuary Golf Club.

Flowers on the golf course have always been an interesting topic. I was

involved for years in planting annuals to provide that southwest Florida seasonal splash, but I always looked at the annuals as a foreign object throughout the course: there for a short time, but requiring a significant amount of maintenance. Planting, watering, fertilizing, weed control and pest control all needed to be considered with annual plantings. If you would like to reduce your maintenance and still provide that seasonal color splash, wildflowers will work. We plant our wildflowers in mid- October and have had terrific results as well as enthusiastic member feedback for the past four years.

We began by choosing several areas throughout the course that provided good sun exposure and were not going to affect the playability of the golf hole.

In most cases these areas were pine straw areas or, in some cases, turf areas where we cut sod to remove the turf.

Once the areas were chosen, a tractor-drawn rotary tiller was used to till the soil to a depth of 4-6 inches. Once the area is tilled, we raked it smooth, removing rocks, roots, and debris from the planting area. We’re ready for seeding at this point. We have always applied the seed by hand and once the seed is on the ground, follow up with a light raking and generous watering to help cover the seed. The post-application raking and watering encourage soil/seed contact as well as help protect your seed investment from birds.

Irrigation or hand watering is recommended to get the seed started. Communication with your staff will be crucial at this point. These new plants look just like all those unwanted broadleaf weeds in the fall and more than one superintendent I’ve spoken to lost his new seedlings to a herbicide application.

Watering will not be required once

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This wildflower bed, above, offers a colorful transition area from the turf to the woods. Photo by Kyle Sweet.



Dull lackluster pine straw in out of play areas can be brightened up by planting wildflowers. Photo by Kyle Sweet.

the young plants have emerged and we have learned that excess watering actually shortens the life of the flowering of several varieties. We post signage to keep carts out and rope off the area until flowering begins. This limits the chance of a mistake by our staff or damage from golf carts.

Now sit back and enjoy the show. Keep an eye out for tall unwanted weeds that will need to be removed by hand and get copies of all your information about the seed and your procedures.

“Why?” you ask. Homeowners and golfers will be asking about the new look and you can help spread the use of maintenance-friendly wildflowers throughout your club and community.

A few wildflower facts :

The wildflowers mix we use comprises several native and non-native varieties that are recommended in southwest Florida.

Native wildflowers are defined as flowering plant species native to Florida, with emphasis on herbaceous annuals and perennials.

If you use a mix of seed, several varieties will provide varying heights, colors and textures to provide a “native” natural look.

Hummingbirds and butterflies drink the nectar from wildflowers and small birds such as finches, pine siskins, buntings and sparrows will visit the wildflower areas, eating the seeds produced.

The native wildflowers, blanket flower (*Gaillardia pulchella*), black-eyed susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) and lanceleaf tickseed (*Coreopsis leavenworthii*) do well throughout the state of Florida.

There are several species of *Coreopsis* that do well

throughout Florida. *Coreopsis* is our state wildflower.

Beginning in 2003, a group of wildflower producers, working in conjunction with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, is developing strategies to increase planted wildflower acreage and seed production to better provide for the increased demand for native species.

The planted area at The Sanctuary for 2007 is nearly one acre at a cost of \$5,000 in seed. Compare to the cost of annuals: 1 acre, planted at 12-inch spacing requires 43,560 annual plants. At 49 cents each, that much ground would cost more than \$21,000.

If you choose a “mix” of wildflowers, keep a heat-tolerant variety such as blanket flower that will last through the summer months until the next fall.

In Florida if you are relying on a good presentation for the fall/winter months (November–April), annual reseedling of the areas will probably be necessary.



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Birdies and Bees: How superintendents can help native pollinators

Pollinators are in decline across North America and golf courses can play a role in their conservation. These are two of the findings of the recently released National Academy of Sciences report, Status of Pollinators in North America.

Pollinators — including butterflies, bees, beetles, flies, and hummingbirds — are arguably one of the most important groups of animals. The work they do in moving pollen from flower to flower results in successful seed set and fruit production for over 70 percent of flowering plants. We rely on these plants for much of our food, and wildlife rely on them for food and habitat. Imagine spring without flowering meadows, summer without berry picking, and fall without pumpkins, and you get an idea of how the work of pollinators impacts our lives.

What can a superintendent do? The NAS report identified habitat loss and fragmentation as one of the main causes of pollinator declines. Golf courses can help significantly with reversing this trend by providing flowers and egg-laying sites.

