

The Florida Green

Summer 2008



Number 8
Lake Wales Country Club
Lake Wales
Photo by Daniel Zelazek



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4

SPOTLIGHT: FUN IN THE SUN

As the winter golf season wanes, so waxes the social season, as chapters squeeze in weekend fund-raising tournaments and professional education. The South Florida Expo and the North Central Florida Turfgrass Field Days showcased IFAS research.

18

COVER STORY: LAKE WALES COUNTRY CLUB

Perched on the rolling sandy hills of the Central Florida Ridge, Lake Wales Country Club presents our second consecutive opportunity to showcase Donald Ross classic landmark of the 1920s.

36

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: THEY'RE STILL PRINTING?

Luke Cella, executive director of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents, exhorts his members to adapt the communication systems of today's digital-savvy younger generation. He makes a good case.

40

HANDS ON: ULTRADWARFS AND PASPALUMS

The point is to understand that when you change grasses, you must also change methods. You will still mow, water, fertilize, verticut and aerify, but there will be changes in how you do those things and why you must do them differently.

48

STEWARDSHIP: GOPHER TORTOISE NEEDS YOUR HELP

The gopher tortoise, *gopherus polyphemus*, belongs to a group of land tortoises that originated in North America 60 million years ago, thus making it one of our oldest living species. It needs our help and we're in a position to give it.

62

AFTERWORDS: FAREWELL, GOOD FRIEND

Joel Jackson eulogizes Rick Tatum, superintendent at Grey Oaks CC in Naples, who was killed in a boating accident July 2.

DEPARTMENTS

President's Message	2	Super Tip	42
Chapter Roundup	4	USGA Update.....	44
Course Facts	20	Plants of the Year.....	46
Superintendent Facts	22	As I See it	60
Fun Facts	28	Green Side Up	63

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The Florida Green

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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.

Fall 2008 - Improving communication

Winter 2009 - Technician and Staff Training

Spring 2009 - Balancing the Budget

Summer 2009 - Current Cultural Practices

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.

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

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

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ADVERTISER INDEX

Aerification Plus.....	10	Ragan Technical	14
Almar Turf Products, Inc.....	28	Ridge GCSA.....	5
Brandt Consolidated.....	50	Ridge GCSA.....	35
Classic Greens.....	12	Riverwalls	12
Coastal Equipment Systems, Inc.....	37	Rymatt Golf.....	49
Country Club Services.....	6	Seaisle One Growers.....	31
Disbrow Enterprises.....	1	SeaIsle Supreme.....	63
Douglass Fertilizer	62	Seven Rivers GCSA	17
Dow AgroSciences.....	47	ShowTurf of South Fla.....	Back Cvr
Emerald Tree	38	SMR Farms.....	28
Everglades GCSA.....	9	Sod Solutions	27
FMC Professional Solutions.....	21	South Florida GCSA	11
Golf Agronomics Supply	52	South Florida Grassing	60
Golf Ventures.....	39	Spread-Rite.....	14
Green-Way.....	27	Suncoast GCSA	7
Harrell's	55	Syngenta	53
Innovative Turf Supplies.....	30	Tampa Bay Turf.....	59
John Deere WW C&CE Div.....	15	TifEagle Growers Association.....	23
Kilpatrick Turf.....	39	TifSport Growers Association	51
Kubota Tractor Corp.....	25	Tifton Physical Lab	45
Laserturf Leveling	26	TMI Turf Merchants ..	Ins Back Cvr
Liquid Ag Systems	62	Tom Burrows Turfgrass Services	26
North Florida GCSA.....	13	Toro Distributors of Florida.....	32
Phoenix Environmental Svc	8	Treasure Coast GCSA.....	3
Pike Creek Turf Farms	15	Upstart Products	14
Plant Food Co.....	29	Wiedenmann Turf.....	43

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Summer is certainly here with higher temperatures and humidity and less traffic on golf courses and roads... except for those of you in northwest Florida, who are well into your beach (and golf) season and are waiting for summer to end. The summer rains have begun. We appear to be receiving enough rainfall to turn the tide on the drought situation and give alarmists less to talk about.

May was a great month with many events including the EGCSA's Poa weekend held at the Naples Beach Club. It was great to see so many people and families enjoying the time together. Congratulations to the EGCSA board, which nicely managed not only the Poa but also the G. C. Horn tournament. Hats off to Seth Strickland

who secured a spot on the FGCSA golf team in the stroke-play tournament at Naples Grande. At the FGCSA Past President's Dinner, Joe Pantaleo was presented with the FGCSA Distinguished Service Award for his many years of service and leadership for the FGCSA and his local chapter.

In August, the FGCSA summer board meeting will be held at the Grand Cypress resort in Orlando in conjunction with the Crowfoot Open. If you have not been to this event, it really is a worthwhile weekend. At that time Shane Bass, CGCS will take over as the new FGCSA president and I will begin my year as past president.

I have often been asked how am I able to spend so much time working on association business, keep my job, have time for my family and find time for other activities. It is much easier to say (or in this case write) than do, but it seems to me to boil down to planning and relationships. The planning piece is more concrete. Daily planners, seminars and books help with time management. But building working relationships with people is the piece that requires constant diligence.

Relationships with people are keys to becoming successful and finding a balance of work, life and, in this case, volunteering. Developing relationships with staff is one of the many ways to stay employed for any length of time. By setting measurable goals for staff and monitoring those results, you teach not only accountability but your employees learn to think for themselves.

By teaching assistants to think for themselves, they develop and grow not only for themselves but also for the operation. Then when you are gone

for any reason, someone is there who can think things through and handle most situations. When your assistants go out for their first superintendent positions, you will have made them much more capable of succeeding.

Developing relationships with peers is also extremely important for success. It has been said to me many times that your toughest competition is your best friend. When I entered the business after college, what really helped me were the relationships I had developed in those first few years with other superintendents in the area. Many were peers of my mentors, and the knowledge gleaned from them was invaluable.

Taking time to visit similar courses in your region is important to keep you fresh; it also validates your management practices. Playing golf at local chapter events is one way to do this. Chapter meetings let you get away for a few hours, network and see other another golf courses.

Networking with vendors is just as important as with your peers. Suppliers are valuable personal and business resources, and relationships with them must be cultivated. Having a good relationship with a vendor can save your bacon in an emergency. Many were once superintendents and are still willing to help when you have a problem. They see many operations in a week and can keep you informed of new ideas and how others are dealing with the same problems.

It is certainly a two-way street with anyone who sells products. We are buying the products but many companies also support our profession with magazine ads and sponsorships of events.

Having strong relationships at work with management is also a key in the relationship-building process. Communicate with the professional staff as to when, where and why you are going off property, and it's critical to tell them who is in charge and how to get in touch with them while you are gone.

Having the same type of dialog with a green chairman or general manager is also important, but adding why it is a value to the club for you to attend a meeting or seminar is also helpful. By creating an operation with a talented, well-trained staff that is able to communicate the goals and objectives of the department – and having buy-in from the other departments and management – fosters an environment in which it is much easier to spend a few hours each week focusing on our industry's big picture instead of only focusing on the smaller-scale, day-to-day tasks. We need to take care of those daily details, but we also must keep an eye on the horizon and prepare for challenges coming our way.

It's All About Planning and Relationships



Matt Taylor, CGCS President

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Chapters' Spring Flings Raise Cash for Research, Education, Charities

By Joel Jackson, CGCS Retired

There are so many major events each spring one superintendent asked me if I was on the "Events Tour." I did play in a few

Dr. John Cisar leads a tour of the turf plots in Ft. Lauderdale the 2008 Expo raised \$25,000 for research operations at the IFAS center. Photo by Ian Maguire.

golf tournaments, but I have zero FedEx points and will have to go back to Q-school again for next year. But seriously, many thanks to the turf research funds and donations raised and/or presented by the Everglades Poa Annuua, North Florida Memorial and Research Tournaments, Seven Rivers Jeff Hayden Envirotron Classic, South Florida Turf Expo, Suncoast Scramble, Treasure Coast Blue Pearl events and a special donation from the West

EGCSA President Corey McDonough, left, presented Seth Strickland with the Poa Trophy for winning the stroke play event at the 33rd Poa Annuua Classic.





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SPOTLIGHT



NFGCSA President Rip Phillips presents Lake City's John Piersol with a \$2,000 general scholarship donation at the annual North Florida Memorial Tournament.



FGCSA Education Chairman Mark Kann, left, with speaker Tommy Witt, CGCS at the GCSAA seminar. "Enhancing Your Value as a Professional Superintendent" in Naples.

SPOTLIGHT SCRAPBOOK (cont)

socializing along with Coast Chapter at the Spring Board Meeting. Networking and

golf bragging rights were to be had as well: Rafael Villegas and Jason Throop

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SPOTLIGHT



Seven Rivers President Mark Kann (left) presents Envirotron Tournament Chairman Glen Oberlander an award for his many years of devoted service to the event.



From left: Joe Pantaleo was named the 2008 Distinguished Service Award winner by Matt Taylor, CGCS at the Past Presidents Dinner in Naples.

SPOTLIGHT SCRAPBOOK (cont)

and took top honors at the Central Florida Chapter Championship hosted at the Isleworth G&CC by Geoff

Coggan, CGCS/MG; and Joe Ondo, CGCS and Fred Marshall, Space Coast Turf Supply, won the CFGCSA Superintendent/Vendor

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Champion Sponsor Golf Ventures presents \$25,000 check to Seven Rivers GCSA. From left: Glen Oberlander, Mark Kann, Brad Reano and Debbie Nipper.



SPOTLIGHT SCRAPBOOK (cont)

event at Chis Cartin's Tusawilla CC. The Treasure Coast GCSA's Blue Pearl was captured by the team of Jerry Freeman, Chad Kroeger, Jason Sprankle and Joe Bostic. Chapter Executive Assistant Barbara Tierney reported that this was the best year ever for fundraising. Seth Strickland kept his winning ways going by capturing the Poa Annu Classic.

It was also time for some serious recognition for past and continuing service by FGCSA members around



FGCSA Matt Taylor receives a \$5,000 research check from NFGCSA President Rip Phillips at the Spring Board Meeting in Naples.



From left: WCGCSA President Bill Kistler presented a \$1,500 research check to Matt Taylor in Naples at the Poa Annu Classic.

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Upstart Products
Valent

SPOTLIGHT SCRAPBOOK (cont)

the state. Steve LaFrance was named Greenkeeper of the Year by his North Florida peers at their annual Memorial Tournament at the Jacksonville G&CC. Seven Rivers GCSA presented Glenn Oberlander with a plaque honoring his long-running tenure as the chairman of the Envirotron Classic Tournament. FGCSA and South Florida Past President Joe Pantaleo was named 2008 Distinguished Service Award recipient at the FGCSA Spring Past Presidents Dinner in May.

Education and outreach were also in full bloom with Tim Hiers and other Everglades superintendents hosting our annual tour of the Old Collier Golf Club



Blue Pearl Winning Team, from left: Jerry Freeman, Chad Kroeger, Jason Sprankle and Joe Bostic. The event raised a record \$28,000.

