

# The Florida Green

Fall 2010



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*Gary Myers, CGCS  
President*

A question that was asked that I believe is significant was “Who is the face of golf?” Is it the PGA Tour, the USGA, the PGA of America, GCSAA, architects, owners, builders? I believe we are all part of the face of golf and need to work together as a group to tackle the difficult issues that face us today.

Each issue I mentioned earlier affects all of us. If rounds and revenues are down, it affects maintenance and capital budgets which will affect course conditions. If pace of play is an issue, it also affects rounds and revenue. Water, fertilizer and pesticide issues can affect course conditions which also affect rounds and revenue. The reality is that all issues lead back to rounds. Rounds are the driving force and as long as rounds continue to decline, revenues will decline and everything else follows.

I am not sure what the total answer is, but I firmly believe that if we don't work together collectively as a group, we will not succeed. During the panel discussion, I mentioned that we need to meet more often as we go forward. The group should include the FGCSA, Florida Club Managers Association, North and South Florida PGA sections, USGA, PGA Tour, LPGA Tour and representatives from the golf course architects, owners' and builders' associations. I believe these groups as a whole do indeed make up the “Face of Golf”

I look forward to my year as president of the FGCSA. I encourage you to get involved with your local associations and to offer me any suggestions or ideas as we move forward.

## *Meeting the Challenges*

It is with great honor and humility that I begin my service as President of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association. I look forward to continue working with the Board of Directors and our Executive Director, Joel Jackson and our Association Manager, Jennifer Innes. I follow a long list of special golf course superintendents who have served as president of FGCSA. I want to thank our outgoing Past President Shane Bass and our Immediate Past President Bill Kistler for their dedicated service to the FGCSA.

I am proud to be a golf course superintendent. I believe it is one of the greatest professions a person can pursue. Whenever I get the opportunity to speak with young people that are considering a golf or landscape career, I always speak with pride about our profession and try to encourage their interest.

This is a challenging time not only for those who maintain golf courses but, the golf industry as a whole. Due to the economy and other factors we have seen rounds decrease over that past several years. Many of our clubs are asking us to reduce costs without sacrificing conditions. We are facing even more challenges from local municipal ordinances to national environmental groups with regards to water, fertilizer and pesticide use. As a group, we must work together to help strengthen the golf industry and educate the public with regards to these issues.

I recently sat on a Golf Summit panel discussion at the Florida Club Managers Association Conference. The panel included representatives from the North Florida PGA and The National Club Association. It was an open discussion and we talked about the challenges facing us today. We talked about maintenance budget cuts, capitol investment cuts, pace of play, difficulty of courses, rounds reduction, revenue reduction, and the environmental issues.

All groups have unique issues they are dealing with as individual associations.

# The Florida Green

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**ON THE COVER:** #2 at sunrise. Coral Creek Club, Placida. Photo by Daniel Zelazek



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*FGCSA Directors for 2010-2011 are (l-r): Mark Todd (Suncoast), Steve Pearson, CGCS (Palm Beach); Kevin Sunderman (West Coast), Ricky Reeves (South Florida), Bill Davidson (Everglades), Jim Foster, CGCS (Calusa); Jim Rowland (Ridge), Michael Gay (Central Florida), and Jim Shaffer (Seven Rivers). Directors not pictured: Matt Jones (North Florida), and Roy MacDonald (Treasure Coast). Photo by Joel Jackson.*

**Somebody, Turn Down the Heat!**

From the coldest winter in 50 years to the hottest summer in 30 years, 2010 will go down as a record year. Mother Nature threw all sorts of curve balls and screw balls at golf-maintenance crews across Florida and the nation. These radical temperature fluctuations sure play havoc with those man-made climate change statistics don't they? They remind us that these changes come in cycles over time regardless of man's activity.

One thing that has remained constant is the vendor and superintendent support for all the FGCSA chapter events that do so much for turf research and local charities. Let's turn the Florida Green Spotlight on some of those events that took place this past summer.

**FUTURE OF GOLF TOURNAMENT**

The 30th Anniversary of the Palm Beach GCSA's Future of Golf Tournament was the best to date. Even though recent rains had softened the course, the field of 156 players was able to play without any stormy interruption. The only tough part of the day was the

heat. Playing in 97-degree weather, no wind, 98 percent humidity and a heat index of 112 degrees definitely had everyone diving for the liquid refreshments. It was hot, hot, and hot!

The course was in excellent shape and the players complimented host superintendent, Steve Pearson CGCS, and his staff for putting on another wonderful tournament. After golf attendees enjoyed a sumptuous buffet dinner prepared by The Falls CC F&B department.

Once again the chapter benefited from great industry sponsorship and member participation by raising \$28,000 for turfgrass research, scholarships and junior golf. The Future of Golf Tournament has raised over three-quarters of a million dollars in the 30 years of the tournament's existence.

The Power Pak Auction by Brian MacCurrach of Bayer Environmental Science raised a record \$6,400 for the products package with all of the money going to the event. In addition to Bayer, Hector Turf (Toro), ShowTurf of South Florida (John Deere) and Kilpatrick Turf



*Newly elected 2010-2011 FGCSA Officers (l-r): Vice President Mark Kann, Secretary/Treasurer Nancy Miller, President Gary Myers CGCS, and Immediate Past President Bill Kistler. Photo by Joel Jackson.*



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# 34TH ANNUAL LARRY KAMPHAUS CROWFOOT OPEN

Hosted by the  
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at the Grand Cypress Resort



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Richard Colyer (left) and Dale Mitchell (right) of GASH presented their annual \$3,000 check to FGCSA Executive Director Joel Jackson at the Crowfoot Reception. They will make an equal donation to the FTGA Foundation at the Conference and Show. They have been doing this since 1994. You do the math. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Equipment and Irrigation (Jacobsen) were Diamond Sponsors. It was a successful day for everyone.

**CROWFOOT OPEN**

Traditionally the last big event of the summer is the Central Florida Chapter's Larry Kamphaus Crowfoot

But the weekend is about more than just golf. Preceding the festivities, the Florida GCSA holds its Summer Board and Annual Meetings. Final budget approval for the new fiscal year and the election of new officers are two main agenda items including all the new and old business discussions.

Two of the new items unveiled at the meeting were the new FGCSA Industry Partners Program which will allow advertisers and sponsors of FGCSA publications and events to sign up for various partnership levels crafted to meet the participation needs of old and new sponsors. Also in the works is a new FGCSA interactive Web site which is

currently under construction by Cyber Golf, a group used successfully by several of our peer associations.

Following the morning board meeting, the Central Florida Chapter hosted a half-day education seminar



Winners of the Vendor and Superintendent Divisions of the Crowfoot Open were John Swaner (left) of Golf Agronomics (GASH) and Mark Henderson, Gulfstream GC in Palm Beach. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Open held in the Orlando area. Once again Grand Cypress Resort hosted the event and the full field of golfers enjoyed the excellent conditions on all courses, which are a trademark of this facility.

**CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

**NOVEMBER**

- Nov 9** FWCGCSA Chapter Meeting, Lexington Oaks GC
- Nov 14** Suncoast Chapters Tampa Bay Bucs Game Bus Trip
- Nov 15** Everglades Chapter Meeting, Old Collier GC
- Nov 18** Calusa Chapter Meeting, Colonial CC
- TBA** Seven Rivers Annual Fishing Trip
- TBA** NFGCSA Education Conference

**DECEMBER**

- DEC 10** SFGCSA Meeting, Miami Shores GC
- DEC 10** 12th Suncoast Annual Family Christmas Getaway Weekend, Gasparilla Island
- DEC 14** WCGCSA Proposed Vendor Appreciation Day, TPC Tampa Bay
- DEC 16** EGCSA Christmas Tournament, Quail West CC
- TBA** Calusa - Annual Christmas Charity Tournament, TBA
- TBA** NFGCSA Christmas Meeting and Golf Tournament
- TBA** Seven Rivers Holiday Meeting & Toys for Tots Fundraiser

**JANUARY**

- TBA** CFGCSA-FTGA Research Tournament, Interlachen CC, Winter Park
- TBA** FGCSA Board Meeting
- TBA** SCGCSA Annual Vendor Appreciation Day
- TBA** SFGCSA Meeting, Crandon GC
- TBA** TCGCSA Meeting
- TBA** FTGA Regional Turf Conferences, various locations.

**FEBRUARY**

- FEB 7-13** GCSAA / Golf Industry Show, Orlando

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*Suzanne and Tom Alex celebrate Tommy's 2010 Larry Kamphaus Award for service to golf, employer and community presented at the Crowfoot Open in July. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

for those needing to keep up their GCSAA PDI and certification points and Florida Pesticide License CEUs. Later that evening, the Annual Vendor Appreciation Reception was held in the Grand Cypress Villas Conference Center.

During the reception, Tom Alex, director of golf course operations at Grand Cypress was presented the annual Larry Kamphaus Award for his service to the golf industry in Central Florida with emphasis on his chairmanship of this event for so many years.

Tom thought he was to present the award to Brett Harris of Lake Nona, but it was a set-up, and the committee pulled off the ultimate "gotcha" on Alex, a well known prankster in his own right.

Golf was held on the North and South courses the next day and perennial competitor Mark Henderson from the Gulfstream GC and the Palm Beach GCSA won the event with a sizzling 70 on a blistering hot day, which we all hope signaled the end of the heat wave.