Even on the most compact urban golf course, flowering plants can be part of the landscape. On more extensive courses, out-of-play areas offer great opportunities for creating prairie-type habitats rich in native flowers.

For greatest benefit, the flowers should bloom throughout the growing season. Add in some wooden blocks drilled with holes or create patches of bare ground in which solitary bees can nest, include hostplants for butterfly caterpillars, and your course can support healthy and diverse pollinator populations.

"As superintendents we can create and maintain habitat with little effort," said David Phipps, CGCS, superintendent at Stone Creek Golf

Club, in Oregon, and president of the Oregon Golf Course Superintendents Association. "All we have to know is how to recognize these little critters and what their habitat looks like. When you get down on their level, you can surely see their beauty and the remarkable world in which they live."

Pollinator conservation is well-suited to golf courses because habitat can be small scale and broken into patches. Flowers or nesting sites can be scattered across the course and because pollinators can fly, they can piece together these resources into a habitat that works. For example, they may nest in a snag on one side of a fairway and forage in the flowers on the other. This mobility also means that on-course habitat will support pollinators that can visit flowers growing in adjacent gardens and farms.

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, based in Portland, Ore., can offer information and practical advice about pollinator conservation on golf courses. To learn more about the NAS report and download detailed guidelines on creating habitat on golf courses, visit the Society's Web site, http://www.xerces.org/Pollinator_Insect_Conservation. Or contact Matthew Shepherd, pollinator program director, at mdshepherd@xerces.org or 503-323-6639.

In general, there is a greater emphasis being placed on wildlife conservation on private lands across the United State. Golf courses, and the superintendents who manage them, are playing an increasingly important role in environmental stewardship. Providing habitat for pollinators is one of the most valuable ways golf can benefit a healthy environment. An acre of habitat for butterflies and other pollinators on each course will add up to far more than 10,000 acres nationwide, a significant contribution to conserving these beautiful—and essential—creatures.

Credit: GCSAA Chapter Services

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

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Take El Camaleón Golf Course at the Mayakoba resort on the Riviera Maya just south of Cancun, Mexico. It's totally unique, not just to Mexico but to the entire world of golf. El Camaleón is also a world-class showcase for SeaIsle1 Seashore Paspalum. The tees, greens, fairways and roughs are all getting rave reviews. No wonder the PGA chose El Camaleón for its first-ever tour event in Mexico. If you've got water quality problems or poor soils, you should consider SeaIsle1 even if you've got an inland location. SeaIsle1 can tolerate most types of alternate water sources, including effluent, brackish water and even ocean water for short periods of time with a careful

management regimen. SeaIsle1 can also handle multiple stresses like high salt levels, low-light intensity, waterlogging, and both high and low pH levels. When compared to other warm season grasses, SeaIsle1 requires about a third less nitrogen and only minimal pesticide applications. It also withstands prolonged droughts because of its deep root system. Best of all, SeaIsle1 has one of the most attractive, rich, vivid-green colors of any of the warm season grasses. Make a date with a SeaIsle grower near you and see for yourself why SeaIsle1 is changing the face of golf, for both superintendents and golfers. If you'd like more information call 706 542-5640 or visit www.seaisle1.com.

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PHOTOS TO THE EDITOR



Breakfast at LaPlaya GC

During a recent normal morning ride through on the golf course, a red-tailed hawk, descending rapidly, flew across my path. He obviously was on a mission! I followed in the same direction and there he was with a mate. They had both wrapped their talons around a rabbit that was still jumping for its life.

As I approached slowly from far away, one finally backed off and allowed the other to feast. I got within 15 feet as the hawk dined on his breakfast until he finally got tired of me watching and he took off.

Brian E. Beckner, GCS LaPlaya Golf Club



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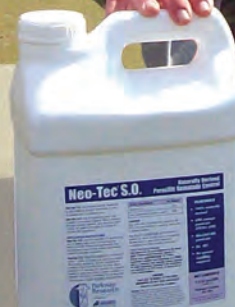


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Photo: Courtesy of Kiawah Island Golf Resort

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Ladies Day

**AS I SEE IT
BY JIM WALKER**

There are all kinds of ladies. You have young ladies, middle-aged ladies, old blue-haired ladies, ladies in waiting, bag ladies, ladies of the night, the Patron Saint, Our Lady of Perpetual Motion, the First Lady, the cleaning lady, the church lady, the lady upstairs, the lady downstairs, the lady across the street, and on and on like that.