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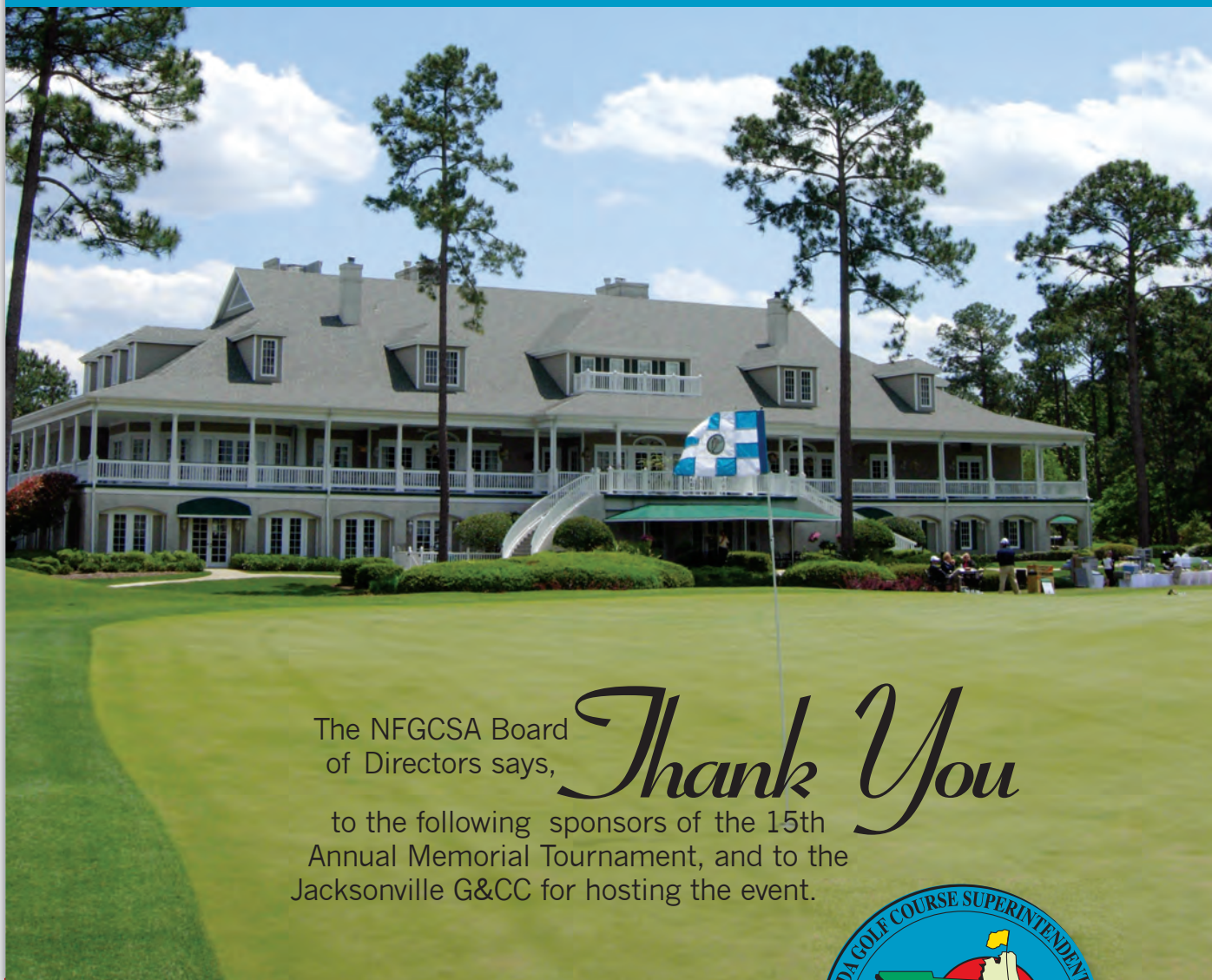
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Dr. Tom Watschke discussed Plant Growth Regulators and Biostimulants at the Everglades Symposium.



From left: Everglades Symposium speakers and topics: Dr. Ali Haravandi – Living with Recycled Water, Dr. Tom Nikolai- attendee, and Dr. Bryan Unruh – Paspalum: Considerations for Success.

SPOTLIGHT SCRAPBOOK (cont)

for the Spring Regulator Tour. Central Florida hosted a GCSAA Regional Seminar on ultradwarf greens management, and the Everglades GCSA hosted its annual Spring Symposium which brought in another stellar lineup of speakers from across the country. The FGCSA hosted a GCSAA Leadership Seminar in conjunction with the Poa Annua Classic in Naples with Tommy Witt, CGCS doing the honors as the



From left: More Symposium speakers and topics: Dr. Eileen Buss - Pesticide resistance, Charlie Fultz – A Strategy for Working Smarter, Randy Cush – Understanding Pesticide Formulations.

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FTGA Vice President Todd Himmelberger (left) and FGCSA Executive Director Joel Jackson (right) each receive \$5,000 research checks from Suncoast President Bill Tyde.

guest speaker on Enhancing the Value of a Professional Superintendent. The Calusa and Suncoast chapters also

announced that they will be holding a joint meeting next year and hope to make it an annual affair.



Steve LaFrance (center) from the King and Bear Course received the Greenkeeper of the Year award from Rip Phillips (left) and Andy Maguire at the NFGCSA Memorial Tournament.

And last but not least, the Coastal Plains chapter has announced that because of the small number of clubs

in their geographic area they cannot achieve independent chapter recognition by GCSAA. They will disband as

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a formal group but continue to meet as a group and become At Large members of the FGCSA next year.

I managed to make a few chapter presentations as part of my events tour by giving the North Florida, Suncoast and Calusa chapters updates on the legislative and regulatory issues facing our industry. It has been a season of challenges with the drought, water restrictions and local fertilizer ordinances which only highlight why it is so important to support our local chapters and state association.

– Photos by Joel Jackson

Rick Tatum Dies in Boating Accident

Rick Tatum, 48, was killed in a boating accident near Marathon Key on the evening of July 2.

The boat containing Tatum and three others was struck by a second boat also containing four people. Tatum died at the scene from his injuries. All the others sustained injuries as well, with a second member of the Tatum party being airlifted to a hospital in Miami.

Tatum, who grew up in Southern California, was the director of golf course operations for the Grey Oaks Country Club in Naples. He graduated from the turf program at Michigan State University in 1987. His 20-year career in southwest Florida included working at The



A highlight of the Blue Pearl is the Bayer Power Pak auction. This year Roy MacDonald (right) from the Hobe Sound CC took the high bid and Brian MacCurrach from Bayer delivers the goods.

Club Pelican Bay, Bonita Bay Club, The Forest, Shadow Wood and Grey Oaks.

During the memorial service at Grey Oaks July 12, General Manager Jim Butler, who hired Tatum at The Forest CC and later followed him to Grey Oaks said, “During the final interview stage at The Forest I asked Rick, ‘Why should we hire you?’ Tatum’s terse reply, ‘Because I have a passion for grass.’”

Tatum’s passionate lifestyle for his family, friends and his profession was highlighted by a dozen other speakers from family members to his friends in the golf business. They shared humorous and serious insights and anecdotes that defined his unique

competitive personality. A remembrance card bearing a photo of Rick and the message “Live Life Passionately. Rick Tatum. December 27, 1959 – July 2, 2008 captured the essence of his life.

Family friend, former superintendent and owner of G to Z Turf Services Glenn Zakany said, “I will miss his laugh and his favorite saying, ‘You’ve got to be kidding me’ when things didn’t go as planned.” Zakany also revealed that unbeknownst to anyone, Tatum had arranged to donate his body to the University of Miami Medical Center. The family found out later this act of kindness could help up to 75 people.

Tatum was an active member of the Everglades

GCSA and his service on the board of directors culminated with his presidency in 1999-2000. On Aug. 1 Grey Oaks will host a memorial tournament to raise funds to assist the needs of the family. Tatum is survived by his wife Sheryl and his three daughters: Sydney (14), Carly (16) and Jeanette (18).



Rick Tatum

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The Seven Rivers GCSA also wishes to express its thanks to management and staff of the World Woods Golf Club for helping to host this event.



Number 5
Lake Wales C.C.
Par 3, 142 yards
Photo by Daniel Zelazek



LAKE WALES COUNTRY CLUB

Mutual respect, teamwork abound

By Joel Jackson, CGCS, Retired

The Lake Wales Country Club is located a few miles east of U.S. Highway 27 on Florida Route 60 in eastern Polk County. Perched on the rolling sandy hills of the Central Florida Ridge, the club is yet another historical

golfing landmark of the 1920s.

How ironic that our 2008 spring and summer cover story selections by the North Florida and Ridge chapters should put two 1923 golf courses designed by Donald Ross back to back. The hallmark parkland-type layouts are similar in some

traditional ways, but the geography and topographical features render them unique.

The property was purchased in 1980 by the Ben Hill Griffin Company and, ever since, the company has been dedicated to making improvements to serve the members. In 1983 a new

COURSE FACTS

Lake Wales Country Club

Location: Lake Wales

Ownership: Ben Hill Griffin, Inc.

Number of Holes: 18; 6,857 yds; Par 72; Slope/Rating: 128/72.7

Designed by: Donald Ross. Established: 1923.

Management Team: Chairman of the Board, Ben Hill

Griffin III; President, Hill

Griffin; General Manager,

PGA Master Professional Bob

Forward; Executive Assitant,

Lynne Tucker; Chef, J. R.

Rawlins; Director of Tennis, Joe

Hight and Golf Course

Superintendent, Jim Rowland,

Class A GCSAA Member

Major renovations: 1985

enlarged tees; 1987 renovated

greens with Classic Dwarf; 1998

renovated greens (TifDwarf)

and bunker complexes;

2001 & 2002 renovated tee

complexes and in 2007 added

new tournament tees to holes

2,6,9,11,13,14 and 18; and 2008 enlarged practice range

tee and grassed with Celebration bermudagrass (all work

from 1998 on was done by Highland Golf or in-house)

Total acreage under maintenance: 120

Greens: TifDwarf; avg size: 5,500 sq. ft. acres: 2.25; HOC:

5/32 in.; Green speed goal: 10 Overseeding: Poa trivialis at

10 lbs/1,000 sq. ft.

Tees, Fairways and Roughs: Tees are Tifway 419, 2.5

A; HOC 9/16"; overseed tees with ryegrass at 300 lbs/A.

Fairways 34 A of a mix of Tifway 419, Ormond and some

common bermudagrass; HOC 9/16"; overseed with 400

lbs/A of ryegrass. Roughs 80 A; HOC 2.0" in winter, 2.5"

in summer; No overseeding this year.

Bunkers: 74 bunkers. Sand type: Native Central Florida Ridge sand. Machine raked with Jacobsen unit.

Waterways: 5 lined ponds with total area of 5 acres. One pond is 3.5 acres and is adjacent to residential area and maintained by aquatic maintenance company.

Irrigation: water source

– Deep well. Equipment – 2

40-hp pumps with a 15-hp

jockey pump. 600 heads.

Controls – Toro Varitime II

System. Fertigation system.

Water Management and

Conservation practices:

Follow SWFWMD guidelines

Staff: Total including

superintendent 13 (8 full time

and 5 part time). Full time

staff is budgeted 40 hours per

week and part time staff 30

hours per week.