*Howard Hulsebosch, from the Hillcrest CC in Hollywood shot a 70 to win the Poa Annua Classic and a spot on the 2011 FGCSA Golf Team. Photo by Brian Beckner.*

**OLD BUSINESS**

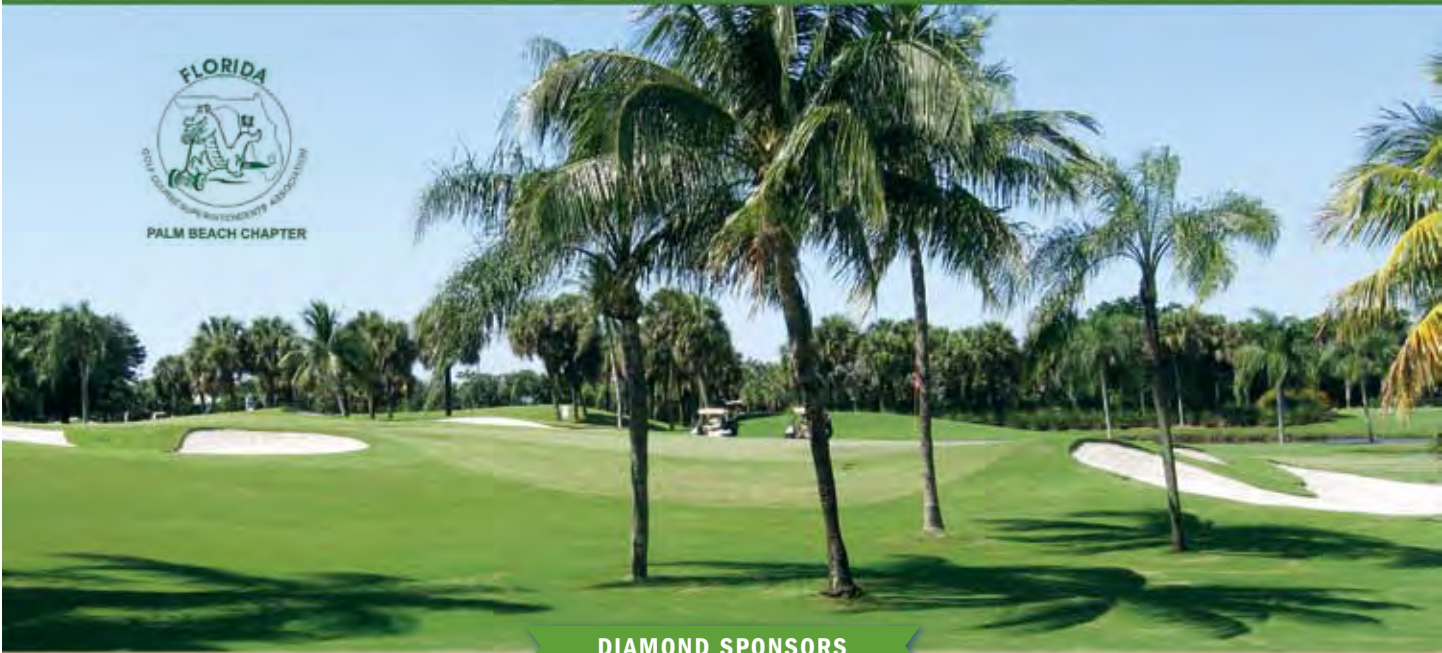
We're including some photos of the Poa Annua Classic winners and the UF/IFAS Field Day which weren't available at press time for the last issue.



*Lest we forget one of the main missions of all these events, here's a picture of just some of the researchers and attendees at the 2010 UF/IFAS Field Day held last May at the IFAS Research & Education Center in Citra. Photo by Mark Kann.*



# THE PALM BEACH GCSA'S FUTURE OF GOLF FOR 2010



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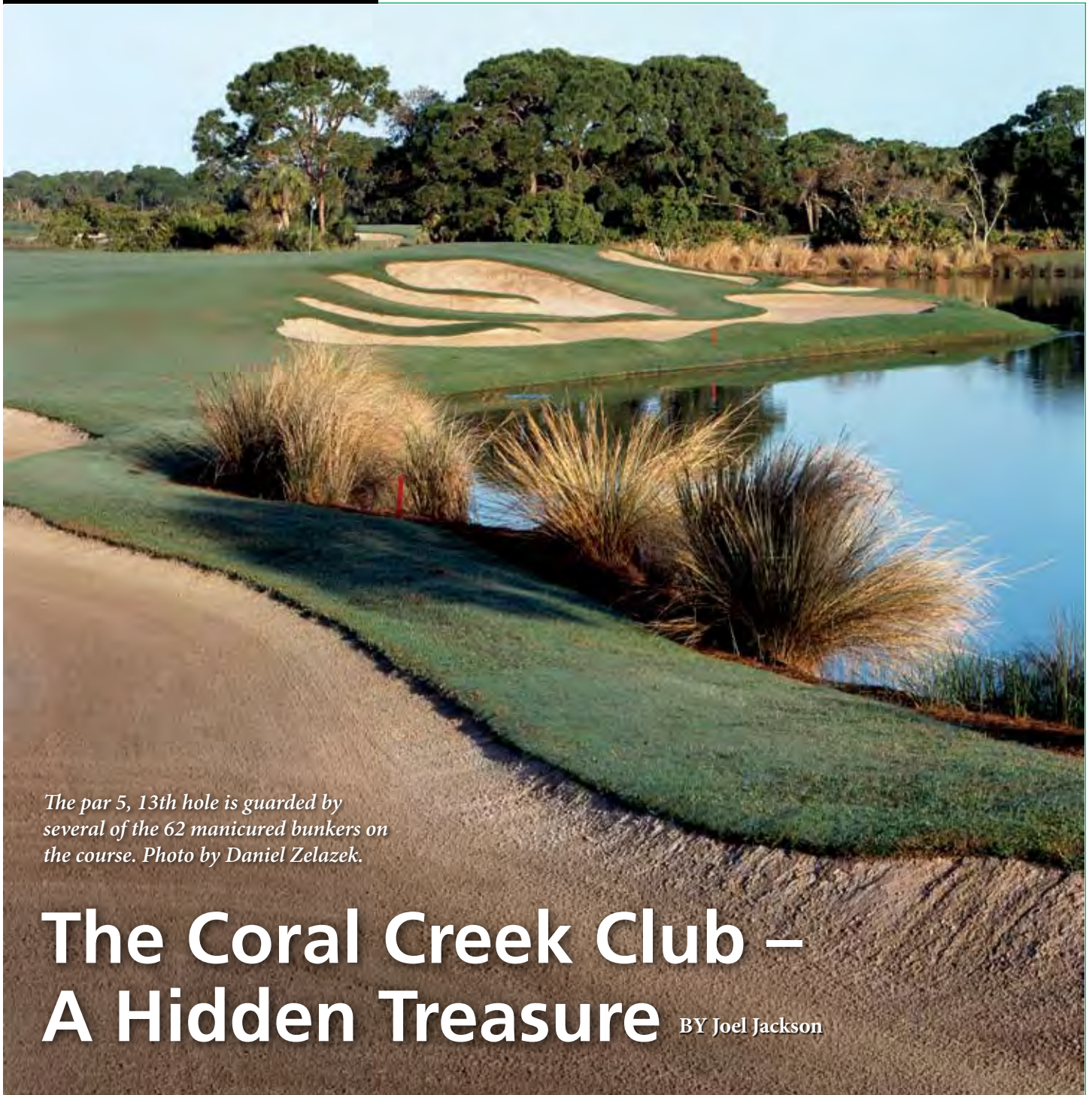
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*The par 5, 13th hole is guarded by several of the 62 manicured bunkers on the course. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.*

# The Coral Creek Club – A Hidden Treasure

BY Joel Jackson

Florida's history is full of stories of pirates and buccaneers roaming the state's coastal waters, especially the West Coast from Tampa Bay to the Florida Keys. One of the more prominent of these swashbucklers was Jose Gaspar, whose name lives on in the annual Gasparilla Festival in Tampa in late January or early February and in the namesakes: Gasparilla Island, Gasparilla Pass and Gasparilla Sound near the mouth of Charlotte Harbor.

You can't have pirate lore without having legends and rumors of buried treasures, and in some accounts of Gaspar's renegade lifestyle after he left the royal Spanish court, there

are tales of a trip made up Coral Creek to hide some of Gaspar's booty. Last May I ventured to Coral Creek and indeed I found a hidden treasure, the Coral Creek Club.

The mission and vision of the founders of the club were to provide a first-class private country-club experience for residents of the area. They have certainly succeeded in accomplishing their goal with an inviting clubhouse and a challenging golf course.

Whereas Gaspar's riches were stolen, the Coral Creek Club was created by the Tom Fazio Design Group as they laid out the golf holes, a string of emeralds in the piney woodlands

bordering the creek. Under the watchful eye of Fazio and on-site Design Associate Steve Masiak, the course incorporated plentiful natural areas into the routing to meld man and nature's creations together.

Back in the early 1990s I had the pleasure of working with Masiak as he oversaw the day-to-day construction of Disney's Osprey Ridge course, also a Fazio design. So, I was well aware of Masiak's attention to detail when it came to construction and making sure the land was shaped properly for players' challenges and for water movement and drainage. Ironically, superintendent Bob Wagner had also worked with Masiak previously during the construction of the World Woods courses near Brooksville. It's a small world after all!

Creating a gem of a golf course is one part of the story. The other part is guarding the treasure and that task falls to Wagner and the band of hearty souls who ply their skills under his watchful eye. Fifteen full-time and three part-time crew members tend the 140 acres of maintained turf on the 231-acre property.

Wagner says the course is the busiest in the fall, winter and spring like most Florida courses, but it never officially closes during the summer. However, as play dwindles in the heat, Wagner is then able to schedule his annual routine cultural practices like core aerifying and heavy verticutting. Summer is also the time for any special course-enhancement projects like expanding or creating new natural areas for example.

"We lean towards a more natural and native landscape pallet for the course and don't use showy annuals and ornamentals," Wagner said. "It's a golf course, not a garden. However, many of the aquatic plants used to buffer the shorelines and improve water quality put on a nice display when they bloom each year as well as the colorful efflorescence of the native muhly and fakahatchee grasses."

While riding the course with Bob I noticed the prominent contouring of the putting green surfaces, which looked challenging but also fun to putt.