If you live in South Florida and you make your living growing grass, plants, trees, or vegetables, whether it's on a golf course, in a park, at a nursery, or in the fields of the Redlands, Homestead, or Florida City, one of your favorite ladies is the CEU Lady!

That's correct sir, the CEU LADY is way up there on your list. Kind of unusual that a lady is running the educational show for the University of Florida Miami-Dade County Extension in Homestead, but that's what Dr. Mary Lamberts has been doing for the past 23 years. I love it when you find a lady horning in on any predominately male line of work. Let's face it; there are not many lady superintendents, nursery owners, farm owners or CEU educators in our area or anywhere else that I am aware of, though Mary tells me things are changing.

Mary was born in Michigan of Dutch ancestry. Ironically, the day Mary was born; her father was accepted to graduate school. With his doctorate in linguistics, he taught at Northwestern and Arizona State. Consequently, Mary attended grade school in Illinois and high school in Tempe, Ariz. After receiving her B.A. from ASU, she was

off to the Peace Corps in Thailand. There she taught English as a foreign language. Yes, that means Mary not only speaks Thai, but also a little Dutch and some Spanish.

After her stint in Thailand, she was off to Nepal for two and one-half years where she worked at "various" jobs. During her time in the Far East, she became very interested in plants and horticulture in general. She applied to and was accepted at Cornell (my old pal Alan Weitzel's alma mater) and there she received her doctorate in vegetable crops.

After she graduated, she moved to Miami (Homestead) in 1983 and went to work for the state at the Ag Extension facility there. Since 1984, she has been the chief trainer for pesticide certification.

I have wanted to do a story about Mary for several years but something always kept coming up to prevent it. You may ask why write about someone who teaches General Standards, Ornamental and Turf, and other license categories. What's the big deal about that? The big deal is she is so good at it!

I told her when I finally got a commitment to move ahead with the project that I have always had a great deal of admiration and respect for her. She is old school. She cares about the people who come to her classes. Concern for their safety, the people they supervise, the public who could be harmed and the environment are important to her.

Her message always comes across loud and clear. Now it's easy to be up for a class now and then, but I have sat in on at least 16 of Mary's presentations over the years and they are always super. They are top shelf because her genuine commitment to her profession would not allow her to give less than her best every time. She is not just going through the motions to collect a paycheck on the first and the fifteenth. She is the real deal.

She doesn't hide the sad truth about how things were before pesticide certification came to our profession. Some of the stories she tells about the abuse and lack of caring for the

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people who worked harvesting crops, ornamental plants and trees, and on our golf courses when she first arrived in South Florida made my skin crawl. It really drove home how dangerous things were back then, mostly because of ignorance.

I remember years ago having to chase a worker out of the enclosure where we stored our fertilizer because he would go in there on his lunch break and take a nap on the bags.

The horror stories about the home and office pest-control applicator makes one wonder why people did not get sick or worse on a regular basis.

I asked Mary to sum up her feelings about the past 23 years teaching people and genuinely making them believe pesticides can be very dangerous and this is what she said:

"My motivation now is stronger than ever. I love my job and go to it happily every day. My main objective is to get people to read and understand pesticide labels before using a product. I change my presentations periodically to keep them fresh not only for myself, but also for the people who attend my classes.

"The University of Florida is constantly updating its workbooks and the tests for each of the pesticide categories, so I do the same thing. I attend workshops and seminars and get ideas on how to improve my presentations and come up with new concepts. I also take great pride in the proteges I have spawned along the way and it is one of the things I am most proud of."

If you have not met Mary, it is your loss to have missed a beacon of knowledge akin to the grand lighthouses of this world that stand guard on their rocky and treacherous coastlines, bringing forewarning to those who sail her waters. "Mother, mother ocean, I have heard you call."

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Silent Minority

**GREEN SIDE UP
BY JOEL JACKSON**

You always hear about the Silent Majority. Who are they? Well they are most middle Americans who work hard for a living, pay taxes, strive for success (or at least survival) and who are impressed more by actions or real people than the rhetoric of politicians and celebrities espousing agendas instead of common sense.