Maintenance staff members

and years of service are: Golf

Course Superintendent/Greenkeeper Jim Rowland (24);

Mechanic Specialist Assistant Rich Lengyel (12); Chemical

Technician/No. 1 Assistant Donald Gandy (15); Assistant

Mechanical Specialist Bryan Witt (11); Horticulturist

Donnie Davis (5); Irrigation Specialist Glenn Tower (3);

No. 1 Maintenance/second Assistant Al Laroche (25);

No. 1 Equipment Operators: Wayne Demott (11); Frank

Martin (20); Charlie Finch (5) and Keith Smith (2); No. 2

Equipment Operators/Laborers: J. Roy Rowland (2) and

Charlie Hurst (1).

Communications: Daily assignment review as needed.

Weekly update meetings.



Long time members of the Lake Wales Country Club Staff

...the orange and blue tee markers... were a sure sign of a Bull Gator booster at work.

clubhouse was built, and a series of course projects began in 1985 to improve the greens, tees, bunkers and practice areas. Last year seven new back tees (orange) were added to give the course more length in order to host top-flight state tournaments. I noted the orange and blue tee markers as I rode the course with Superintendent Jim Rowland for this story. It was a sure sign of a Bull Gator booster at work.

The Lake Wales layout is a little more wide open than it used to be thanks

(or no thanks) to Hurricanes Charley, Frances and Jeanne in 2004. You may not remember that Lake Wales was virtual ground zero for all three as they criss-crossed Florida; their tracks all intersected at Lake Wales. Rowland said they lost around 500 trees overall. The only evidence of those stormy days is a few leaning trees selectively left as a reminder of that historic year.

Any course on Florida's central sandy ridge has two issues with water – removal and retention; one good and



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SUPERINTENDENT FACTS

Jim Rowland, Class A Golf Course Superintendent

Originally from: Dublin, GA.

Personal: Wife Kem and two sons, J. Roy (18) and Chris (15). My dad is a retired physician who also served as a state representative and a U. S. congressman for 12 years, and mom takes care of dad.

Education: BS in Agronomy from the University of Georgia, 1978

Employment: 1984-present, Superintendent Lake Wales Country Club; 1980-83 Superintendent Ravines Golf Club, Middleburg, FL; 1979-80 Assistant Superintendent Willow Lakes G.C. Jacksonville; 1978-79 Assistant Superintendent Sea Island G.C., St. Simons, GA.

Professional Affiliations: Member of the GCSAA and Ridge GCSA. 4th Degree Black Belt member of Victory Tae Kwan Do Chung Do Dwan.

Goals & Accomplishments: Keep doing what I do and make sure my sons have the best opportunities in life. Continue my study and advancement in Tae Kwan Do – it's great for mental and physical conditioning.

Work philosophy and advice: Work hard. Be hands on. Interact with your crew. Work with them. Listen to them. Don't put work ahead of your family. Take your time. Don't make hasty decisions on work or life.

Memorable moments: Traveling to Bloomington, IL to test for my 4th Degree Black Belt and performing my forms and sparring requirements for Grandmaster Park from Korea.

Hobbies & community involvement: I love to play golf (Jim's a single-digit handicapper). The whole family is involved in Tae Kwan Do. We are members of the First United Methodist Church



Master Golf Professional and General Manager Bob Forward and Jim Rowland, Class A superintendent form a winning team at the Lake Wales Country Club. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Rowland says that he is fortunate that his owner understands the challenges posed by Mother Nature

one not so good.

Rowland said, "We can get a 3-inch rain and be ready for play in 30 minutes or less." The bunkers seldom need any drain lines as the native sand percolates rapidly.

Then there is the matter of retention. The ponds on the course are lined in order to retain water and irrigation must be managed to insure proper moisture levels are maintained throughout the course.

The course relies on a deep well for irrigation water. Trying to manage turf during these drought conditions,

Rowland says that he is fortunate that his owner understands the challenges posed by Mother Nature since they have been in the citrus business forever.

A sandy, well-drained soil profile also means a potential haven for nematodes and mole crickets.

Currently Rowland applies Curfew on 10 to 15 acres each year including the greens and then tees, fairways and roughs as needed. Chronic areas are often given a little extra fertilizer to help outgrow any potential weak spots. Mole cricket control is accomplished by making Top Choice applications

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Resident villas and early morning shadows highlight the first hole at the Lake Wales Country Club. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

**Straightforward,
good basic programs,
but what makes
them really work
efficiently are the
relationships from
top to bottom**

and following up by spot-treating any lingering or returning hot spots. In fact, spot-treating pests and weeds is the preferred method of pest control on the course.

Cultural and fertility programs are the staple of good turf management and Rowland uses the consulting services of the legendary turf guru Ralph White to make sure he doesn't stray from the tried-and-true basics. Rowland aerifies the greens four times a year, pulling cores twice and using solid needle-quad tines in the heavier-play winter season for less surface disruption. The tees are aerified twice and the fairways once each year.

The greens and tees are fertilized monthly at approximately 1 lb of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet, which is the recommended annual rate for greens in the region. The fairways are

fertilized four times a year and the roughs twice, also at the same rate. The greens and tees are also spiked biweekly and verticut as needed.

Since the club is located in a more rural central Florida area, which is prone to colder temperatures, TifDwarf was the turf of choice during the most recent renovation of the greens in order to facilitate winter overseeding. Also, with a staff of only 13 for 120 acres, this variety is also less demanding in terms of frequent brushing, verti-grooming and light topdressing demanded by the denser, thatch-producing ultradwarf varieties. Some turf managers might call this turf choice – “right plant, right place.”

Those are the nuts and bolts of the turf maintenance at Lake Wales. Straightforward, good basic programs, but what makes it really work efficiently

'Jim is somebody special. He has an amazing ability to maintain the course in great shape in a cost-effective manner with a crew two-thirds the size of most comparable golf clubs. He's a hard worker who is out there working alongside his crew doing whatever it takes to get the job done.'

**Bob Forward
PGA Master Professional**

is the relationships from top to bottom among the ownership, management and staff.

Rowland truly appreciates the loyalty, longevity, morale and teamwork of his small staff which has seven members including himself with more than 10 years with the club. I think it's the first time I ever listed all the employees as key members of the staff in the Course Facts box. He said, "I am extremely blessed to have such a great group of longtime employees. They are really good at what they do."

Bob Forward, the club's general manager and master golf professional, is a real "Charlie Hustle" type of guy. When he's not taking care of the members, or organizing golf outings for local groups, or serving as the chairman of the U.S. Senior Open Section tournament, he finds time to



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Palms and oak trees surround the green on the Par 5, 558 yard, 13th hole. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

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ride the course in a cart with a spray tank to spot spray weeds. He knows a small staff can't cover all the bases all the time on the 120-acre property, so he pitches in whenever he can.

When I was touring the course with Jim, Forward came up and was asking about how long it took for the herbicide to work and how many days he should wait for the weeds to turn color so he could make a follow-up ride to check for any weeds he might have missed. He also had some comments about Jim as a partner in the club management team.

Forward said, "Jim is somebody special. He has an amazing ability to maintain the course in great shape in a cost-effective manner with a crew two-thirds the size of most comparable golf clubs. He's a hard worker who is out there working alongside his crew doing whatever it takes to get the job done."

"We are proud of our course and our whole operation. We annually host the Ben Hill Griffin Invitational which is the largest event in Polk County, and we have also hosted the NAIA small-college regional championships including the Webber College Invitational, the U.S. Senior Sectional, the Senior Mid Am, and the Florida

Junior Tournament. Our members really get behind these events and even provide food, fill divots and cheer the kids along." In return, the club is member oriented; it's all about service to our members"

Rowland returned the compliment, "Bob generates more play for our golf course during the slower summer season through his golf and business contacts than anyone I know. Obviously, you are seeing him out here today spot spraying goosegrass in his spare time to help the cause. The bottom line is we both like what we do and we're passionate about the game and the golf course."

I asked Rowland how he got into the business. He responded, "I have been playing golf since I was 9 years old. In high school I worked at the Dublin CC. The summer before college I worked at the Sea Palm course on St. Simons Island, and I continued playing golf in college and my summer work at the Dublin CC. Finally, I abandoned my history major and decided to be an agronomist."

Along the way Rowland had some profound mentors for guidance. He said, "My dad was a big influence. He always told me that you had to work hard to achieve things in life. For some

While keeping up with the new products and techniques, Ralph (White) and I still believe that mastering the agronomic basics is the key to having healthy turfgrass.

it comes easier than others. It didn't come easy for me. I always had to work harder, but I had help.

"G.C. Horn showed me the cultural practices needed to maintain good turf. Ralph White taught me that some of the best superintendents are the ones who are hands-on: mowing greens and changing cups. Ralph still consults with our course twice a year in the spring and fall. While keeping up with the new products and techniques, Ralph and I still believe that mastering the agronomic basics is the key to having healthy turfgrass."

I also asked Rowland about his



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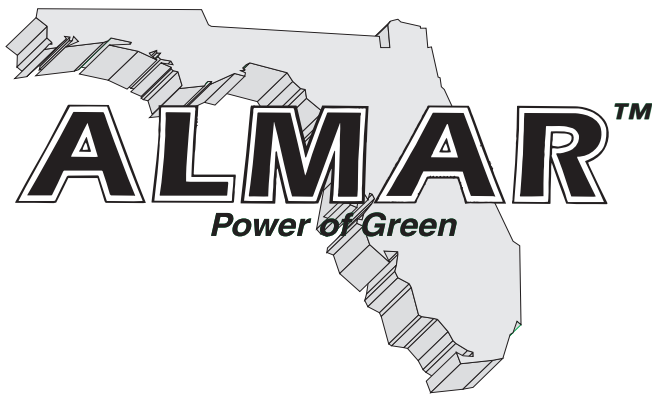
FUN FACTS

Fun Facts from Jim Rowland, a Black Belt Master

- 1. **Vehicle:** 2000 Ford F-150 company truck
- 2. **I stay home to watch:** The American Idol
- 3. **Favorite meal:** Fried pork chops with rice, gravy and baked beans
- 4. **Favorite performers:** The Doobie Brothers
- 5. **Prized possessions:** 4th Degree (Master) Black Belt
- 6. **Personal Heroes:** My mother and father for 62 years of marriage
- 7. **Nobody knows that I:** Have had a pacemaker since 1990.
- 8. **If I could do it over:** I would have studied more in college
- 9. **The thing that I can't stand:** People who lie and steal.
- 10. **My most humbling experience:** Watching my son J. Roy win the gold medal in sparring at Cedar Rapids, Iowa at the Tae Kwan Do Junior Olympics.
- 11. **Words that best describe me:** Laid back, thoughtful, deliberate, decision-maker.



Don't step on Superman's cape and don't mess around with "them". The black-belted Rowland family from the left: J. Roy (3rd degree), Kem (2nd degree), Chris (3rd degree) and Jim (4th degree).



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local Ridge Chapter and the value of being a member. He responded, "I think chapter meetings and events are a great way for all of us to communicate with each other on the problems we face and the new products and methods that are out there. I know that Paul Hickman, Bobby Ellis and Alan Puckett and others have helped me over the years. You always learn something if you just take the time to participate."

Rowland became a very capable golfer, sporting a 1 handicap a few years ago. He said due to family obligations, all the course renovations and lack of playing time, his handicap has ballooned to a 6 or 8. But he has found a way to stay mentally sharp and in good physical shape. He practices Tae Kwon Do (TKD).