"You have to know where to hit your approach shots to have the best putt at the hole on any given day," he explained. "We have used the same set-up man for the past nine years. He uses a digital level tool called the "smart level" to make sure we cut the pin position in a fair area that has no more than a one-to-two degree slope within a three- to four-foot area around the hole in all directions. Of course the cup cutter knows all these spots by heart now, but he still checks them to be sure."

As Wagner juggles his cultural practice schedule to minimize any golfer inconvenience, his program remains aggressive enough to ensure a healthy and playable turf that will meet member expectations.

"We will core-aerify the greens four times during the summer and then solid-tine them four times during the cooler months. We lightly verticut the greens weekly when the turf is actively growing and then use a Graden

## SUPERINTENDENT FACTS

### Originally From:

Brooklyn, NY. Lived in Florida for 30 years.

### Family:

Wife Valerie, stepson Andrew. Valerie has been a great support system in all aspects of my life. She's always there for me. Andy is now 19 and a freshman at USE, and I have learned a lot from him as well, and last but not least Mom and Dad. The good

Lord blessed me with some awfully wonderful, loving parents who put up with a lot of grief from me when I was growing up.

**Education:** AA from Lake City Golf Course Operations program. Class of '87 – Go Stolon!

**Employment:** 1981-84 crew member, Innisbrook Resort. 1985 & 1986 OJT student intern, Bardmoor CC; 1987-88 assistant superintendent Tampa Palms G&CC. 1988-89 assistant superintendent Bardmoor CC; Bardmoor Bayou Club; 1989-91 Golf Course Superintendent Wentworth GC; 1991-95 GCS at World Woods GC; 1995-2000 GCS at The Club at Eaglebrooke; 2000-present GCS at Coral Creek Club.

**Professional Affiliations & Offices Held:** Class A member of the GCSAA, FGCSA and Suncoast GCSA. Served in various positions on Suncoast board of directors, most recently as external vice-president to FGCSA Board.

**Work philosophy and advice:** Work hard. Accept challenges. Stay dedicated and educated. Develop strong working relationships with superiors, members and peers.

**Goals & Accomplishments:** Getting that college degree fresh out of high school. Fulfilled desire to experience a couple of course grow-ins. One as an assistant and one as a superintendent. One long-range goal is to retire early enough so I can go mow fairways for some young superintendent.

**Hobbies & Interests:** Fishing, golf, Mustang cars, music, especially the blues, and New York Rangers hockey. Working with my wife and her Rotary Club and with her Young Life Ministries. Member of the Murdock Baptist Church in Port Charlotte and I help with their landscape and grounds maintenance.



**BOB WAGNER**

Photo by Joel Jackson.



*Bordering the 1st hole are native plant beds created for out-of-play areas. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.*

set at a .625 inch depth in the late spring or early summer. Top dressing applications vary based on the cultural practice in effect and the desired results. Annual fertility rates on the TifEagle greens averages around 12 pound of nitrogen,

2.5 pounds of phosphorous and 17 pounds of potassium per year. “Tees are aerified three to four times a year and fairways and roughs twice a year. Tees and fairways are verticut at least once per year with the Graden

being used on the tees at the same green setting mentioned before. Fertility on the fairways and roughs average around 6.5 pounds of N, 1.0 pounds of P and 3.5 pounds of K with the tees being just slightly higher in nitrogen and potassium. Over the past two years we have been shifting our fertility program to more foliar versus granular applications. Right now it remains about a ratio of about 30 to 70 liquid to granular.”

No golf course is immune to potential pest invasions so Wagner takes preventive steps to minimize any effect they might have.

“We make two or three pre-emergent weed-control applications in the fall and spring and then clean up isolated weeds by spot spraying using 14-gallon electric sprayers as we monitor the course,” he said.

“We have had very consistent mole cricket and fire ant control using timed seasonal preventive applications of Top Choice. Since we are a sand-based golf



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**FUN FACTS**

**Vehicle:** Company's 2005 Ford F-150,  
**Personal:** 2008 Ford Shelby GT500

**I stay home to watch:**  
New York Ranger hockey

**The book I've been reading:**  
Nothing lately, should be reading the bible more.

**Favorite meal:** Sushi

**Prized possessions:** My family, if that's considered a "possession."

**Favorite performers:**  
J. Geils Band, U2, Bruce Springsteen, Johnny Cash, Woody Rowe and all Blues performers.

**Personal heroes:** The Lord Jesus, my mom and dad, my wife, John deMaine and Steve Masiak.

**Nobody knows that I:**  
Have a collection of Teddy Bears

**I'm better than anyone else when it comes to:** Spraying! Just ask my assistants, they'll tell you

**If I could do it over:**  
I probably wouldn't change a thing

**I'd give anything to meet:**  
Old Tom Morris

**The one thing I can't stand:**  
Negativity

**Words that best describe me:**  
Honest, hard working and humble

**My dream foursome would be:**  
Steve Hritsko, Tim Alles and Steve Masiak

**My best fish story:** Landing a nice bull dolphin fishing in the Keys with Jim Lyle and others. Earned the nickname "Bull Bob" that day.



*Bull Bob lands a big bull dolphin on a Keys fishing trip.*

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An aerial view reveals the close proximity of the course to Coral Creek, Gasparilla Sound and the Gulf of Mexico. Photo courtesy of the Coral Creek Club.

## CORAL CREEK CLUB

**Location:** Placida, Florida

**Ownership:** Coral Creek Club, LLC

**Playing policy:** Private

**Avg. rounds/year:** 10,000

**Holes:** 18, 7003 yards, par 71, Slope/Rating: 139 (Medal tees)

**Designed by:** Tom Fazio Golf Course Designers, constructed by: Quality Grassing

**Opened:** 2001

**Management Team:** Club President Michael Zmetrovich; General Manager Karen Conroy; Advisory Committee Chairman Steve Iovino; Head Golf Professional Ken Raynor; Executive Chef Myriam Glover and Golf Course Superintendent Bob Wagner

**Projects:** Conversion of out-of-play areas to native plantings.

**Acres under maintenance:** 140 of 231 total property acres

**Greens:** 5A, avg. size 6,300 sq. ft.; TifEagle w/2A of Tifdwarf collars. HOC 0.80" (winter) to 0.97" (summer). No overseeding. Green-speed goal: 11–11.5 normal play, 12–13.5 special



*Coral Creek Club Maintenance Staff events.*

**Tees:** 3.5A on course, 1.5A on practice tee. Tifway 419. HOC 0.5–0.57 inches. Overseeding: Practice range only. PhD Rye Blend @ 500 lbs/A.

**Fairways and Roughs:** 48A fairways, 45A roughs Tifway 419, HOC 0.5 inches on fwys and 1.25 – 2.0 inches on roughs. No overseeding.

**Bunkers:** 62 including practice range. Sand type: Originally 37-M, rebuilt bunkers and added GASH G-angle. Fairway bunkers raked with Toro Sand Pro. Greenside bunkers raked by hand.

**Waste or Native areas/beds:** 9A of "waste" bunkers composed of washed beach sand. Tine-harrow raked 1x/

week and Sand Pro raked 2x/week.

**Waterways/Lakes/Ponds:** Total 7, covering 24A, maintained by outside contractor. **Irrigation:** Re-use and surface combination. Pumping system: Flotronex/PSI VFD. Control System: Toro Osmac. 1,500 heads, type: 780, 750 and 1550.

**Watering restrictions:** Stay within consumptive use permit.

**Staff:** 15 full-time including superintendent and 3 part-time. 40 hrs per week. Key employees: First Assistant Superintendent Jason Reiswig, Second Assistant Jesus Galvan; Equipment Tech Jim Dilmore. Pest control and irrigation done by superintendent and/or assistants. **Communications:** Daily crew assignment or safety meetings. Weekly department head meetings. Annual member meeting and various Golf Advisory Committee meetings and other club functions. Newsletter and course update articles and notices.



course, nematodes can be an issue. We will be testing some of the newer products now that our NemaCur inventory has been depleted.

“In the fall we are always on the lookout for signs of Pythium blight and we implement a preventive greens-spraying program when conditions might favor the disease. Fairy ring can be troublesome during certain times of the year and we utilize a few of the newer more effective fungicides to help us with control.”

Wagner and company do an excellent job of managing the natural resources at the club as well, so much so that as members of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, one of his previous assistants compiled a wildlife Inventory of the property that totals more than 200 species if you add in the oysters and other mollusks, crustaceans and fish in Coral Creek. There are more than 129 species of birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles alone.

Can you say wildlife habitat?

Beyond the nuts and bolts of turf-grass management, no really successful superintendent has ever made it without help from others.

“I have been blessed with a group of folks who helped guide me in my personal and professional growth,” Wagner said. “They include Tony Taylor at Innsbrook, who encouraged me to get my golf operations degree at Lake City and the likes of Greg Plotner when he was at Tampa Palms,

# GOT DIVOTS?



**Vegetatively Propagated  
Bermudagrass for Divot Recovery**

## Divot Recovery

Study by The University of Arkansas  
Celebration was the top rated vegetatively propagated Bermudagrass for divot recovery in a study by The University of Arkansas.

Nonlinear regression results for predicting bermudagrass variety recovery from injury. Varieties are sorted by average K value (fastest to slowest recovery). 48 cultivars were evaluated in this study. The below chart only includes the 22 varieties commercially available.

