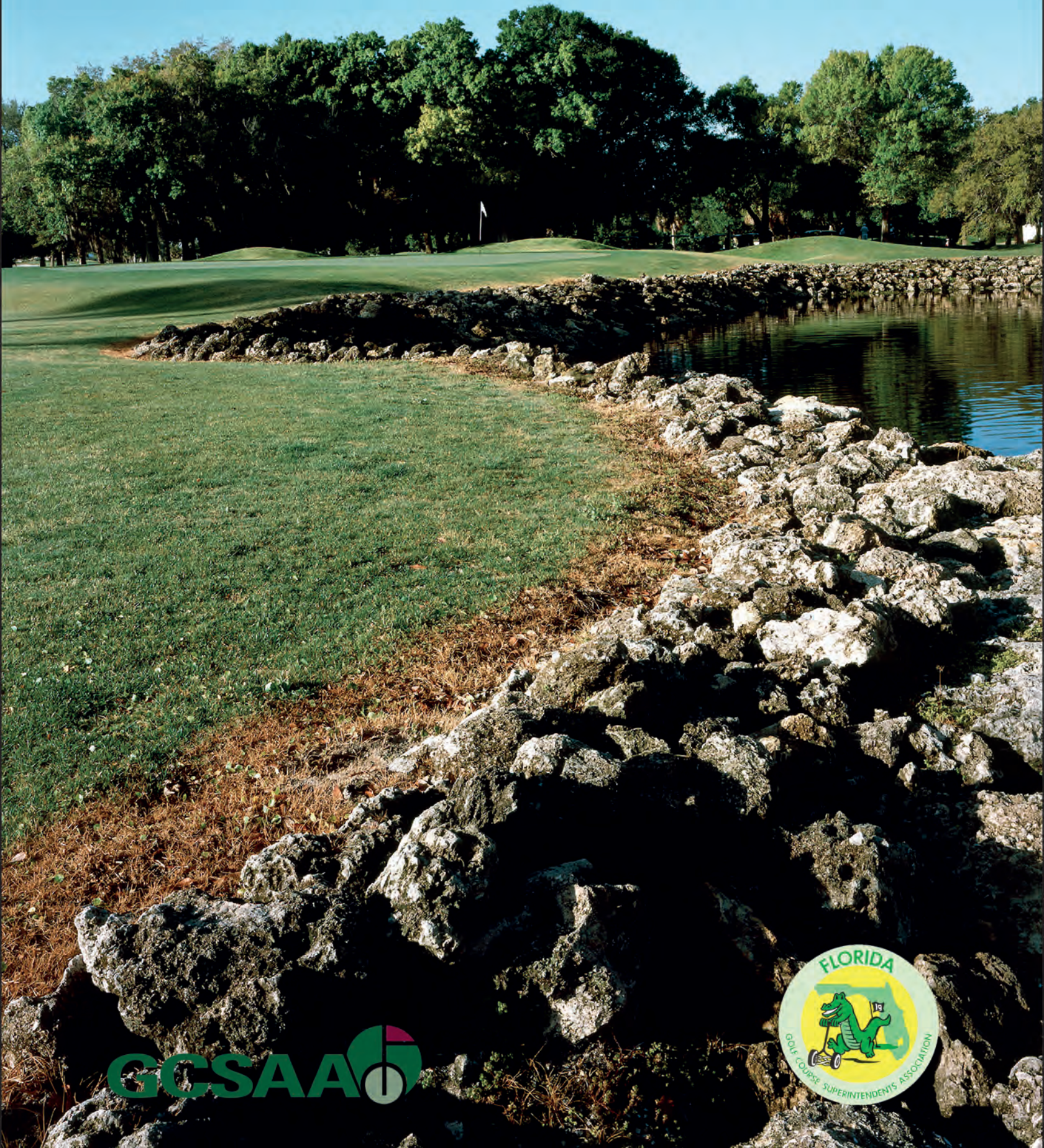


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Summer 2010



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The Florida Green

Summer 2010

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ON THE COVER: Coral Oaks CC, Cape Coral. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

We Are A Team



Summertime and the living is easy. Well, maybe not so much. Seems like once again we've gone from winter right into summer, skipping spring altogether. Weed pressure seems to be a higher than normal this year due to the abnormal winter we had. I'm sure after seeing the hurricane predictions, we have all dusted off our hurricane preparedness folders. If that isn't enough, we are all watching what is happening with the BP oil spill in the Gulf.

These are definitely interesting times.

Since this is my last President's Message in the *Florida Green*, I would like to remind everyone once again to please support your local superintendent chapters. Use those opportunities not only to gain formal education points, but to network and make friends with your fellow superintendents. Reach out to someone who has not attended a meeting in some time and invite them to join you at the next meeting.

Get out there and see other facilities. Learn what others are doing. Exchange information. Just like the crews at your facilities, we are a "team." No one can do it all by themselves. I would encourage anyone who has an interest to serve on their local board to do so. You will find that it is quite rewarding.