In fact it is a pursuit for the whole family to enjoy together. While Jim is a 4th-degree black belt master, his wife Kem is a 2nd degree and sons J. Roy and Chris are both hold 3rd degrees. Tae



A view of the 17th green with the 10th hole in the background. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

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Kwon Do has provided the family with some very memorable moments.

Rowland said, "We were introduced to TKD at a Cub Scout meeting. J. Roy took a liking to it and we became TKD parents shuttling him to practice five days a week. He began serious training in 1996 in competitive TKD which requires mastering Forms (required movements) and Sparring (hand to hand combat). In 1999 at the AAU Junior Olympics in Cedar Rapids, Iowa he took sixth place in Forms out of a field of 2000 competitors, but the highlight of my life so far as a proud dad was when he won the Gold medal in Sparring."

"I also took up competitive TKD up until 2002 when I won a gold medal in sparring and a silver medal in forms at a state tournament. But my most anxious and nerve-wracking experience in TKD was last April when I flew to Bloomington, Illinois to test for my 4th degree black belt and being judged by



The native sand bunkers on the par-4, 6th hole and the rest of the course drains so well that play can resume in 30 minutes after a heavy rain. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.



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Several generations of young bald eagles have been born and fledged in the nest on the 18th tee. Photo by Roger Able.



A large stand of African sunflowers screens the driving range practice area. The blossoms are at their biggest and best during the winter. Photo by Joel Jackson.



One of the bald eagles that has been coming down in January to spend the winter at the Lake Wales C.C. Photo by Roger Able.



This leaning oak tree was left as a reminder of the historic 2004 hurricane season when Lake Wales was the intersection of three storm tracks. The club lost more than 500 trees in Hurricane Charley. Photo by Joel Jackson.



One of the two families of Sandhill Cranes that call the club's fairways home. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Grand Master Park, who flew in from Korea just to judge me and four other candidates for advancement. It was both a very trying and yet educational experience to be under the watchful eye

of the Grand Master.”
 Meanwhile the Lake Wales Country Club thrives under the watchful eye of 24-year veteran Jim Rowland who calls himself “a pretty laid-back” guy.

That may be an easy call for a guy with a 4th-degree black belt who can focus his mind and energy on the task at hand and respects his co-workers’ contributions as well.

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Congratulations to Jim Rowland
and his club for being selected by the Ridge GCSA as the
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I Can't Believe They Are Still Printing Those Things!

OPINION By Luke Cella

I arrived at my office and sitting there smack dab in the middle of my desk is a brand new Yellow Pages. I really don't know what to do with it; my kids don't need booster chairs anymore, I've no need for a doorstop, maybe I'll place it under my monitor to make it more ergonomically comfortable.

As I walk downstairs to recycle this thing, it make me wonder if the skill of alphabetizing will be lost with our kids? Did you ever notice the street sign for a park is a seesaw or, as we called them, a "teeter-totter?" When was the last time you saw one of those in a park? I digress, but my kids don't know what that sign means *now*, let alone when they'll start to drive in ten years.

It is hard to imagine the changes that we will see in the future, especially when it comes to communication.

There is no doubt technology is driving the way we communicate. I recently attended a Strategic Communications Committee meeting at GCSAA headquarters a few weeks ago. One of the challenges that GCSAA faces (as well as MAGCS) is making certain that the information they have gets to intended audience.

The committee listened to a talk by Dr. Max Utsler, an associate professor at the University of Kansas in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications. (Dr. Utsler often speaks at the Green Industry Show and I would recommend catching a talk or two of his.) The way we get our information has changed and it is really apparent with our children. Long after speech was invented, maybe 200,000 years ago, but prior to the printing press, someone may have stood in the town square and shouted

announcements. Sometimes he was shot (hence the line, Don't shoot me – I'm just the messenger) – Why do you think Mercury was so fast? It wasn't to get the message delivered; it was to get the hell out of there before he was killed.

Once people were able to afford their own books and later newspapers, they could read the information at their leisure. The radio was invented and eventually took off, same with the king of communications, the TV.

All of these formats and modes of communication have one thing in common – they all control the information sent to you. The providers dictate the time, the content and method of delivery. I know when the traffic will be announced on the radio and often I find myself waiting to hear it so I can flip the station to something I like on my way to and from work. Many of you know exactly when the extended forecast will be played on the nightly news and set your bedtime to it. Some look forward to the daily newspaper (although a quickly winnowing minority) and read it cover to cover.

There is nothing wrong with these methods of getting information. This is how most of us grew up, it was the world we knew and to a great extent, still follow.

The difference between those coming into the industry and us is the way they get their information. We are used to having it delivered to us. We wait patiently for it, sorting through mass marketing blitzes, recipes for eggplant Parmesan, and methods to getting rid of pet dandruff until the news segment we want to see finally is aired.

The up-and-comers don't do this. If they want to know the weather, they log on to a Web site and check it out at that moment. If they want to know a sports score, they don't tune into a radio station and wait for the sports segment, they set up an automatic text message alert on their phone that notifies them of changes each inning. They don't have newspapers delivered to them; they subscribe to RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feeds that are sent real-time and not printed six

The difference between those coming into the industry and us is the way they get their information. We are used to having it delivered to us. We wait patiently for it...

hours prior. These kids hunt out the information they desire and often have it at their fingertips. It is how they were brought up. They have no notion of our methods.

Some of us are transitioning into this realm of seeking out information. Why do you think TiVos or DVRs are so popular with those members of the older crowd who have them? (TiVo or a DVR is a method of digitally recording TV shows and is way easier than setting up a VCR to do it).

Those who use this method to record and play back their TV shows have gotten a glimpse of what it is like to get information on your terms, not the terms of the media providers. Ask someone in your generation who has one; they'll tell you it has changed their lives.

Some of us have gotten pretty good

The up-and-comers don't do this.... If they want to know a sports score, they don't tune into a radio station and wait for the sports; they set up an automatic text message alert on their phone that notifies them of changes each inning.



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at navigating the Web. How many of you have a weather Web site bookmarked? By now, probably most have. But, how many of you don't think to look at your computer when you need a weather forecast? Maybe you still find yourself heading into the shop just before noon to hear what Skilling has to say about tomorrow or the ten minutes he will take to recap the weather you just lived. It is OK; it is the world you know.

Imagine not using the radio to figure out what the most popular song of the day is or even knowing that songs are played on the radio? (So much for the weekly Top 40 Countdown.) That is what is happening today – kids visit a Web site to see and hear and download songs that they like so they can hear the song when they want to hear it.

Has one of your kids ever asked you where you put the newspaper so they could see what movies are playing at the local cinema?

There is no doubt, methods of

...kids visit a Web site so they can hear the song when they want to hear it... Has one of your kids ever asked you where you put the newspaper so they could see what movies are playing?

communicating will continue to change. The question that begs an answer is, "How will the information we seek change us?" One of my favorite places is the public library. Each shelf contains hundreds of places to go, and one really cool thing is they've arranged content by whether or not it is true. If I have grown up always seeking specific information, how will my mind broaden? How will I develop interests? How will I think of new things to invent, how will I

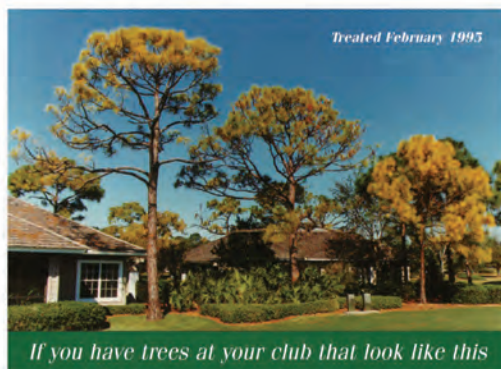
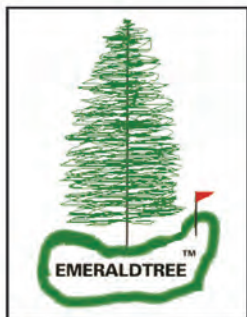
improve the world around me? Maybe my liberal arts background thinks the top ten delivered back by Google is too controlled and narrow.

There is no doubt the associations are in a state of flux with our communications. We want to make sure we are still reaching all of our members. MAGCS has taken the lead in going paperless, and I feel it is a good thing. One day, (I may not be around to see it), we may not print *On Course* and I've got to think that will be OK too. I do know something will take its place because we not only need to share information but we have to challenge our minds as well.

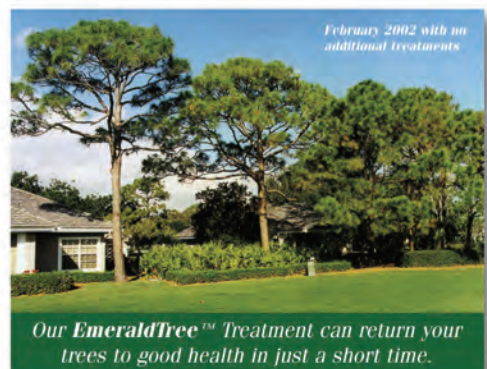
I've got a taste for some eggplant Parmesan and I really don't know why.

EDITORS NOTE: Luke Cella is Executive Director of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. This article was reprinted, with permission, from On Course, the association's magazine.

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- Current John Deere Customer

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- Current Toro Customer

"I like the adjustable reel speed. I plan on buying this mower."

- Current Toro/John Deere Customer

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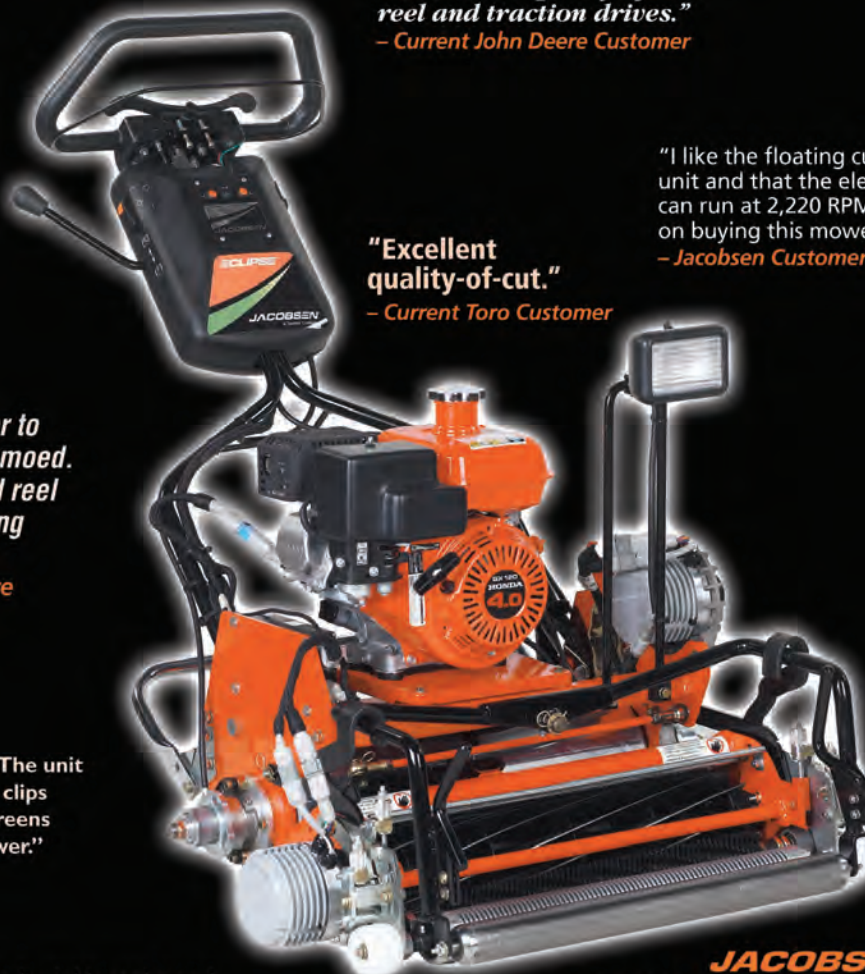
- Current John Deere Customer

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A TifEagle green at the Loblolly Pines GC displaying its unusual “leaf blade orientation.” Photo by Joel Jackson.