Variety	Propagation <sup>†</sup>	2003		2004	
		K <sup>‡</sup>	(SE)	K <sup>‡</sup>	(SE)
La Paloma	S	0.115	(0.0071)	0.96	0.201 (0.0125)
Yukon	S	0.122	(0.0078)	0.96	0.193 (0.0112)
SR 9554	S	0.130	(0.0011)	0.93	0.179 (0.0143)
Celebration	V	0.121	(0.0066)	0.97	0.177 (0.0107)
Arizona Common	S	0.119	(0.0117)	0.91	0.178 (0.0101)
Panama	S	0.122	(0.0100)	0.93	0.173 (0.0078)
NuMex Sahara	S	0.141	(0.0047)	0.99	0.152 (0.0114)
NuMex Sahara	S	0.141	(0.0047)	0.99	0.152 (0.0114)
NuMex Sahara	S	0.141	(0.0047)	0.99	0.152 (0.0114)
Princess 77	S	0.129	(0.0064)	0.98	0.160 (0.0155)
Princess 77	S	0.129	(0.0064)	0.98	0.160 (0.0155)
Princess 77	S	0.129	(0.0064)	0.98	0.160 (0.0155)
Sunstar	S	0.117	(0.0134)	0.88	0.170 (0.0124)
Sunstar	S	0.117	(0.0134)	0.88	0.170 (0.0124)
Sunstar	S	0.117	(0.0134)	0.88	0.170 (0.0124)
Transcontinental	S	0.114	(0.0075)	0.96	0.169 (0.0082)
Transcontinental	S	0.114	(0.0075)	0.96	0.169 (0.0082)
Transcontinental	S	0.114	(0.0075)	0.96	0.169 (0.0082)
Riviera	S	0.132	(0.0067)	0.96	0.151 (0.0108)
Riviera	S	0.132	(0.0067)	0.96	0.151 (0.0108)
Riviera	S	0.132	(0.0067)	0.96	0.151 (0.0108)
Mohawk	S	0.120	(0.0090)	0.94	0.159 (0.0091)
Mohawk	S	0.120	(0.0090)	0.94	0.159 (0.0091)
Mohawk	S	0.120	(0.0090)	0.94	0.159 (0.0091)
Sundevil	S	0.117	(0.0045)	0.99	0.148 (0.0087)
Sundevil	S	0.117	(0.0045)	0.99	0.148 (0.0087)
Sundevil	S	0.117	(0.0045)	0.99	0.148 (0.0087)
Southern Star	S	0.097	(0.0052)	0.97	0.162 (0.0074)
Southern Star	S	0.097	(0.0052)	0.97	0.162 (0.0074)
Southern Star	S	0.097	(0.0052)	0.97	0.162 (0.0074)
Aussie Green	V	0.108	(0.0049)	0.98	0.143 (0.0114)
Aussie Green	V	0.108	(0.0049)	0.98	0.143 (0.0114)
Aussie Green	V	0.108	(0.0049)	0.98	0.143 (0.0114)
GN-1	V	0.092	(0.0038)	0.98	0.158 (0.0101)
GN-1	V	0.092	(0.0038)	0.98	0.158 (0.0101)
GN-1	V	0.092	(0.0038)	0.98	0.158 (0.0101)
Patriot	V	0.125	(0.0073)	0.97	0.121 (0.0087)
Patriot	V	0.125	(0.0073)	0.97	0.121 (0.0087)
Patriot	V	0.125	(0.0073)	0.97	0.121 (0.0087)
Midlawn	V	0.114	(0.0059)	0.98	0.130 (0.0075)
Midlawn	V	0.114	(0.0059)	0.98	0.130 (0.0075)
Midlawn	V	0.114	(0.0059)	0.98	0.130 (0.0075)
MSChoice (Bulbseye)	V	0.096	(0.0062)	0.96	0.139 (0.0072)
MSChoice (Bulbseye)	V	0.096	(0.0062)	0.96	0.139 (0.0072)
MSChoice (Bulbseye)	V	0.096	(0.0062)	0.96	0.139 (0.0072)
Tifway	V	0.093	(0.0070)	0.95	0.119 (0.0068)
Tifway	V	0.093	(0.0070)	0.95	0.119 (0.0068)
Tifway	V	0.093	(0.0070)	0.95	0.119 (0.0068)
Ashmore	V	0.074	(0.0072)	0.91	0.128 (0.0096)
Ashmore	V	0.074	(0.0072)	0.91	0.128 (0.0096)
Ashmore	V	0.074	(0.0072)	0.91	0.128 (0.0096)
Tiisport	V	0.074	(0.0072)	0.91	0.128 (0.0096)
Tiisport	V	0.074	(0.0072)	0.91	0.128 (0.0096)
Tiisport	V	0.074	(0.0072)	0.91	0.128 (0.0096)

<sup>†</sup> S = seeded, V = vegetative  
<sup>‡</sup> K values determine recovery percentage according to the formula:  
1 - exp(-K \* DAI), where DAI = days after injury. Higher K values indicate faster recovery from injury.

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*The par 3, 17th hole reflects the care taken to preserve the natural surroundings. Photo by Daniel Zelazek*

Larry Weber in his role as consultant at Wentworth GC and John Luper at the Bardmoor CC.

“Then there was Steve Masiak, whom we both know. ‘Maze’ taught me how to envision a golf course from the raw dirt to the finished product and a great deal about the golf industry in general. I also have to mention John deMaine,

a former member at Coral Creek who now lives in North Carolina. I learned so much about life and treating people with respect from him. We still stay in touch and I consider him one of my closest friends.

“With all the challenges facing our profession these days,” Bob added as we wrapped up the interview, “I can’t think

of anything I’d rather do than grow grass! God, I love grow-ins. At the end of each day I’m ready to go home and enjoy my family time, but every morning when I wake up I’m still excited and ready to go to work. Some day when I finally retire I hope I can get one of those fairway mowing jobs working for some young superintendent.”





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TM

# Effective Communications During Tough Times

We all know the challenges facing the our economy these days, and we have all seen how it has affected the revenues and maintenance budgets at our golf courses. Every case is unique and no one solution will fit all situations. But there is one common denominator that can be applied to all courses, and that is developing effective communication methods for getting your message across to management and members or customers.

Each golf course may have a wide variety of leadership and communication skills in various key positions from vocal members, board and committee members to department heads, general manager and the superintendent. Being able to identify and utilize the most effective communication tools at your location will be fundamental in your success and the club's during these trying times.

If there is an information vacuum about the vision and strategy of the club overall – and especially in course conditioning, which is usually of paramount concern by the members and customers of a facility – that void will be filled with speculation, rumor and doubt unless you fill that void with facts and information.

There is little doubt that superintendents everywhere are stretching fewer budget dollars to maintain golf courses across the state. The net result is that course conditioning priorities must be jointly agreed upon by members, management and maintenance. It is

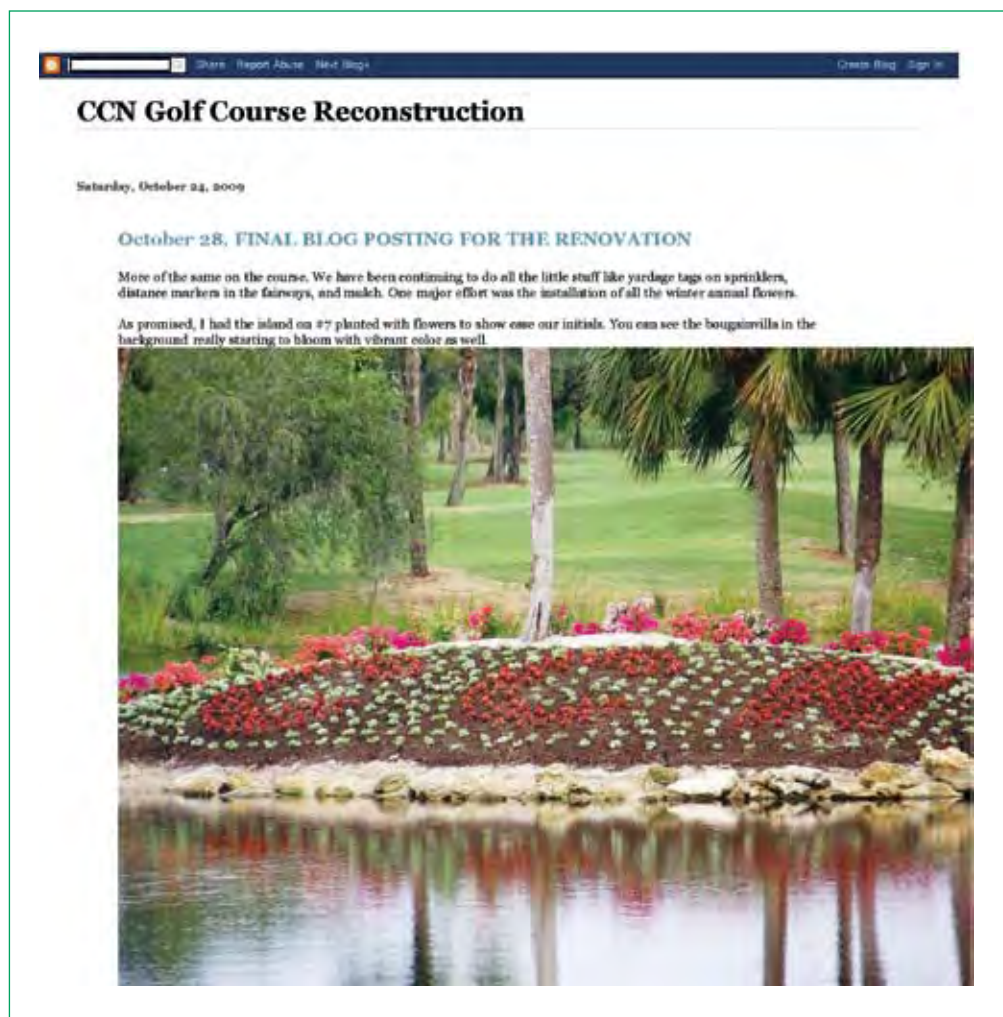
not reasonable for anyone to expect the same level of manicured appearance when labor and materials budgets are reduced as they have been consistently over the past few years.

However, clear effective communication from the superintendent and club management can provide information and facts that can educate and lead to understanding by members who previously did not give golf-course maintenance requirements a second thought. Here are some comments from your

peers about ways they are effectively communicating to their clubs:

## SPREADING THE WORD

Roy MacDonald, at the Hobe Sound Golf Club in Martin County, sets the stage for what most courses have had to deal with the past few years. He writes, “We had poor growing conditions like everyone else this past winter. In fact it was the coldest winter I have experienced since moving to Florida in 1981. Coupled with the fourth consecutive



*Blog entry by Bill Davidson during CC of Naples renovation last summer. Photo by Bill Davidson.*

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year of reduced revenues and maintenance budgets and the funds running out of our emergency Hurricane account created a perfect storm for course-conditioning challenges.