As I look back on this past year I can't believe how quickly the time has

passed, from water-quality issues to fertilizer regulations at individual city and county levels. Most of these ordinances do not affect golf at this time, but between local and federal rules, they soon enough will. That is why it is important for all of us to make sure we are completing the BMP checklist located in the back of our Golf BMP manuals.

Looking ahead, I see continued progress for the FGCSA. With the development of a new Web site with credit card payment ability, we are moving forward into the electronic age. Having the ability for the state office to coordinate membership renewals and create a database of individual chapter members accessible by password are a few things that are on the horizon.

We have a very strong organization that will continue to thrive in the future thanks to the leadership and vision of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. We have recognition and working relationships with allied turf industries and government regulators thanks to our Executive Director Joel Jackson serving as the point person of the FGCSA. The modernization of our association infrastructure has been the result of Association Manager Jennifer Innes wearing many hats as she keeps the association running smoothly.

And with that, I would like to end my last message by thanking everyone for their help and support during this past year. It has been an honor and extreme privilege to serve this organization as President.

It is with pleasure that I pass the gravel to your next president, Gary Myers, CGCS at the annual meeting in July.



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SPOTLIGHT



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Suncoast GCSA President Jeff Strother presented a \$3,500 check to FGCSA's Joel Jackson at the 2010 Suncoast Scramble in March. Photo by Darden Nicks.

The Heat and Hurricanes are on Their Way

Weather-wise, 2010 isn't turning out to be a normal year by any stretch of the imagination. We've had a record cold, wet

winter. Spring transition lasted two weeks and now we're into a long, hot summer with a very active hurricane season predicted. If I didn't know any better, I'd say Mother Nature was mad at us.

However, the proverbial silver lining behind the dark clouds did shine through when it came to the association's traditional late spring chapter events, which – once again through the generous support of our industry partners – helped to raise money for local charities and turfgrass research.

Maybe one day soon we will get Florida's golfers and golf courses on board by chipping in small donations which, when put together, will provide significant funds for research and growing the game. We'd like to salute the following folks and events that did their level best to raise funds from March to May of this year.

SUNCOAST SCRAMBLE

The Laurel Oak CC hosted the Suncoast GCSA's 25th Annual Scramble Tournament on March 25. The event features teams made of superintendents, golf pros, club officials and suppliers representing the area clubs. After the business meeting and education presentation by USGA Agronomist Todd Lowe, Chapter President Jeff Strother presented a \$3,500 turf research donation check to FGCSA Executive Director Joel Jackson.

SOUTH FLORIDA TURF EXPO

Meanwhile on the same day, on the opposite coast down in Ft. Lauderdale, the



Professor Emeritus George Snyder, left, was on hand as Dr. John Cisar, center, received a \$20,000 check from South Florida President Marcus Prevatte from the proceeds of the 2010 Turf Expo.

Jack Harrell, Sr.
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Recipients of donations at the North Florida GCSA Memorial Tournament were, from left, John Piersol, Lake City Community College (\$2,000); Thomas Lawrence, First Tee of St. Johns County (\$1,500); and Pepper Peete, First Tee of Jacksonville (\$1,500). Photo by Betty Hooten.

South Florida GCSA was helping to host the annual South Florida Turf Expo at

the UF/IFAS Research and Education Center. Members of the golf course, sports



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From left, Glenn Oberlander, SRGCSA, Cary Lewis, Debbie Nipper and Walt McMahon with Golf Ventures and Mark Kann, SRGCSA celebrate the Champion Sponsors \$25,000 to the Envirotron Classic. Photo by Joel Jackson.

2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY

- 30 9:00AM FGCSA Annual Board Meeting
- 30 1 p.m. Half Day Crowfoot Seminar
- 31 8 a.m. 31st Larry Kamphaus Crowfoot Open, Shingle Creek GC
- TBA North Florida Chapter Annual Meeting
- TBA South Florida Chapter Annual Meeting

AUGUST

- 2 West Coast Pro/Superintendent Tournament, TBA
- 12 Joint Calusa and Everglades GCSA meeting, Renaissance GC

SEPTEMBER

- 15-17 FTGA Conference and Show, Caribe Royal Hotel, Lake Buena Vista
- TBA Central Florida Memorial Scholarship Tournament, Lake Nona Club
- TBA Joint Meeting Palm Beach GCSA and South Florida GCSA
- TBA NFGCSA Assistants Only Golf Tournament

OCTOBER

- 2 FGCSA Golf Championship, Southern Dunes GC, Haines City
- 11 EGCSA's Annual Pro/Super Tournament, Hole-in-the-Wall GC
- TBA Calusa GCSA's Annual Pro Super Supplier Tournament, Old Hickory GC
- TBA Joint Meeting Palm Beach GCSA and Treasure Coast GCSA, Jupiter Island Club
- TBA South Florida M&E Charity Tournament
- TBA West Coast Bud Quandt Tournament, Tampa Palm G&CC

turf, parks and recreation and lawn care industries gathered to tour the research plots, observe equipment demonstrations, visit a supplier product exposition and enjoy a barbecue lunch. After all the grill smoke cleared, the SFGCSA was able to make donation of \$20,000 to the research center.