ULTRADWARFS AND SEASHORE PASPALUMS

What Are We Learning?

I saw a quote recently: “The only thing worse than change is no change at all!” I guess there are a number of ways to interpret the meaning contained in the context of our topic. Here’s my two cents worth:

We have been on a steep curve of courses converting to ultradwarf grasses because of their tolerance to low mowing heights and better cold tolerance. The early converts of course had the most to learn in the shortest amount of time. One of the major justifications for switching was to plant a grass not as susceptible to mutation and off-type contamination as some of the older dwarf varieties. So with monostands in hand, it was off into the brave new world. It is not going to be easy to compare and contrast ultradwarf with seashore paspalum, so I won’t even try. Each grass has its special qualities and management needs. The point is to understand that when you

change grasses, you must also change methods. You will still mow, water, fertilize, verticut and aerify, but there will be changes in how you do those things and why you must do them differently.

In fact, the past couple of years, I’ve seen several courses opting to stay with dwarf and selecting a couple of varieties which have proven to be stable and not mutate. Contamination remains a real concern and your grass will only be as good as the diligence in the sod production fields... so stay with reliable companies with proven track records.

Some management standards with the new grasses are developing and, if you are switching, it would pay you dividends to call a neighboring superintendent who has been managing the same grass you are considering and who has similar soil, water source, pH issues, budget, member expectations, etc. I asked my friend Jim Walker to

interview some superintendents, and his article follows my interview with Geoff Coggan over at Isleworth G&CC. Geoff is new to TifEagle and here is what he found out when he took up ultradwarf management a little over a year ago.

Coggan said, “Thatch management is the number-one concern. Once out of control it affects everything for healthy plant growth from water penetration to the root to simple air/oxygen exchange. Thatch production is directly affected by your nutrient management program.”

So I asked Coggan how much nitrogen he was applying. He said, “I can’t give you a hard number right now. It’s only been a little more than a year. I can tell you it’s constantly changing as I learn the greens and get a handle on how each green performs. I can tell you we are on primarily a liquid program and apply more organic-based granulars. We have to manage our pH levels with acid injection into the system. I’d say when we settle down, it will be in the 8-to-10-pounds-per-year range.

“You constantly have to work this grass to keep it from getting so thick and dense that water can’t even penetrate. We do our heaviest renovation in the spring as early as

we can. Once we get past June, it takes much longer for the grass to recover if you really tear it up. We continuously run pencil tines and Hydroject aerification to keep it open for air and water.”

Geoff confirmed what I have learned so far, and what Rick Tatum so eloquently stated three years ago on ultradwarf management when he said, “Managing these new grasses takes a new approach that becomes prescription management. You can’t automatically do the same thing to all 18 greens anymore.”

Joel Jackson

South Florida Supers Welcome Challenge of Managing New Grasses

By Jim Walker, GCS

Joel asked me for an interview article of a couple of South Florida superintendents about their ultradwarf- or paspalum-management programs. Armed with my guidelines, I take off across the Causeway and past the big hotels to see my pal Joe P. on Indian Creek Island and chat about his Mini-Verde, which was planted last summer.

First I want to congratulate Joe on receiving the Distinguished Service Award at the FGCSA Past Presidents dinner in May. It doesn’t seem possible that it has been 27 years since I sent him to the book store to buy Dr. James Beard’s *Science of Turf-grass* textbook.

Joe’s Tifdwarf greens have always been the best I ever played in South Florida, so why the change and what led you to pick Mini-verde?

“Three issues prompted our move to an ultradwarf: First, the existing greens were 11 years old and were showing signs of mutation. The organic matter buildup of the past 10 years was making it more difficult to maintain the Tifdwarf, and the competition of other

clubs switching to ultradwarfs dictated we go that direction.

“We picked Mini-Verde because the UTEP (University of Texas at El Paso) trials seemed to show it was the best grass, plus we had been running our own trials with TifEagle and didn’t like some of the things we saw.

“Our goal speed with Tifdwarf was 9 feet-plus, and now with the MiniVerde, it is 10.5-plus. We were mowing the dwarf at .125 in. and the MiniVerde is .100 to .110. We are using 25 to 50 percent less nitrogen with the new grass, vertical mowing more, rolling more, and top dressing more.

“On the top-dressing front, we have switched materials and installed a sand silo to store our material. It comes in dry, is kept dry in our silo and therefore has a better chance to penetrate the canopy of the Mini-Verde and get off the surface.

“We have an inboard/outboard irrigation system and the watering patterns for the new grass are similar to the old, with the exception of more hand watering on the new turf.

“We brought Earl Elsner in, who is a nationally recognized expert on ultradwarfs, to help us with our cultural-practice protocol and it was very interesting and most helpful. He felt since we were maintaining our Tifdwarf in a similar fashion to MiniVerde requirements, we did not need to change much.

His one word of advice was that most people with ultradwarfs do not top dress enough. I picked up another tip which has proven to be helpful from another South Florida superintendent who is managing Tif-Eagle, and that is to quad-tine once a month including the winter season with quarter-inch solid tines. Thanks, Mr. Sbarro.

“I am very happy with our decision to go with Mini-Verde. It is a more vigorous grass at the low heights of cut and provides a superior putting surface.”

OK, Joe. I guess that’ll have to do until we start playing the Super Heavy Duty Ultra Green Peach Fuzz being developed at a local laboratory run by this Doctor of Moon Dust from Outer

Space.

On the way back from Joe’s, I drive south on Old Cutler Road, and make a left turn at the big bend on 136th street to see Robert Wethy, who just re-opened Deering Bay Yacht and Country Club, now sporting a complete paspalum renovation. Course designer Arnold Palmer was on hand for the opening ceremony which Susi and I attended, and happily watched Mr. Palmer drive the first ball off number-one tee.

Now Rob, just a little background. Deering Bay used to be Kings Bay, which was designed and built by Mark Mahannah in 1959. In 1991, Arnold Palmer redesigned the course. It was planted with 419 tees, fairways and roughs, and had Tifdwarf greens. Why the change from that to paspalum?

“Our course is located directly on Biscayne Bay, and during the dry winter and spring months, turf quality would suffer. We were a perfect fit for paspalum. After much research, and test plots, SeaDwarf was chosen as the grass for our entire course.

“I have observed that our paspalum loves water and I have to be careful not to let things dry out.

“We use less nitrogen than we did with our Tifdwarf and more potassium and calcium. The new grass also loves micro-nutrients and uses them rapidly based on our tissue samples which are taken every two to three weeks.

“I have had no problem achieving the same green speed with paspalum as our bermuda. We had some disease pressure this winter, and found solid-tine aerification and top dressing every two to three weeks was a big help. When the weather warmed up, we sprayed Gibberellic acid on the greens and an immediate, positive response occurred.

“I am sure that managing the paspalum will continue to be a learning experience even more intense than what I faced before, and what we all face daily, managing the different types of grass on our courses in South Florida. Learning as we grow, and growing as we mow is all a part of the golf course management business that veteran superintendents come to love.”



Secured five-gallon bucket holds weeds and/or trash. Photo by Darren Davis.



Two 1/4-inch eye bolts and a 21-inch strap with an S-hook secure the bucket. Photo by Darren Davis.

SUPER TIP

The Bucket List

By Darren J. Davis

If you have read some of my previous “Super Tip” columns you know that I thoroughly enjoy visiting my peers at their place of employment, and as I have often stated, I would be hard-pressed to recall a visit/tour that I did not pick up a “Super Tip” or two.

On a recent tour of one of my contemporary’s courses, I spotted a rack of five-gallon buckets. I was told that each staff member was required to take his assigned bucket daily and fill it with a specified number of weeds. I liked the idea and decided to slightly

modify the concept for use at Olde Florida.

One of my concerns with storing the buckets outside was the potential for a water-filled bucket to become a mosquito breeding ground. I surmised that we could drill holes in the bottom of each bucket to release rainwater, but with the strong winds that often accompany storms I concluded that we might be continually picking up the buckets off the ground.

Another challenge I foresaw was how to keep the buckets from rolling around or bouncing out of the utility vehicles. My solution to these potential problems was to secure the five-gallon buckets in the bed of each of our Club Car utility vehicles.

The first step in securing the buckets

in the utility vehicles was to drill two 1/4-inch holes, 12 inches apart, in the side of the utility vehicle bed. In each hole a 1/4 x 20 stainless steel eye bolt was inserted with a stainless steel washer placed on each side of the bed.

The eye bolt was then fastened in place with a stainless steel nut. To hold the five-gallon bucket in place, a 21-inch EPDM strap with “S” hook ends is used. The cost of the hardware was less than \$4 per vehicle and the straps were less than \$2 each.

Another benefit to having the buckets in the utility vehicle beds is they can be used as trash cans, consequently keeping trash separate from grass clippings or other organic material placed in the beds of the utility vehicles.



Exterior view of the mounted bucket. Photo by Darren Davis.

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Mark J. Woodward, CGCS, becomes the first superintendent to become permanent CEO.

Woodward Named GCSAA's New CEO

Mark J. Woodward, golf operations manager for the city of San Diego has been selected chief executive officer for the GCSAA.

His selection by the GCSAA Board of Directors came after conducting a national search to replace Steve Mona, who became the chief executive of the World Golf Foundation March 3. A familiar face to GCSAA, Woodward has been active as a committee participant, a director and 68th president of the association in 2004. He is in his 30th year as a GCSAA member and became a certified golf course superintendent in 1986. He is the first superintendent to serve as GCSAA's permanent chief executive.

"We were extremely pleased with the quantity and quality of candidates that were interested in the position. Without a doubt, Mark presented the best fit for the association," GCSAA President David S. Downing II, CGCS said. "He is a talented individual with myriad skills that will serve him, the membership, the association, the industry and the game well. He has a strong track record of service to GCSAA and success as a golf course superintendent and an administrator. His efforts have earned him rave reviews in bolstering golf operations for the city of San Diego."

In San Diego, Woodward developed a five-year business plan that generated an additional \$3 million in revenue from 2006 to 2007, including the implementation of the Advance Tee Time program that added \$500,000 in the first year. His department has hosted many high-profile events, including three junior world golf championships, three city amateur championships, three PGA Tour events and the upcoming U.S. Open – on top of the three golf facilities annually hosting 260 golf outings. His plan resulted in creating 20,000 additional tee times for the public golfer. Woodward implemented a management plan that has produced drastically improved course conditions and enhanced environmental stewardship.