“For example, we had discontinued our pre-emergent weed control applications in response to budget cuts and attempted to get by with post-emergent applications when and where needed. The long, wet cold winter weather thinned out our bermuda turf and weeds managed to fill in the gaps. We had to do something to demonstrate how we couldn’t continue this way without expecting disappointing conditions.

“I created a spreadsheet depicting the expenditures for labor, chemicals, fertilizers and services that covered the last 10 years. The board was able to see the direct relationship between the gradual decline in certain aspects of the course conditioning relative to the reduced spending for the resources needed to maintain a desired level of maintenance. As a result of that presentation, a posi-

tive budget adjustment for chemicals and fertilizers was approved.”

**COMPUTING THE VALUE OF COMMUNICATING**

Meanwhile over in Naples, Bill Davidson at the County Club of Naples, is capitalizing on the advent of online blogging to keep his members informed about course projects and conditions especially during the summer when so many of them are away. I logged on to Bill’s two blogs and could immediately see the educational value as he explained maintenance procedures and was able to insert photos and videos to illustrate his points.

Davidson explained, “Last year during our course reconstruction project, I blogged almost weekly and it became almost a cult following among the members as they could track the progress of the changes to the course via the photos and comments. Previously I had chronicled our summer aerification and verticutting programs to show

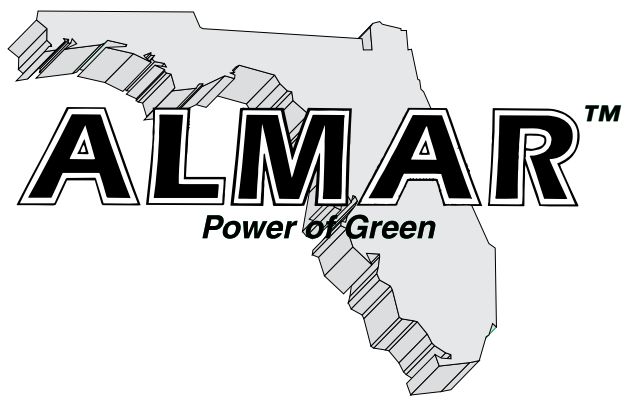
the members the build up and removal of the thatch material and why it was important.”

Davidson also does a monthly full-page newsletter article except in the summers when he blogs. Yet he says that despite all the success he’s had online and in newsletters, the best way he communicates is face to face.

“I make it a point to go into the golf shop at least three to four times a day. I like to see when our avid golfers and active members are playing and make it point to swing by the practice tee, putting green or golf shop so I can be sure to share with them on a one-on-one basis. My club appreciates the face time.

“It also helps that my green chairmen is a bit of a ‘techie’ also. We are able to communicate via text message to stay on top of things easily and rapidly.”

To see how Davidson used online blogging to keep his members informed, you can visit his blog sites at <http://ccnsummer2010.blogspot.com> and <http://ccnrebuild.blogspot.com>



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## SUPER TIP

# Drainage, Drainage, Drainage

By Darren J. Davis

On a recent ride around my golf course, I had my ever-present paint gun locked and loaded and within easy reach. That day as I negotiated the 16th hole with my assistant Andy riding shotgun, a wet area caught my attention out of the side of my eye. With my right hand still grasping the steering wheel and my eyes trained forward, I reached for the floor, grasped the handle of my paint gun with my left hand, and within seconds my index finger hit the trigger—painting another drainage project.

Not that I am proud of it, but I am fairly skilled at having a paint gun in my hand and in use in seconds, all without impeding my forward progress. As I hit my mark, my assistant remarked, “You know Darren, I am worried about you.”

I stopped the cart and asked, “What do you mean? What’s up?”

He looked me in the eye and said, “I think you may need to attend ... meetings.”

With a quizzical look on my face I



Use a 12-inch wide sod cutter blade to make the initial cut on the painted drain lines. Photo by Darren Davis.

said, “Huh?! What meetings?”

He said, “You know ... drain-aholic meetings” Without missing a beat he added with a smile on his face, “Hi, my name is Darren Davis, and I am a drain-aholic.” Not necessarily known for his humor, I had to laugh out loud

and compliment his wit.

Truth be told, Andy is not far off on his assessment. As I wondered whether I was indeed addicted, and thought about the more than 14 miles of subsurface drain tile that I have installed on my 18-hole golf course, it dawned on me. I realized that the blame, or more appropriately, the credit belongs to one of my mentors, Dr. Joe Duich, professor emeritus of turfgrass science at The Pennsylvania State University.

Dr. Duich developed the two-year turfgrass management technical program in 1957. He was known for his wit and challenging teaching method, and he was also one of my professors in 1990 and 1991. I can vividly recall many examples—one of which involved drainage.

During a class in the fall of 1991, after my classmates and I couldn’t provide Dr. Duich with a suitable answer to his question, “What is one of the most fundamental aspects of successful turfgrass management,” Dr. Duich informed us that the correct response was, “Drainage, drainage, drainage.”

My classmates and I, who could rarely provide the famed turfgrass scientist



Excavate the drain line to a depth of 16 inches and 12 inches wide. Photo by Darren Davis.



*Install a strip of stucco mesh lath over the gravel layer. Photo by Darren Davis.*

with an acceptable answer to one of his oral pop quizzes, sat quietly, somewhat confused and definitely speechless. After what seemed like minutes, but in hindsight was probably seconds, Dr. Duich continued, “It’s not rocket science. If you want to be successful at growing turfgrass, you need air drainage, surface drainage and subsurface drainage.”

As was often the case with Dr. Duich, it took me a while to really get to the take-home message of this “Super Tip,” which is subsurface drainage and our use of stucco mesh lath as part of the process. In case you are curious, the aforementioned 14 miles of subsurface drainage installed during my 18-year tenure at Olde Florida Golf Club is not an exaggeration.

Our method of installing drainage is not unique; however, based on the comments I have received from others, what is unique is our use of stucco mesh lath as a cover. The steps in our drainage installation and use of stucco mesh lath are as follows:

Step one of our drainage installation is to figure out the best method to get water from “point A to point B”. After my trusty paint gun and I paint out a

drainage project, which is, of course, the easy part, my assistants consult our irrigation as-built, a wire tracer, etc., to determine if there are any subsurface items that the staff will need to avoid.

Next, a sod cutter with a 12-inch blade is used to remove the turfgrass (Note: the use of the narrow sod cutter blade will become evident at the end).

The soil is then excavated to a depth of 16 inches and a width of 12 inches.

Flexible, perforated drainage pipe is laid in the bottom center of the trench and pea gravel is carefully installed and compacted so the gravel is level with existing grade.



*The mesh will hold the gravel in place and help turf coverage. Photo by Darren Davis.*

Now—DRUMROLL—for the “Super Tip” part of this drainage procedure... We purchase sheets of stucco mesh lath (without paper backing) from our local Lowes that measures 27 by 96 inches. After marking the center of the sheets’ width with a tape measure and a Sharpie, an employee cuts the sheet with a pair of tin snips to produce two 13½-inch sheets. In the field, the sod on both sides of the new drain line is lifted with a shovel, and the mesh lath is tucked under the turf on both sides of the trench.

And that’s why we used the 12 inch sod cutter blade width.

Using stucco mesh lath as a cover provides several benefits. First, the drainage will be more effective in quickly removing water from the surface if the water does not have to penetrate a layer of thatch and/or soil. Second, the mesh lath holds the gravel beneath the surface so machinery does not dislodge the gravel and damage the reels on our mowing equipment. Finally, the mesh lath also provides a fixed surface for bermudagrass stolons to attach as they grow laterally across the trench. It really isn’t rocket science, but the stucco mesh lath has worked well for us.

# Meet the President

By Joel Jackson

Thirty-four years after getting into golf course maintenance, Gary Myers, CGCS is the Manager of Golf Course Maintenance Operations of Walt Disney World Company and the President of the Florida GCSA. Neither role is new to Myers as he also served as Regional Director of Golf Course Maintenance Operations for the Tournament Players Clubs and is a past president of the Southern Nevada GCSA.

Originally from Anderson, Ind., Myers attended Purdue University majoring in mechanical engineering, but ended up getting his Turf Management certificate from the University of Massachusetts. He began his golf maintenance career in 1976 on the crew at Arthur Pack Regional Park & Golf Course in Tucson, Ariz. He loved the work and the superintendent and assistant at the course both had graduated from UMass and they talked Myers into getting his golf management education there.

From 1978 to 1996 Gary progressed from an assistant superintendent position at Tucson National GC, to a series of

superintendent positions at CC of Green Valley, AZ (79-82); Desert Inn Hotel & CC, Las Vegas (82-89); TPC Summerlin, Las Vegas (89-94) and the Tournament Players Club in Scottsdale, AZ (94-96) before coming to Disney World.

Disney Golf Operations covers 81 holes: The Magnolia, Palm, Lake Buena Vista and Osprey Ridge 18-hole courses and the nine-hole Oak Trail walking course adjacent to the Magnolia.

Since December 1971 – barely two months after the opening of Walt Disney World Resort – the PGA Tour has been making an annual visit to the popular vacation destination. But for the Tour and some of the world's greatest golfers, the visit has had a serious side: a late-season tournament that has sometimes decided money titles, scoring championships and the makeup of the following year's all-exempt Tour.

It started out as a typical individual event, but after a few years it changed to a two-man team event, and eventually reverted to an important season-ending event for those Tour exemptions. Currently known as the Children's Miracle



Gary Myers, CGCS, President

Network Classic, the tournament has a list of champions that includes Jack Nicklaus (three times) and Tiger Woods (twice).