The majority, when polled time and again on the issues, generally favor a moderate, common-sense approach that highlights fairness and the best science available on contentious issues blasted all over the front pages of newspapers and is the topic of media pundits who must talk about something to fill the hours on the nonstop cable news shows.

Within this framework are the vocal minority who dominate the headlines and pound us incessantly with “the sky is falling” point of view on everything from Iraq, global warming and backyard fertilizer. Also within this universe is the Silent Minority, also known as golfers. These folks only make up 10 percent of the population, but I suspect the numbers will grow as the Boomer generation retires and takes up the game.

Meanwhile they remain clueless about what really goes on their golf course – good or bad. As most of us know, the majority of golf course superintendents do the right thing when it comes to applying nutrients and pesticides and the result is not massive amounts of leaching or runoff as often casually and erroneously stated and reported in the media. Words like “could,” “might,” and “maybe” are lost in the rhetoric and the message becomes fertilizers pollute our waters. Ban them and save the world.

Lost is the science, the reason and reality. Anti-chemical, anti-mankind activists preach nature is supreme and blame man for all the bad things that happen. Even acts of God are now the result of man’s burning of fossil fuels. Well it’s time that people who benefit from having well conditioned golf courses step up and be heard. Here’s what I’ve learned from attending endless meetings on the crises at hand:

- Most local officials still don’t know there are BMPs for lawn care and golf courses. I did mail 67 copies of the Green Industries BMP manual (one to every county chairman or manager or mayor, whatever the title). They will also be getting a copy of the Golf BMP manual once it’s finished printing.
- Even people within our green industries don’t know we have BMP manuals. IFAS has BMP training classes available. Do yourself a favor and take one.
- Most superintendents haven’t brought up the subject of fertilizer ordinances to their owners or club members. What are you waiting for? Tell them what you do and rebut all the nonsense they read in the local paper. Ask for their help. It’s their golf course.
- Most of these ordinances and proposed bans are generated by one commissioner who has a mission and 19 angry people.

If we can’t amass scores of people to attend a commission meeting and calmly say a few simple words – “stewardship,” “cooperation,” “peer-reviewed science” and “BMPs,” then I guess we can step back and let the snowball to keep rolling downhill and pick up enough speed to crush common sense and golf-course conditioning.

As an example, Crystal River passed a ban on the sale and use of quick-release fertilizer in January. When questioned later, the city attorney who wrote the ordinance admitted he had no idea what quick-release fertilizer was. Since then, the green industry, which was left out of any discussions prior to the passage, has made a presentation and the city council says it will gather more information, but the damage is done. Everyone is jumping on the bandwagon.

The city of Sanibel passed a fertilizer ordinance the first week in March. It includes language mandating 70 percent slow-release fertilizer only, and no applications from July to October. Again nothing based on science or common sense. Golf got lucky in Sanibel. Thanks to a strong working relationship between a local golf course and the city, Sanibel golf courses are required to abide by the new Golf BMPs.

Meanwhile, Jacksonville is prepping for an ordinance that is so confusing and generalized that people are having a hard time figuring it out. Sarasota has taken the past year to hold stakeholder meetings, but even now the questions they are posing show a real lack of knowledge. We have to fill in the gaps and our opponents keep saying, “Don’t trust that turf science, they paid for it!”

Of course they don’t have *any* science, but that doesn’t stop the media from reporting their self-serving statements.

Waiting not so patiently in the wings are Martin County, Citrus County and the Southwest Regional Planning Council wants to enact some sort of multi-county fertilizer plan. They are completely oblivious to the State Fertilizer Rule currently undergoing public hearings beginning March 29. There are too few of us to try and stick our thumbs in all the dikes springing lawmaking leaks all over the state. We need your help to take care of business in your own back yard.

Meanwhile, a green industry task group is working to come up with a manifesto and some simple bullet-point facts that can be handed out at your clubs, to your city and county commissions and to the public. But don’t wait for us. We have to scrape up the money to pay for a PR campaign. You can be very effective by speaking out at your club and educating your immediate circle of customers, members, family and friends.

You can either explain the crisis to them now and how it can affect their club and their yards, or you can explain it to them when the turf looks bad and your job is in the balance. Which do you think is the best course of action to take? Are you still willing to be a silent minority?

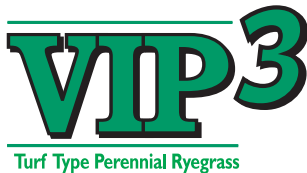
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