Woodward did not assume the job until July 1 because, Downing said., "It was important that he saw to completion the U.S. Open. It is a wonderful celebration of the game and it was only fitting that he finished his integral role in conducting the event."

Woodward came to San Diego in January 2005 after serving 31 years in various capacities with the Phoenix suburb of Mesa, Ariz. His last position there was parks and recreation administrator, which included the oversight of two golf courses, a tennis facility, the Chicago Cubs spring training home, a minor league baseball training site, a park ranger program and a cemetery. He is a 1974 graduate of Arizona State University with a degree in environmental resources and holds a master's degree in business administration from the University of Phoenix.

In addition to his past volunteer service to GCSAA, Woodward is active in the National Institute of Golf Management sponsored by the National Golf Foundation. He joined the NIGM board of regents in 1992, serving as its chair in 1999. He was a trustee for the Environmental Institute for Golf, serving as secretary in 2004.

Woodward has a strong golf-course-management background. He began his career as an assistant

golf course superintendent at Mesa's Dobson Ranch Golf Course, helping to construct the layout. Two years later he became superintendent and in 1987 assumed the additional duties of managing Mesa's Riverview Golf Course. His grandfather Jay is one of only three superintendents to have been inducted into the Arizona Golf Hall of Fame and was one of 11 GCSAA members to be recognized for outstanding service at the association's 50th anniversary celebration. Other family members to have served in the superintendent profession include his son Matt, son-in-law Cody Swirczynski, a cousin, Mike Pock, and Pock's sons, Ernie and Jay.

Woodward, 55, is a native of Phoenix. He and his wife Amy have six children including Mark's son Matt and his daughter Erin and Amy's daughters, Rachel, Christine, Nicole and Jessie. They currently have seven grandchildren.

USGA UPDATE

One Season Ends, Another Begins

By John Foy

DIRECTOR, USGA FLORIDA REGION

Traditionally in South Florida, the winter golf season comes to an end shortly after Easter and subsequently there is a fairly rapid decline in play and the summertime course maintenance season begins.

With a very early Easter this year, moderate to heavy play continued through April, but it is also being reported that total winter season rounds were reduced relative to previous years. The current state of the economy is definitely having an impact, and when combined with significant increases in fertilizer and other basic material costs, course managers will be challenged to continue to provide a level of overall conditioning and quality in keeping with golfer expectations and demands.

As discussed in Web updates, the prolonged drought continues to be

TPI Honors Trenholm With Inaugural Award

Dr. Laurie Trenholm, associate professor/Extension turfgrass specialist at the University of Florida was the recipient of the very first Turfgrass Educator Award of Excellence presented by Turfgrass Producers International.

"Dr. Trenholm's efforts to educate such a broad audience is reflected in her involvement as head of the Florida Urban Turfgrass Program," said TPI Executive Director Kirk Hunter, also noting "her commitment to the Florida Consumer Fertilizer Task Force Subcommittee, her ongoing research in stress physiology on landscape grass species and the teaching of Green Industries Best Management Practices to lawn-care professionals throughout Florida."

"She has been the face of UF/IFAS turf science research at myriad city and county commission meetings bringing science and research data to the attention of local lawmakers and regulators in the discussions of fertilizer and water issues," said Joel Jackson, executive director of the FGCSA.

In addition to working with county Extension faculty members and educating the state's Master Gardeners at training conferences, she also participates in a wide variety of industry-related associations and organizations. Her frequent participation at turfgrass and/or lawn care conferences, seminars and community events, many of which are outside the state of Florida, reflect an immeasurable contribution to educating others with fact-based science. Among the many issues she has addressed are lawn care for drought conditions, pest control, water conservation through sound irrigation practices, appropriate fertilization issues and overall environmentally-friendly lawn management practices. As a result of her

efforts there has been a heightened awareness on matters that will have a positive impact on our environment for generations to come.

Dr. Trenholm has also been one of a select group of turfgrass Extension specialists from universities around the country who have met annually with representatives of TPI to address a wide variety of topics including advancements in research, environmental concerns and ways in which to enhance communication and build greater awareness of the environmental benefits of turfgrass to the general public, landscape professionals, educators, garden writers and government decision-makers.

A native of Rochester, N.Y., Dr. Trenholm received her B.S. in turfgrass science from University of Florida's Fort Lauderdale REC in 1994, her master's degree in turfgrass physiology from UF in Gainesville in 1996. She received several scholarships from the Florida

Turfgrass Association. She earned her doctorate from the University of Georgia's Department of Crop and Soil Science, researching turfgrass stress physiology and wear tolerance of seashore paspalum and bermudagrass.

She has been a member of the faculty at the University of Florida since 1999. She is a member of the Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America, The Agronomy Society of America, the Crop Science Society of America, the Florida Turfgrass Association, the International Turfgrass Research Society, Turfgrass Producers International, and the Florida State Horticultural Society.

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a major concern at all golf courses, except those fortunate enough to have unrestricted irrigation sources. Although with each passing month, there have been incremental increases in the amount of water available for irrigation, which has naturally helped.

As a result of timely winter rainfall, on April 18, the South Florida Water Management District returned to Phase II (30 percent reduction) restriction from the earlier Phase III (45 percent reduction). Yet, Turf Advisory Service visits have been made to several courses where a lack of sufficient water has already caused significant problems and a pronounced deterioration in turf health and quality.

With mild to warm temperatures throughout the winter, there has been no real slowdown in plant parasitic nematode activity. This has exacerbated drought stress problems and caused additional turf loss. With fairways and roughs, recovery from drought stress and nematode damage will be extremely difficult without regular and adequate rainfall. The start of the summer rainy season cannot come soon enough.

Most courses in Central and South Florida are implementing routine summer cultural management such as core aeration and aggressive verticutting of putting greens, tees, fairways, and roughs. These practices will always be unpopular with golfers because of the inconveniences caused, but accomplishing them on a timely basis is critical for promoting the resumption of active turf growth and recovering from the cumulative negative impacts of the winter season.

There are inevitably requests and demands that cultural management programs be delayed because during May, the start of reciprocal play and annual summer membership programs can help increase play and, in turn, revenues. The importance of timely initiation of cultural management programs cannot be over emphasized and the adage, “pay me now or pay me later” certainly applies in this situation. Furthermore, with reduced availability and/or increasing costs of pesticides, fertilizers, and other materials, there is

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BLUE GINGER

Scientific name: *Dichorisandra thrysiflora*

Zones: South, Central and warmer areas of North Florida

Mature Height and Spread: 4-5 ft. tall and 3 ft. wide; can reach 8 ft. tall

Classification: Perennial

Landscape Use: Deep purplish-blue blooms grow on 6-10 in. spikes in summer and fall. Tropical glossy green foliage with succulent stems spread slowly underground, creating a dense mass with a tremendous show of blooms. While commonly referred to as blue ginger, “ginger” is a misnomer, as the *Dichorisandra* is actually related to the plant commonly known as the “wandering jew.” It grows well in part to full shade with moist, well-drained soil. Mealy bug is the only significant pest issue. This is a great addition to almost any Florida landscape.

Propagation: By cuttings.



MIMOSA

Scientific name: *Mimosa strigillosa*

Zones: North, Central & South

Mature Height and Spread: Typically 6 - 9-in. tall x 3 – 5-ft. wide

Classification: Mass planting, ground cover

Landscape Use: Specimen and butterfly attractor

Characteristics: This reliable and vigorous low-grower is a Florida native and drought tolerant, growing in moist and dry soils. It produces pink, ball-shaped flowers in the warmer seasons which attract butterflies. The foliage is delicate looking with small, compound leaves which draw back when touched and fold up at night, yet are durable enough to walk on, park on, drive on and even mow. The leaves also provide butterfly larva with food. In sun or shade, it grows best when well watered. With virtually no major insect or disease problem, this ground cover is a winner.

Propagation: Easily by cuttings or by seed

The Florida Plants of the Year program is administered by FNGLA: 800-375-3642; www.fngla.org



even greater importance and need for agronomically-sound, basic practices and programs to maintain a healthy turf and good quality conditioning the majority of the time.

Bayer Names Wright Southwest Florida Rep

Adam Wright joins Bayer Environmental Science as field sales representative for the golf market in southwest Florida.

Prior to joining Bayer, Wright was the director of golf course operations for Laurel Oak Country Club in

Sarasota. He also served as a superintendent at Greystone Golf & Country Club in Birmingham, Ala.

A graduate of Tennessee Technological University, Wright holds a bachelor’s degree in agriculture, agronomy and crop sciences. He is currently enrolled in the University of South Florida to earn his master’s degree in business.



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— Jeff Taylor, Golf Course Superintendent
Boca Pointe Country Club



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The Gopher Tortoise Needs Your Help

By Kyle Sweet, CGCS, SANCTUARY G.C.

Oh, how times have changed for the gopher tortoise.

As a young child growing up in Zephyrhills (yes, where that great bottled water comes from), I had the opportunity to grow to know gopher tortoises very well. Believe it or not, we raced them. Although slow, the racing was entertaining and held annually at a local fair. Our stealthy reptile, Lord Baltimore as affectionately named by my dad, was directionally challenged and after his rookie appearance



Josh Sweet with one of The Sanctuary's largest tortoises that inhabits a protected tortoise habitat area alongside the 13th hole. Photo by Kyle Sweet, CGCS.

was released back to the pasture lands where he was found. At that time, Gopher tortoises seemed nearly as common as the ever-present mourning doves in open pasture lands throughout central Florida.

Upon arrival to Sanibel Island, many years later, I was quickly educated in the importance of the gopher tortoise while working around several biologists and consultants during the development of The Sanctuary Golf Club. I thought I was educated in the industry after years of experience and a degree, but this was a learning experience that has continued for the past 15 years while I have been actively involved in gopher tortoise habitat understanding and

management. As a golf course manager, course staff member or just interested citizen, you can make a difference with this gentle, important animal.

THE GOPHER TORTOISE

The gopher tortoise, *gopherus*

polyphemus, belongs to a group of land tortoises that originated in North America 60 million years ago, thus making it one of our oldest living species. They are found throughout Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama and eastern Louisiana. It is a plain-looking turtle, being either dark tan or gray. Their front legs are broad and flat and are excellent for digging while its rear legs closely resemble the shape of an elephant's.

Identification of this tortoise is very important. All tortoises are turtles, but not all turtles are tortoises. With this in mind, a little education with your staff and members can go a long

way and can save a small tortoise from mistakenly being put in a lake or pond when happened-upon on the course.

THE IMPORTANCE OF HOME

The Gopher tortoise digs and lives in burrows. The burrow provides protection from predators, freezing weather and fire. The burrow, ranging in depth from 3-20 ft. deep and averaging 30 feet long, provides not only a safe and temperature-moderated home for the tortoise, but plays a role in the entire wildlife community where it resides. Just to name a few, snakes, frogs, mice, fox, skunks, opossums, rabbits, quail, armadillos, burrowing owls and lizards will share the burrow with tortoises or utilize old abandoned burrows.

As habitats are adversely affected, tortoises will dig multiple burrows. Loss of food sources, changes in water table levels and burrow disruption are also a few causes for tortoises moving out.