Myers mentions a couple of mentors who were instrumental in helping him develop his career.

“Steve Talkington, a former Scott's salesman, encouraged me to apply for the Desert Inn job,” he said. “I thought I might be too young and lack the necessary experience to move up to such a higher-profile facility. Without his advice and help I'm not sure where I would be today.

“George Jaramillo, former owner of Las



Third hole, Disney's Palm Course, one of the courses involved in PGA tournament play since 1971. Photo courtesy of Walt Disney World.

Vegas Fertilizer, was another individual for whom I have so much respect. He gave me advice on how to handle myself personally and professionally, which I have never forgotten.”

Myers advises prospective or young superintendents to “be professional in the way you approach your job and that also includes the way you dress. In this often challenging profession, Change is another opportunity to succeed! Keep your emotion with regard to work steady. Try not to get too high when conditions are good and don’t get too low when conditions aren’t so great.”

His personal goal is “to be a good father, husband and friend. Also to be a good son, but like many of us we don’t see that as a priority until we get older.

“Other than family moments, the



*Allied association representatives met in Orlando in July. Panelists, from left: John Reger, Jr, PGA of America; Martha Mazzitelli, Hospitality Financial & Technology Professionals; Art Kinkle, Florida CMAA president; Susan Wegrzyn, National Club Association, Pete Snyder, executive director FTGA and Gary Myers, CGCS, president FGCSA. Photo courtesy of CMAA.*

perhaps the most memorable for me was when my Pop Warner football team was playing a team from Jacksonville for the North Florida Championship. The game was tied in regulation 0-0. We scored in what is called a Kansas City Tie Breaker and, when we kept them from scoring, we won the game. It was the most exhilarating moment of my life other than close family moments. We went on to lose to Miami the following week.

“The second most memorable moment came the following year when we beat that same Miami team to advance to the Pop Warner Super Bowl. I enjoy spending time with my family more than anything, and I have been coaching Pop Warner Football for 12 years.”

Myers served on the boards and in all offices of the Southern

Nevada GCSA, the Central Florida GCSA and the FGCSA. He has served on local advisory boards and GCSAA committees to volunteer his time to the associations representing our profession. His most recent service came as he represented the FGCSA at the CMAA Golf Summit in Orlando in July. He summarizes the summit topics in his President’s Message in this issue.

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# 58th FTGA Annual Conference & Show

*By Joel Jackson*

Attendance numbers were up and all the trade-show booth space was sold out for the 58th edition of the FTGA Conference & Show Sept. 15-17 at the Caribe Royale Hotel in Orlando. By all accounts it was a successful event at a venue everyone had positive comments about.

The hotel rooms were all suites, the conference center layout was superb with the registration area immediately adjacent to the three meeting-room wings, the breakfast and lunch rooms and the trade-show ballroom. You never had to walk far to take care of business. The parking lot between the conference center and the hotel provided ample room for equipment displays and educational emergency spill response demonstrations.

Wednesday morning began bright and



*FTGA Past President Jan Beljan presented Matt Taylor, CGCS with the 2010 Wreath of Grass award at the FTGA Conference in Orlando. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

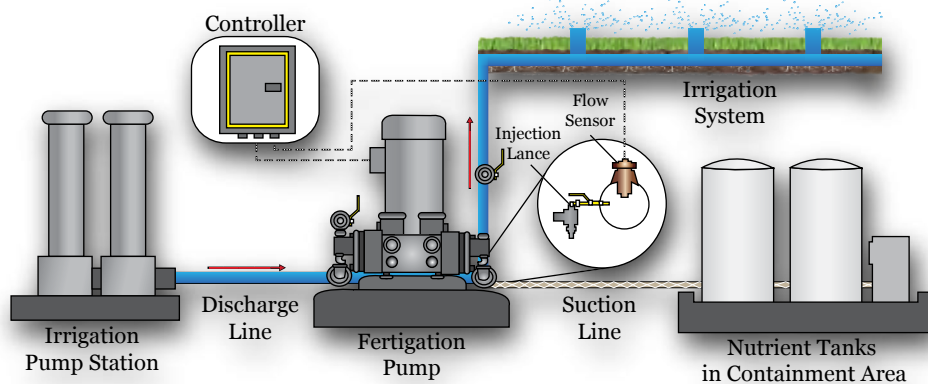
early with a free continental breakfast and educational sessions. The afternoon offered up the annual golf tournament with individual stroke and team scramble formats.

Mark Henderson won the individual event. He had already qualified for the FGCSA Golf Team, so the fourth member of the team will be the person with the low average score from the other qualifying events.

On Thursday morning, the traditional prayer breakfast was merged with the annual business meeting to free up the afternoon for a trade-show-only format, which definitely boosted the number of people browsing, dealing and networking on the show floor. Following the trade show, the Corn Boil and Live Auction were held on the Boca Patio at the hotel pool area.

On Friday morning, those needing core Pesticide CEUs to maintain their

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restricted pesticide licenses attended special classroom and outdoor hands-on demonstration training. There was also a class dedicated solely to academic and professional education of the turf students in attendance.

Highlights of the Conference included the presentation of the FTGA's prestigious Wreath of Grass Award in recognition of an individual's personal and professional dedication to Florida's Turf Industry. This year Matt Taylor CGCS, director of golf maintenance operations at the Royal Poinciana Club in Naples was the recipient. Golf Course Architect Jan Beljan presented the award and did a masterful job of keeping the audience guessing the winner's identity as long as possible until the record of service began to point undeniably to Matt's service to his peers and profession. The best part was when Matt's family was ushered into the rear of ballroom and got to share in the honor and totally surprise Matt.

Then it was back to business as the new officers and board members were sworn and significant changes to the bylaws were passed to create new membership categories to help get more people involved in the association to strengthen the industry. The new officers: President Mac Carroway, SMR Sod Farms; Vice President Armando Campos, Bayer Environmental Science; and Mac Briley, City of Ocoee Parks & Recreation Department.

Next former NFL player, and leading punter in his day, Herman "Thunderfoot" Weaver, gave an inspirational presentation about his personal journey of faith and mastering life's challenges. With humor and humility he recounted his trials and tribulations in his search for the life he was meant to lead. It was a message about never giving up or being afraid to ask for help.



*Star NFL punter Herman "Thunderfoot" Weaver gave a humorous and inspirational message at the combined FTGA Annual Meeting and Prayer Breakfast. Photo by Joel Jackson.*



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*Aerify using smaller diameter tines in the fall to speed up turf recovery. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

## GREEN SECTION UPDATE

# Prepping for Winter

*By John H. Foy*

It has been a long and hot summer, and for courses throughout the eastern two-thirds of the country, the extreme high temperatures that have been experienced have taken a toll on cool-season turfgrasses.

Growing up and going to school in Georgia, Labor Day weekend was always an important and anticipated time. Along with marking the beginning of Southeastern Conference football, cooler nighttime temperatures inevitably began to occur and bentgrass putting greens began to recover from summer stress. After 25 years in South Florida, the arrival of Labor Day is still anticipated because of the return of college football, but it has a different

meaning with respect to golf course management.

For Florida golf courses, the arrival of Labor Day means that it is time to wrap up summertime cultural management programs and projects, and prepping for the upcoming winter season becomes the priority.

At courses in Central to South Florida, a final core aeration of putting greens is typically conducted in early to mid-September, and while sustained bermudagrass growth is occurring, the rate of recovery is slowing down. Thus, care needs to be exercised not to cause excessive mechanical damage, and the use of smaller-diameter tines (3/8 to 1/2-inch) is advised.

It is important to continue to verticut bermudagrass putting greens during

the late summer and early fall to control grain and aid in controlling surface organic matter accumulation. However, because intense environmental stress conditions are typically prevailing, it is important not to exert significant additional mechanical stress on the turf and cause a further setback in its health and coverage.

At all of the courses recently visited, the verticutting units have been adjusted so that they are only operating at a depth of 1/10- to 1/8-inch below the effective height of cut. In late September to October, verticutting will be completely discontinued and increased use of mower-mounted brush or groomer attachments will occur.

For at least another six to eight weeks, hot and humid summertime weather



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conditions will continue to occur in Florida, favorable for sustained warm season turfgrass growth. Regardless of whether winter overseeding of bermudagrass putting greens will be performed, it is extremely important that fertilization and other management practices continue to be geared to promote balanced growth, carbohydrate production, and storage.

If the health of the bermudagrass has been compromised going into the winter, naturally there is increased potential for problems in the spring when the transition out of the overseeding cover begins to occur. Thus, along with making sure that sufficient levels of available nutrients – especially potassium – is maintained, sufficient leaf surface area must be present to support balanced, healthy growth.

Maintaining very low heights of cut is even more of a concern at this point because of reduced sunlight conditions and a progressively declining day

length. Unfortunately, however, in another few weeks, seasonal golfers will begin returning to Florida, and the pressure for fast to very fast putting speeds will start ramping up. However, if compromises are made now, consequences can be experienced later on during the primary play season.

As an additional comment with respect to sunlight, bermudagrass putting greens have no shade tolerance. A minimum of eight hours of direct sunlight is needed with close-cut bermudagrass putting greens. This past winter the negative impact of shade problems was further increased by the adverse and abnormal weather pattern that occurred. Hopefully, needed vegetation thinning and removal work has already been completed, but if this is not the case, it is certainly not too late to get out the chainsaws, and the turf will still benefit from increased sunlight and air circulation.

Finally, pre-emergent herbicide treat-

ments for winter annual weed control, and especially *Poa annua*, is a necessary and important consideration for Florida golf courses at this time, and already under way at many courses in North Florida. This past winter there was a bumper crop of *Poa annua* on many golf courses, and besides being a very prolific seed producer, the seed can remain viable in the soil for up to six years.

A free recording of a previous webcast by Dr. Bert McCarty at Clemson University provides an excellent review of *Poa annua* management strategies. This webcast, as well as a Bermudagrass Disease Update, can easily be accessed and reviewed for free by going to <https://gsportal.usga.org/webcast/default.aspx>.

If you would like more information about a TAS (Turf Advisory Service) visit, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 772-546-2620, or by emailing Todd Lowe, [tlowe@usga.org](mailto:tlowe@usga.org) or John Foy, [jfoy@usga.org](mailto:jfoy@usga.org). ■

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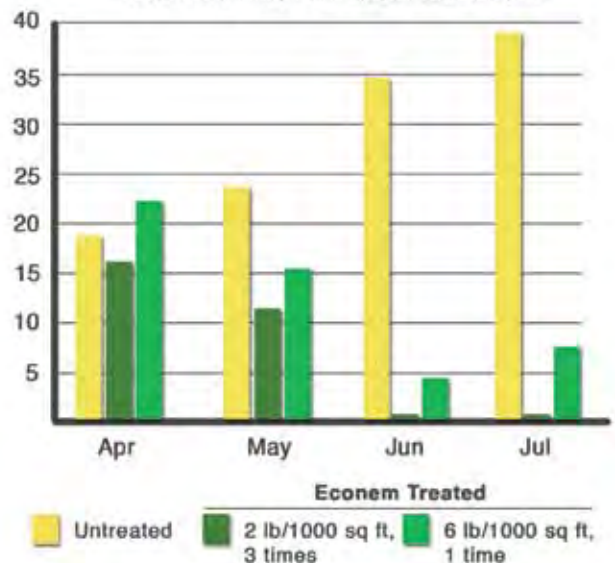
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# The Tale of The Pearl



By Shelly Foy

Back in 1994, the directors of the Treasure Coast GCSA often met after work to grab a bite, share a cold one, and talk about association business. That year the guys were stirred up because Paul Harvey had just finished a broadcast that was not very flattering to golf courses.

Tim Cann, president at the time, had previously been involved with the Suncoast Scramble and remembered how much fun they had planning and hosting the tournament. He suggested the TCGCSA host a similar fundraising event. Collectively, the TCGCSA board — Cann, Craig Weyandt, Dick Gray, Bill Lanthier, David Chees-

man, Roger Welker, David Oliver, Jack Orr, Steve Sill, Chris Leahy, Brad Fick, and Tom Benefield — decided it was time for golf course superintendents to get serious about letting people know the truth about golf and the environment. In Gray's words, they needed some "green ink." They proposed a golf tournament to raise funds for teaching environmental awareness and showing that golf courses are good for the environment.

The first event, dubbed the "First Annual Wildlife Charity Golf Tournament," was held at Loblolly Pines GC in Hobe Sound May 21, 1994. The flyer read, "So often our industry is criticized for its perceived negative impact on the environment. This is an excellent opportunity for us to make a positive impact."

The first tournament raised more than \$10,000 for the Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital.

Needing a catchier name, Gray proposed "Blue Pearl," remembering a NASA photo where the Earth looked like a pearl in a sea of blue. So in 1995, the Blue Pearl was born.

In its 16-year history, the Blue Pearl has raised more than a quarter-million dollars. The goal was, "By funding environmental and ecological awareness programs in grade schools throughout the Treasure Coast, we can inform and educate not only students, but teachers, administrators, and parents. We can foster and nurture an age of children who grow up knowing the benefits of a healthy environment and the benefits golf courses offer to people, wildlife,

Roy MacDonald and Tim Cann present Debbie Fritz-Quincy, director, Hobe Sound Nature Center, with a check for \$12,500 to support newly opened educational exhibits. Photo by Shelly Foy. Earth – The Blue Pearl. Logo courtesy of the TCGCSA.

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and the environment.”

Below is a partial list of environmental programs and projects the Blue Pearl has supported over the years:

- \$20,000 to help Pelican Island Elementary School in Vero Beach purchase adjacent lots to protect as Scrub Jay habitat
- \$8,500 to sponsor four years of the Indian River Lagoon Envirothon
- Over \$34,000 since 1996 for the South Fork High School turf program. South Fork High School has a three-hole golf course on campus. Students are encouraged to work hard to earn acceptance into the golf program. Several South Fork students have graduated from the turf program and are now working in the golf industry.
- Over \$5,000 to Audubon International as grant money for schools across the country looking for funding for environmental projects

Many individual schools have received grants for environmental programs, including:

- Hobe Sound Elementary School built a native plant nursery/slat house, designed and installed butterfly and hummingbird gardens, provided school-wide subscriptions for National Geographic magazine, and purchased environmentally themed books for the school library.
- Hidden Oaks Elementary constructed an outdoor classroom
- Crystal Lake Elementary built a nature trail
- Palm City Elementary purchased 30 sets of computer programs on oceans and rainforests, and created a land-

scape habitat area

- Sea Wind Elementary School created a butterfly garden
- Stuart Middle School installed a butterfly garden and purchased a dolphin topiary
- Citrus Elementary School planted vegetable gardens and a developed a Tree Program
- Martin County School District Plant Nursery purchased native plant liners to encourage use of native plants on school grounds

In July, the TCGCSA donated \$12,500 to the Hobe Sound Nature Center which lost its building to hurricanes in 2004, and in August, new exhibits were opened to the public to promote environmental awareness for people of all ages. In addition to on- and off-site environmental programs that reach more than 60,000 students a year, there are many programs for the public, including turtle walks, summer camps, evening forums, scrub habitat tours, and more.

Originally intended solely for environmental awareness, the Blue Pearl has diversified recently due to the increasing need for financial support for disaster relief. Donations have included money for 9/11 victims, support for superintendents affected by Hurricane Katrina, as well as other benevolent funding needs. They also came to the aid of the Challenger School in Stuart with a \$5,000 donation to help build a handicapped-accessible playground.

I have been fortunate to have been involved with the Blue Pearl, almost from its beginning. I have seen first-hand how generous the TCGCSA and the Blue Pearl

sponsors have been over the years. Craig Weyandt, superintendent at the Moorings Country Club in Vero Beach recently said, “I can still hear the passion in Dick’s voice when we came up with the concept for the Blue Pearl. He said that it was up to each of us to polish the pearl, take care of it. After all, we are only tenants here, visitors, guests. It is not ours to abuse.”

Since the Blue Pearl’s beginning, there have been eight presidents of the TC-GCSA and each one has taken on the responsibility of “polishing the pearl”.

Cann, now in his second term as president, said, “Even though boards have changed over the last 16 years, the original message of the Blue Pearl has stayed alive. This year’s contribution to the Hobe Sound Nature Center is a perfect example of what the Blue Pearl fundraising is intended for. We are especially thankful to every participant, vendor, and volunteer that continues to be generous year after year even in these tough financial times.”

Recently Gray reminded me that the original goal was to have a String of Pearls across the country. “Can you imagine what we could do as an industry if every state hosted a Blue Pearl and the collective money raised went to fund environmental awareness and to also tell all the ways golf courses benefit the community and the environment? Man, wouldn’t that be sweet?”

A String of Pearls across the country is doable. Florida could challenge other states if every chapter would host a Blue Pearl in 2011, or at least support a statewide Blue Pearl fund. Eleven FGCSA Chapters, eleven pearls on the string. Who’s up for a challenge?

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| WCI-Old Palm, Palm Beach Gardens           | WCI-Venetian Golf & River Club, Venice                   |
| WCI-Pelican Preserve, Ft. Myers            | Washington Reservation & Golf Learning Center, Cleveland |

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| The Club at Mediterra, Naples         | Shark's Tooth Golf Club, Panama City             | Villages of Sumter Phase II:               |
| Eagle Creek, Orlando                  | The Aerie Golf Course, Naples                    | The Villages Cane Garden & Sunset Point    |
| Eagle Ridge Golf Club, Summerfield:   | Villages of Marion, The Villages: Nancy Lopez    | Villages of Sumter Phase III:              |
| Masters & Memorial Courses            | Legacy Country Club, Amberwood Nine, Briarwood   | The Villages Key Largo (Bogart and Bacall) |
| Juliette Falls, Dunnellon             | Nine, Oakleigh Nine, Walnut Grove Nine           | Villages of Sumter Phase IV, The Villages  |
| Old Corkscrew Golf Club, Estero       | Villages of Sumter Phase I (63 holes):           | WCI - Lost Key Golf Club, Perdido Key      |
| St. James Bay Golf Course, Carrabelle | The Villages Belevedere Golf Course (Churchill   |  |
| Sarasota National Golf Club, Venice   | Downs & Pimlico), Sunset Pointe Golf Club (Heron |  |
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|                                       | Hill, Laurel Valley & Riley Grove)               |  |

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Course, Creekside Course, Marsh Course  
Black Diamond Ranch, Lecanto  
Broken Sound Club, Boca Raton  
Brooksville Country Club at Majestic Oaks,  
Brooksville  
Camp Creek Golf Club, Palm City Beach  
Card Sound Golf Club, Key Largo  
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Lake Buena Vista  
Doral Golf Resort and Spa, Miami  
Eglin Golf Club, Niceville  
Faldo Golf Institute by Marriott, Orlando  
Floridian, Stuart  
FoxFire Golf and Country Club, Naples  
Gainesville Country Club, Gainesville  
Golf Club of Jacksonville, Jacksonville  
Grand Harbor Club, Vero Beach  
Grande Pines Golf Club, Orlando  
Hammock Dunes Club, Palm Coast  
Creek Course Links Course