LATE BLOOMERS AND A STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL

The Gopher tortoise doesn't reach sexual maturity until 10-15 years of age. At this age, the shells are typically about 9 inches long. As it matures, the gender of the tortoise can be easily determined by viewing its plastron (underbelly). The male's will be concave while the female's is flat. The tortoise's courtship begins in the spring and the females nest between April and

July. Typically, the female will lay an average of 5–6 eggs very close to the their burrow openings in the loose soil generated from creating their home, which is defined as the “apron.”

After nearly three months, the young will hatch and their gender will be determined by the temperature of the soil where the nest incubated. Hatchlings are 1-2 inches long and grow about 3/4-inch per year. The hatchlings are much brighter in color than adults and, unfortunately, very few young tortoises survive to reproductive maturity. At 6 -7 years old, tortoises are able to thwart most predators but, at this age, domestic dogs, raccoons and man are its biggest adversaries.

FOOD AND WATER

Gopher tortoises are vegetarians but not at all picky about what plants they eat. You are most likely to see tortoises foraging in dry, open areas in the early morning or late afternoon during the

Another SW Florida Tortoise Habitat

South of Kyle Sweet’s Tortoise habitat on Sanibel Island lies the Old Collier Club in Naples. Highlights of the Fazio-designed layout include ample native areas and connecting wildlife corridors. Seldom does a guided wildlife tour go by without participants seeing a gopher tortoise den or several of the critters crawling about. During a recent visit this 3-1/2-inch juvenile tortoise was spied venturing about. Superintendent Tim Hiers said during this vulnerable soft-shelled stage in their lives, crows are their chief predators. The good news is that Hiers reports a 70-percent increase in the gopher tortoise population since the course opened seven years ago.



summer months. They feed mainly on low-growing plants that require abundant sunlight. Landscaping with native plants on your course or home

will help ensure that proper food is available for the tortoise.

Tortoises are seldom seen drinking water. Rather, they get the water they



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need from their diet and also have the ability to gather rain water to drink when water travels down their burrow. During extreme drought conditions however, tortoises have been seen drinking puddle water following rain showers.

HOW YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY CAN HELP

Today's desire for communities in pristine natural habitats combined

Gopher tortoise habitat in the Sanctuary Golf Club is clearly marked. Photo by Kyle Sweet, CGCS.



with less and less available dry upland, have caused the gopher tortoise to be detrimentally impacted and classified as a species of concern. It's important to know what that means. By definition, a species of special concern is one where a population reduction of at least 20 percent has been projected or suspected to be met within the next 10 years or three generations, whichever is longer.

You can help by first identifying that tortoises are on your course and in your community. You may know this already from laws that are in place to protect the habitats of tortoises throughout Florida or just from your own observations. Once you know they are there, their habitats will need to be maintained. The typical forest fire cycle, that helps to maintain the open habitat needed by the tortoise, is seldom a reality in a residential community or on the course. However, with proper trimming and mowing, the same effect can be achieved in areas that tortoises

need to thrive.

Education of golfers and residents is very important. Keep people and dogs away from the sites where burrows exist. Foot traffic can crush shallow burrows, destroy egg clutches when laid near the burrow opening, and break or disturb important vegetation that the tortoise relies on for its diet.

<SUBHED>Implementation, what can you and your club do?

Education must be reinforced by identifying the tortoise areas and keeping people out. We have installed 4x4 posts and roped around all of The Sanctuary's protected gopher tortoise habitat areas and have also identified these for our membership with vinyl signs. These areas are marked as environmentally sensitive lateral hazards where golf balls cannot be retrieved if they are hit into these areas. A one-stroke penalty is incurred and the player must take a drop.

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and displaying signage, we have recently begun to map all of our protected tortoise habitat areas with GIS so we can monitor populations of the tortoise and also monitor the travel of tortoises throughout their habitat. We hope to complete annual surveying and will be sharing our survey results with the J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge (our neighbor), The Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation and the City of Sanibel, all of which are very dedicated to the protection of the Gopher Tortoise.

You can accomplish this at your own club. Your county has Georeference photographic mapping of your property that you can purchase in digital form. Once you have this photography, GPS points can be layered on top of the map by using appropriate software. Each burrow location or whatever you're mapping can be referenced with a GPS point. Our mapping was done by wildlife research

REMEMBER THESE FACTS...

- This "keystone" species helps support several other animals in its community.
- High and dry habitats are where you will find them.
- Burrows can be crushed by foot traffic alone so be careful where you step.
- The primary reason for the gopher tortoise being endangered is a loss of habitat.

- Tortoises need to roam freely, so limiting obstructions is important to their welfare
- Tortoises cannot be moved from one community to another due to URTD, which can affect an entire tortoise population. You can make a difference in the survival of the Gopher tortoise on your course and in your community.

volunteer through the local Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation. Other wildlife research organizations in your area may be able to help in your efforts.

Upper Respiratory Tract Disease of Tortoises

An upper respiratory tract disease of tortoises has been observed in Florida as well as in the Western US, Georgia

and Mississippi. This disease is highly contagious and is passed from one tortoise to another by close contact. In many situations, the threat of spread of this disease has limited the availability of tortoise relocation. Established colonies can be drastically affected if a diseased tortoise is introduced into the population. Never introduce or remove/relocate a tortoise from its known habitat.

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34 Marriott Courses to Become Sanctuaries by Year's End

Marriott Golf is requiring 34 of the company's managed golf courses throughout North America and the Caribbean to become Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries, by the end of 2008.

Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries are part of a systemwide commitment by Marriott International, Inc. to promote environmental stewardship.

Marriott's Audubon Certification mandate program includes famed golf destinations such as Doral Golf Resort & Spa, in Miami; Royal St. Kitts Golf Club in the British West Indies; and Shadow Ridge Golf Club in Palm Desert, California, among others.

Doral, host of the 2008 WGC-CA Championship, March 20-23, became the first-ever Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary in North America to host a World Golf Championships event.

"Marriott Golf is proud to be part of the company's broader green initiatives by supporting Audubon Certification, golf's environmental gold standard," said Robert Waller, senior director of grounds, Marriott Golf. "Our goal is to engage our guests and associates from around the world in this unique process and to further our commitment to promoting the game of golf in an eco-friendly way."

Marriott International has been actively involved in energy conservation since the 1980s. Recently, Marriott's headquarters in Bethesda, along with its timeshare division based in Orlando, replaced more than 2.5 million pieces

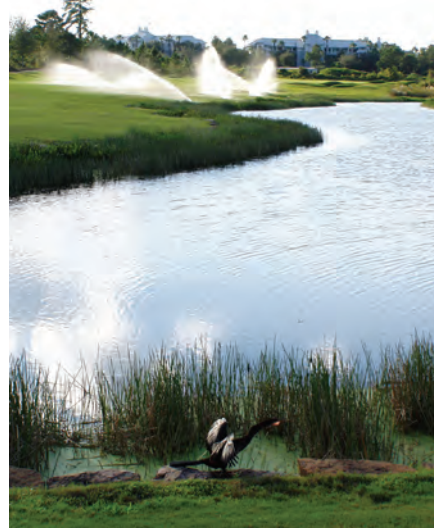
of Styrofoam and plastic utensils with those made of potato ("SpudWare™"), sugar cane and cornstarch, all fully biodegradable within an average of 100 days. These industry-leading efforts have been recognized by the EPA, which awarded Marriott its 2008 Sustained Excellence award and placed the Energy Star label on more than 200 of its hotels (the most of any hotel company).

To date, and in advance of the 2008 mandate initiative, Marriott Golf maintains six properties that operate as Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries, five in Florida:

- Stone Mountain Golf Club in Stone Mountain, Georgia
- Doral Golf Resort & Spa in Miami
- The Ritz-Carlton Members Club in Sarasota
- The Ritz-Carlton Golf Club in Jupiter
- Grande Pines Golf Club in Orlando
- The Ritz-Carlton Golf Club, Orlando,
- Grande Lakes in Orlando

Each of these properties has achieved certification through a variety of methods, including the development of water conservation plans; converting formerly managed turf into wildlife habitat; constructing nesting boxes for native birds; the creation of butterfly gardens, and much more.

"We are elated with the level of commitment Marriott is showing by mandating Audubon Certification across their portfolio of golf courses," said Kevin Fletcher, executive director of Audubon International. "This program directly enables golf courses to



Part circle heads and aquatic plantings help protect the golf course waterways providing an environment where wildlife can thrive

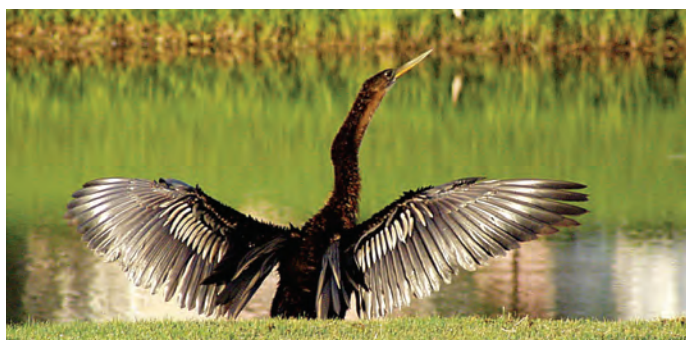
protect the environment by improving the quality of land, water, and air, along with conserving natural resources and protecting wildlife habitats. These proven environmental management practices will help preserve the natural heritage of the game of golf for many generations to come."

GRANDE VISTA NEXT

The next property to become Audubon certified will be Grande Vista Golf Club, a nine-hole golf course and 32-acre practice facility and part of The Faldo Golf Institute in Orlando.

Throughout the past year, Grande Vista has implemented a variety of programs to demonstrate its commitment to environmental stewardship. Highlighting the property's efforts is the creation of a nature trail that runs throughout the property and hosts a number of native Florida plants. Each plant is identified with a post that describes the plant in details and serves to educate guests.

Moreover, Grande Vista has worked to provide habitats along streams and lakes that provide food and shelter for wildlife and 35 acres of habitat area has been protected throughout the property.



Often called the "Snake bird" or water turkey, an anhinga sunbathes on the 11th hole at Grande Pines.

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UF/IFAS Field Day Scrapbook

Photos by Joel Jackson

Moving the UF/IFAS Field Days from July to May was a good move weather- and comfort-wise and much appreciated by the crowd of industry professionals who attended the annual event in Gainesville and Citra.

If I had any disappointment it was that I was not aware of a single county or city representative in attendance to learn about new grass varieties, water use or nutrient leaching and runoff. All these topics seem to be on the front burner and yet no one bothered to come and ask questions.

That is the hard part for most turf professionals to swallow: when the politicians start making rules without good science behind them. It's right here at the Envirotron and Plant Science Center. Come and get it!



Dr. Billy Crow is still on his Quest for the Holy Grail – an effective alternative to Nematicur. By the way EPA extended the sale of Nematicur until Nov. 30.



Dr. Jason Dettman-Kruse discussed the pros and cons of artificial turf versus natural turf. He said the fake stuff loses its credibility when it too has to be watered just to keep it cool enough to play on.



Dr. Eileen Buss admits she thinks that turf is bug food. Here she shows off a bunch of trained hunting bill bugs.