Harbour Ridge Yacht & Country Club, Palm City  
Harmony Golf Preserve, Harmony  
Hawk's Landing Golf Course at Marriott's  
Orlando World Center, Orlando  
Hawk's Nest Golf Club, Vero Beach  
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IGM – The Savannahs, Merritt Island  
Interlachen Country Club, Winter Park  
Ironwood Municipal Golf Course,  
Gainesville  
Isleworth Golf & Country Club, Wyndermere  
John's Island Club – West Course, Vero Beach  
Lake Buena Vista Club, Lake Buena Vista  
Lakewood Ranch Golf and Country Club,  
Bradenton  
Laurel Oak Country Club, Sarasota  
Lemon Bay Golf Club, Englewood  
The Links at Boynton Beach, Boynton Beach  
Loblolly Pines Golf Club, Hobe Sound  
Magnolia Golf Course, Lake Buena Vista  
Maple Leaf Golf and Country Club,  
Port Charlotte  
Mizner Country Club, Delray Beach  
The Moorings Country Club, Naples  
Naples Lakes Country Club, Naples  
Okeehelie Golf Course, West Palm Beach  
Old Marsh Golf Club, Palm Beach Gardens

Olde Florida Golf Club, Naples  
Orchid Island Golf & Beach Club, Orchid  
Osprey Ridge Golf Course, Lake Buena Vista  
Palencia Golf Club, St. Augustine  
Palm Golf Course, Lake Buena Vista  
Palmetto Golf Course, Miami  
Pelican Marsh Golf Club, Naples  
Pelican's Nest Golf Club, Bonita Springs  
Pelican Sound Golf & River Club, Estero  
Plantation Preserve Golf Course & Club,  
Plantation  
Quail Ridge Country Club, Boynton Beach  
Regatta Bay Golf and Country Club, Destin  
Renaissance Vinoy Resort and Golf Club,  
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The Rookery at Marco Island, Marco Island  
Royal Poinciana Golf Club, Naples  
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Two bald eagles sighted on the Naples Beach Club G.C. during the Poa Annua Classic.  
Photo by Joel Jackson.

## GOLF BIRDIES Scoring Birdies on the Naples Beach Club Golf Course

Even though I personally scored 18 birdies and a double eagle during the GC Horn Endowment Tournament at the 2010 Poa Annua Classic, our team's final score was only minus-1 and not in the winners' circle. I guess logging 18 different species in the middle of the day isn't too bad. However, I was told I could not count the two duck hooks I also had during the round.

Assistant Superintendent Kristen Conover told me before the round to look out for bald eagles around the lake on No. 7. Sure enough there were two in a tree near the 6th tee as we started our round on No. 8. Later in the day, as we played No. 6, there was the eagle again perched

on a limb over the tee with a fish in its talons. As I was reaching for my camera, our lovely state bird – the Mockingbird – dive-bombed the eagle and it flew off, dropping the fish. The rest of the sightings for the day follow below.

American Crow  
Anhinga  
Bald Eagle  
Collared Dove  
Killdeer  
Mockingbird  
Mottled duck  
Mourning Dove  
Muscovy ducks with chicks  
Osprey  
Purple Martin  
Red Bellied Woodpecker  
Rose ringed Parakeet  
Sea gulls  
Snowy egret  
Starlings  
Swallowtail Kite  
White Ibis (adult and juveniles)

The next day, playing in the Poa Scramble the eagle was sighted again, this time on the 5th hole near the lake eating another fish. The eagle action on both Friday and Saturday prompted me to share other raptor encounters on FGCSA member courses. See the raptor photos in the Stewardship section of this issue. Obviously golf courses – even in urban settings – are quite compatible as eagle habitat. See the photos at left I call Raptor Rapture.  
By Joel Jackson.

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**DANIEL ZELAZEK: PORTRAIT OF A MASTER**



**GREEN SIDE UP  
BY JOEL JACKSON**

This issue marks the farewell to Daniel as the official photographer of the Florida Green after 29 years of service to the magazine.

In 1996, David Bailey, who was also an editor and photographer for this magazine, wrote this wonderful tribute and background history of Daniel the man, the professional and artist. I couldn't say it any better. Nothing got me fired up more for a cover story visit than to hear the excitement in Daniel's voice when he described his photo shoots. He brought an artist's eye, a craftsman's touch and a golfer's appreciation to each

assignment. We are indeed fortunate to have had such a fine talent working for the Florida Green. Thank you, Daniel.

*The hallmark of **The Florida Green** for years has been the cover photography. How can a small state magazine have the best covers in the golf business?*

*The source of this success is Daniel Zelazek. He is a professional industrial photographer for Pratt and Whitney, located in West Palm Beach. His assignments include jet engines, space shuttle fuel pumps and other high-tech devices. For several years he has been working exclusively in digital photography. He is now using a camera valued at \$30,000.*

*Weekend golf photo sessions reveal the true Daniel Zelazek. His love for the outdoors and golf was established in his youth, as he followed his early sports heroes — Sam Snead, Gary Player and Ben Hogan. When his family moved from Connecticut to North Palm Beach in the mid 1960s, Zelazek started caddying at PGA National Golf Club. He enjoyed the courses so much he worked on the maintenance staff there for six summers during high school and college. Zelazek and Fred Klauk were high school golf teammates and college roommates.*



Photographic artist Daniel Zelazek with his trusty 1979 custom made 5 x 7 Deardorff Wooden View Camera. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Upon graduation from the University of Florida, he took six months to travel the United States and determined photography would be his future career. Zelazek then attended the famous Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara, Cal. Influenced by his exposure to the American West landscape, he admired the art of Brett Weston and Ansel Adams. It was only natural that Zelazek's early efforts were black-and-white landscapes. His black-and-white prints have appeared in gallery and university museums from coast to coast and in Europe, winning numerous awards. After three years in the West, Zelazek returned to Florida for his current position.

*In 1981, after years of career*

*commitment and not playing golf at all, the opportunity opened for a new cover photographer. Zelazek said, "This enabled me to return to golf, enjoy the sport and start playing again. It has always been a pleasure working with the superintendents."*

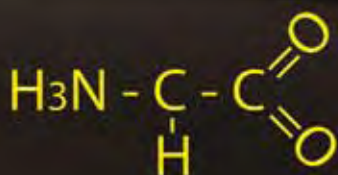
*Zelazek is an extreme perfectionist on any project in which he gets involved. The cover photography quality is a direct reflection of his lifelong commitment to excellence. Using only large-format equipment, the 5x7- inch sheet film supplies the detail Zelazek demanded for a two-page cover, which the Florida Green used until recently.*

*So always save your **The Florida Green** magazines. Some day the covers will be collectors' items!*

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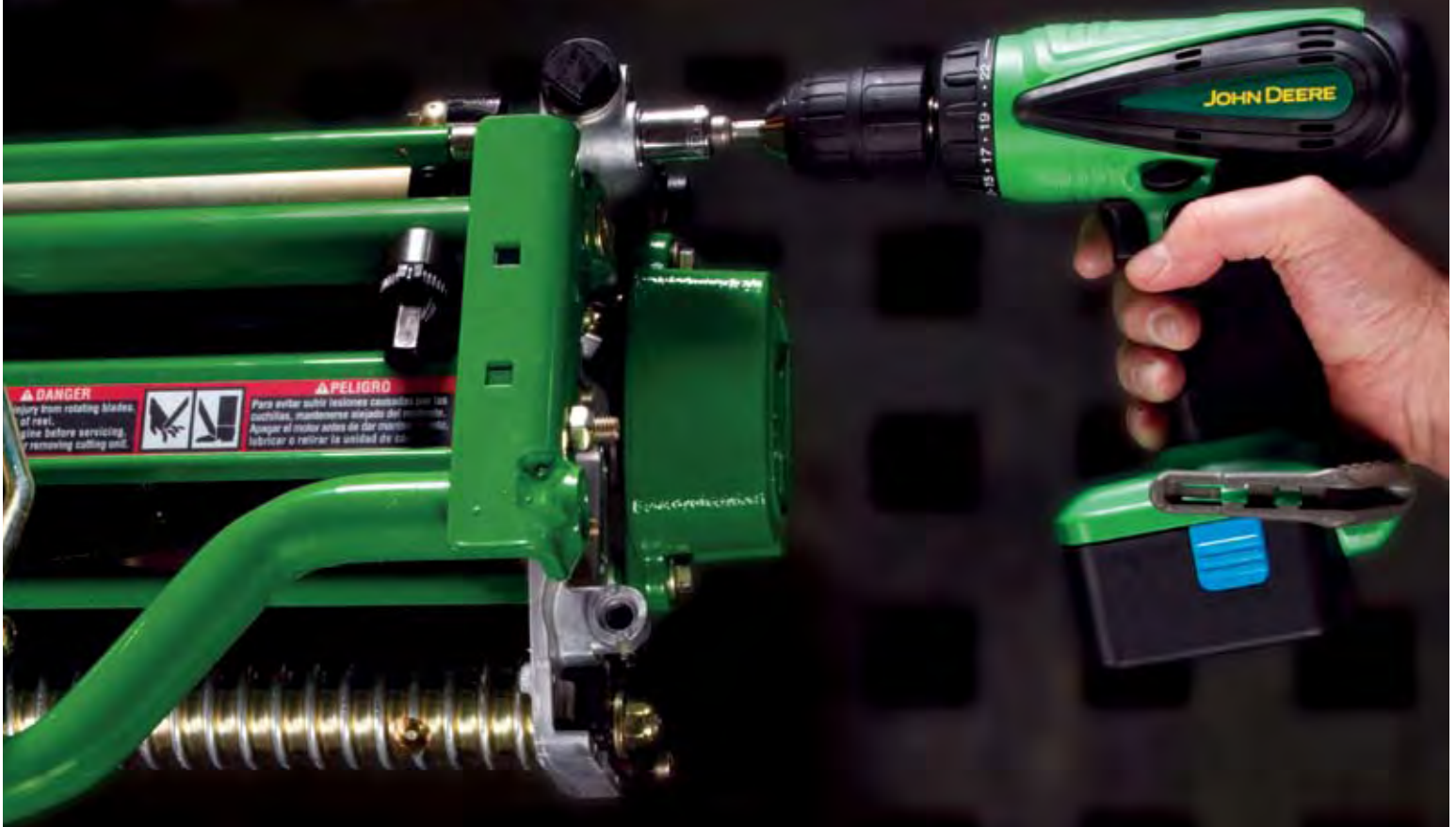
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