Fertilizer Guru Dr. Jerry Sartain has only been researching the fate of fertilizer for 30 years or so. When the Dr. says very little nutrients run off a site, why won't people listen?



Geneticist Dr. Freddy Altpeter, left, discusses the way genes can be used to create new Florida Friendly grasses.



Dr. Phil Harmon has been busy. New grasses have bred some diseases we haven't normally seen down here before. Don't forget the Rapid Diagnostic Service at UF. Get those samples ID'ed in 24 hours.



The Master Moisture Monitor, Dr. Michael Dukes seeks the best ways homeowners can water lawns more efficiently. He says only one day a week on St. Augustine can be a gamble.



From bermuda to zoysia, Dr. Kenworthy is putting scores of grasses through their paces to find varieties that might work more effectively in Florida.



Dr. Laurie Trenholm has been one of the most visible BMP crusaders around the state. She knows how much nitrogen is leaching through the lawns. When you apply it right, it isn't much.

THE PRIDE AND THE PASSION

It's a Family Affair

By Joel Jackson

I've heard of mom-and-pop businesses before, and even husband-and-wife medical and legal practices, but it is rare to find a husband-and-wife working at a golf course as superintendent and assistant superintendent. It would take a couple of very special people to pull that off, and Gary and Debbie Smither are two just such people.

Gary "Cutter" Smither has been the superintendent at the Misty Creek Country Club in Sarasota for the past six years. Debbie's role as assistant superintendent evolved from her work on the crew when Smither's former assistant Jim Baldwin left a few years ago. But we need to back up a little bit for some history.

Many of you may remember that "Cutter" was one of a handful of superintendents who were perennial contenders for the championships of our state events like the Poa Annuu Classic and Crowfoot Open, etc. Cutter's contemporaries for golf dominance were Joe Ondo, Fred Klauk and Mark Henderson back in the day. So Smither was a good competitive player.

Smither met Debbie, his wife-to-be, on a golf course. She was a top amateur golfer in her own right, qualifying twice for the USGA Ladies Amateur making it to the second round one year and the quarterfinals of the USGA MidAm another time. Carrying a scratch or better handicap in her prime, she entertained ideas of joining the LPGA tour.

After they began courting, Debbie got a job on Smither's crews when he worked at Bent Tree and at the TPC at Prestancia. She always wanted a family life which was a factor in not pursuing the rigorous travel demands of the lifestyle of a professional golfer. After marriage and their first child came along, Debbie "retired" from course

work for 13 years to be a fulltime mom to her three kids, Chris, Jackie and Michael.

Now Chris and Jackie are out making their own way and Michael is in his last years of high school, so Debbie went back to work part time at Misty Creek. The original intent was to work in the office, but she says that lasted one



Gary and Debbie Smither make a hard working, passionate team as superintendent and assistant superintendent at the Misty Creek C.C. in Sarasota. Photo by Joel Jackson.

day. She wanted back outdoors on the course.

Smither says, "As a good golfer, Debbie has a passion for the game and knows what a good course setup should look like. She respects what a superintendent must know and do to accomplish good playing conditions and I respect her golfing ability and love of the game."

Debbie said, "I love being outside. I'm a perfectionist and I have a good eye for what needs to be done or when the turf looks like it needs attention."

The two have parlayed that mutual respect for each other, the game and the club that they have forged a working relationship that Smither says the club recognizes at their annual meetings.

Smither explained, "The club recognizes and appreciates the hard work, passion and ultimate results we have achieved. That is very rewarding from our perspective."

Debbie has mastered all tasks on the crew from operating all the equipment to spraying and helping to manage the irrigation system. In fact, one of her key duties is to be the H-2-O manager right now during the dry conditions.

Debbie added, "When I'm on the fairway mower, it is amazing what you can see from just that slightly elevated viewpoint versus being at ground level." She is another critical pair of caring eyes to help make sure the course is looking its best.

They both commented, the whole crew has been on the job for over six years and everyone has his specialized jobs and knows what to do and how to do it very well, so the crew doesn't need any micro-managing.

Even though they "work together" they aren't literally together all day long. So when they go home they can enjoy family time and similar interests like their love of college football, basketball and golf together.

Perhaps the toughest part of this unique team is scheduling vacation time. Obviously the traditional role of the assistant is as the back up, go-to person when the superintendent is gone. That just doesn't fit in this scenario. Accordingly Debbie says, "Three-day weekend trips work best for us. Two-week trips aren't practical. I do go home to Ohio to see family and Gary joins me for only part of the time, so we stagger our away time."

Smither says, "I don't need much down time. If I can get away for a day or two that is enough to relax and enjoy the break in routine. We hope to get back into playing competitive golf again, perhaps in the Florida State Golf Association Mixed Team events."

For now, the biggest question from Misty Creek members about the unique husband-and-wife team seems to be "Does Debbie really have a better golf game than Gary?" We will leave that one for the 19th hole.

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PHOTOS TO THE EDITOR

Wildlife Abounds on the Naples National Golf Club

Superintendent Terry Woods was kind enough to share his drought

emergency management tips in Hands On for the Spring issue, and

his assistant, Bill Wiggins, sent some photos of wildlife on the course.



Eagle Claw is a brand of fish hooks. Now you know why. Photo by Bill Wiggins.



Naples National Golf Club, where the deer and the “antelope” play. Well at least the deer.

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Earl Jones aka “the voice” had such a problem stuttering as a child he was basically mute until a teacher helped him overcome the problem by reciting poetry in class.

Robert Trent Jones Sr. designed golf courses – some of the most famous in the world. Robert De Niro drove a taxi and became a famous actor. Robert Fulton was always steaming until he built a boat to go up and down the Hudson. Robert E. Lee lost a war, rode a horse named Traveler, and surrendered at Appomattox. Robert Nesta Marley put Reggae on the map and lifted the genre from Jamaica and gave it to the world. Jah rastafari. Robert Shaw was a brilliant actor who got eaten in Jaws. Robert the Bruce was the most famous King of Scotland. He ruled from 1315 to 1329.

Johnny was always on the spot. When he was overseas during World War II, he got “Dear John” letters. John was a movie star who went on to be

a Rooster with “True Grit,” and was a “Duke” to his friends. There was a John who was the second president of the United States, and then his son John Quincy became a president too.

John was part of this English rock group called “The Beatles.” They named a plaza in New York after a guy named John who made a lot of money. John Denver thanked God he was a country boy and later went to Colorado to get “high.” I heard tell of a man named John Henry who was a steel driving man and died with a hammer in his hand. Another famous John played tennis with some success despite his terrible temper. Another killed a President named Lincoln. A John named Belushi burst on the scene of Saturday Night Live, made a movie called Animal House, and went on to be a famous “Blues Brother.”

But the most famous name of all is Family. Love yours every day. They are your most precious possession.

No More Choir Practice!



**GREEN SIDE UP
BY JOEL JACKSON**

I’m tired of preaching to the choir. This is for the club managers, owners, golf professionals and influential golfers at all Florida golf courses. You folks must deal with marketing,

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revenue, customer satisfaction, lessons, social gatherings and events, taxes, insurance, etc. These are all important facets of the golf course business. I'm sure your associations deal with these topics at your meetings and conferences.

Are you also dealing with the "Green Movement" and how it affects your course?

I'm asking because I haven't heard too many questions coming to our group, the superintendents. We've been tackling the issues to come up with the solutions, but this is bigger than our group can handle alone. We need everyone in golf to come together and leverage our numbers, influence and contacts to stand up for the Florida golf industry.

If you use reclaimed water, you haven't been overly concerned about water restrictions, yet the cost for this water is rising, sometimes doubling, and in some cases, the permitted amount is being reduced. That affects the bottom line, even if you don't have brown spots on the course.

If you have a permit to use ground and/or surface water for irrigation, it allows you to pump about 40 percent of what your property needs. The rest must come from Mother Nature. When it doesn't rain, that 40 percent gets whacked another 30 - 45 percent by water restrictions.

Superintendents talk with the various districts about equitable allocations to keep their (your) business thriving, but talk is cheap and action sometimes comes very slowly. The wheels of government grind slowly while your grass burns up. Maybe a little more organized heat to create a louder squeaky wheel would get better results.

Currently there is also a wave of local fertilizer ordinances being drafted, discussed and enacted under the guise of protecting the local coastal water quality. Protecting the water quality is a good cause. Most of us like to recreate on our state waters and we want them as clean and safe as possible. But the focus of these local governments is on turf fertilizer use. While they have

mainly said golf courses should follow the new 2007 Golf BMP Manual when applying nutrients, it only takes one commissioner from one city or county to include all turf including golf under more stringent rules.

I could go into a long list of nutrient sources impacting the state's waters from agriculture, to wastewater treatment plants, septic tanks, ill-designed storm water systems that discharge directly into these waters, animal waste (migrating and indigenous waterfowl are prolific poopers of nitrogen and phosphorus), grass clippings blown into the gutters and storm drains, falling leaves, pollen, and blossoms along with the nitrogen in the air deposited by rainfall. But fertilizer used on turfgrass is the main bulls eye when it comes to regulations.

Golf courses are said to be easy targets because they are so visible. Because they are visible they are also a leading tourism and resident recreation venue which has around a \$5 billion impact to the state's economy. This includes local property tax rates, and consider the tens of millions of dollars raised for local charities by outings on our courses. Don't forget the jobs and careers among the 72,000 in the state. Golf courses are great green spaces and wildlife habitats in urban and rural areas.

There are a lot of things about the golf industry worth fighting for. They will best be served if we all sing long and loud together and to a new audience of legislators and regulators. The time for choir practice is over.

THE CIRCLE OF LIFE

Recently two acquaintances from the world of golf passed away. One was Obie Lawson, 20 years my senior at age 85. The other was Rick Tatum, 17 years my junior. So if you're doing the math, that makes me a ripe young 65... old enough to know better, but young enough to keep trying.

When you have lived to my age you have seen a lot and in some cases seen too much. I have the advantage of perspective when it comes to reconciling people passing away at a

Our place on the circle of life isn't a guarantee of longevity, it is only our opportunity to maximize the quality of our lives and enjoy the company of others.

ripe old age, but it is always a shock when a peer or one much younger is taken from us too soon.

Obie was one of the first suppliers I met once I became a superintendent in Central Florida. Obie was a sales rep for Woodbury Chemical and also did some work for Butch Gill and Innovative Turf Supply.

Obie went about his business with all the charm and demeanor of a southern gentleman always putting customer service first. He supported his clients individually, but he also was a steadfast supporter of the local chapters and the industry overall.

Rick had a very successful 20-year career in the Naples – Ft. Myers area. He was very competitive, but also very professional. He was outspoken and not shy at all about sharing or giving his opinion on any issue. But he was also not shy about helping others... from subordinates to his peers in the industry. As they say, he walked the talk. He helped me on several occasions by contributing to Hands On articles in The Florida Green.

Rick's personality was decried by many at his recent memorial service as "unique." He could be stubborn and demanding, and he gave no quarter in a debate. But he stepped up. He showed up. He rolled up his sleeves and got the job done, whatever it took. He didn't always win, but he was always going for the brass ring.

Our place on the circle of life isn't a guarantee of longevity, it is only our opportunity to maximize the quality of our lives and enjoy the company of others. Obie and Rick did just that and I am the better for knowing both of them. So long old friends til we meet again.

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