EVERGLADES SPRING SYMPOSIUM

Spring wouldn't be spring without the Everglades Spring Symposium, a full day of education masterfully organized by Symposium Chairman Matt Taylor. With topics ranging from "Future water supplies for golf" to "Leadership in Today's Club



Andy Maguire, superintendent at Marsh Creek CC, left, was at a loss for words when NFGCSA President Chris McCrannie presented him with the 2010 Keeper of the Green Award. Photo by Joel Jackson.



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Special Thanks to The Medalist Golf Club for hosting this event.



Camaraderie was the order of the day at the joint meeting of the Calusa and Suncoast chapters at The Plantation CC in Ft. Myers. This year the Suncoast won the Ryder Dup golf match. Photo by Lee Crosby.

was on hand to receive a \$2,000 check to be distributed to worthy turf students.

At this event the chapter also recognizes one of its members or local individuals who have served the NFGCSA with their service and dedication. This year the host of the event, Superintendent Andy Maguire, Marsh Creek CC was selected to receive the 2010 Keeper of the Green Award.

JEFF HAYDEN MEMORIAL ENVIROTRON CLASSIC

The Seven Rivers Jeff Hayden Memorial Envirotron Classic is another annual rite of spring which marks the end of the busy golf season and heralds in the long hot summer of projects and catch up on Florida courses. This five-star event was hosted again at the 36-hole World Woods golf complex north of Brooksville.

The Champion Sponsors donated \$25,000 to the event. Proceeds go directly to the University of Florida's turf research facilities like the Envirotron labs and G.C. Horn Turf Plots.

JOINT MEETINGS

A growing trend of "joint chapter meetings" is encouraging as Calusa/Suncoast, Calusa/Everglades and Ridge/West Coast meetings will take place in 2010 joining the traditional annual joint meetings of South Florida/Palm Beach and Palm Beach/Treasure Coast.

The Calusa/Suncoast meeting was held on April 21 at The Plantation GC in Ft. Myers. Guest Speaker Drew Rogers, with Arthur Hills, Steve Forrest and Associates Golf Course Architects, spoke on the long-range value of

World" and speakers from leading universities and companies the attendees learned and earned their PDI points.

THE MEMORIAL

Growing sustainable golf turf is our primary job. The North Florida GCSA is also helping to grow the game of golf. This year at their 15th Annual Memorial Tournament, the chapter donated \$1,500 each to the Jacksonville and St. Johns County's First Tee programs.

The Memorial event, held each year in honor of Mike Richards and Alan MacCurrach contributions to the NFGCSA, also raises money for turf student scholarships.

John Piersol head of the Landscape and Golf Operations Dept at Lake City Community College

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From left, FGCSA President Bill Kistler, Matt Taylor, CGCS and presenter Darren Davis pose after Taylor was presented the FGCSA Distinguished Service Award at the 2010 FGCSA Past President's Dinner in Naples in May. Photo by Joel Jackson



At the FGCSA Past President's Dinner, Darren Davis also presented William Gamble of WescoTurf with the Marie Roberts Award for meritorious service and support to the FGCSA. Photo by Joel Jackson.

“master planning” projects on a golf course. Later in a Ryder Cup-style golf match, the visiting Suncoasters defeated their Calusa hosts 10-6.

In May we celebrate two more annual events that mark the transition from spring to summer.

POA ANNUA CLASSIC

One of the oldest gatherings on the books is the Everglades GCSA's Poa Annuia Classic. Those who have faithfully attended the FGCSA board meetings, education seminars, golf tournaments and Saturday night luaus have been part of a family networking experience.

We literally watched a generation of children grow up. The 40th edition this year was no exception, except most of the kids are grown and don't come anymore.

After the business and education was taken care of, the golf champs took center stage. Howard Hulesbosch

from the Hillcrest CC, South Florida GCSA won the Poa Classic held at Brian Beckner's La Playa GC. Hulesbosch earned a spot on the FGCSA Golf Team for the GCSAA 2011 Championships.

The host Everglades chapter team of Stuart Bothe, Brad Fox, Bryce Koch and Jim Torba won the Team Trophy.

At the annual FGCSA Past President's Dinner held in conjunction with the Poa event, Matt Taylor CGCS was presented the 2010 FGCSA Distinguished Service Award for his steadfast service to the FGCSA and the Florida turf industry.

Also, Bill Gamble from WescoTurf was presented the Marie Roberts Award for his support and contributions to the FGCSA over the years. This award is presented to a non-superintendent who has had a long-term major impact on the golf course industry.

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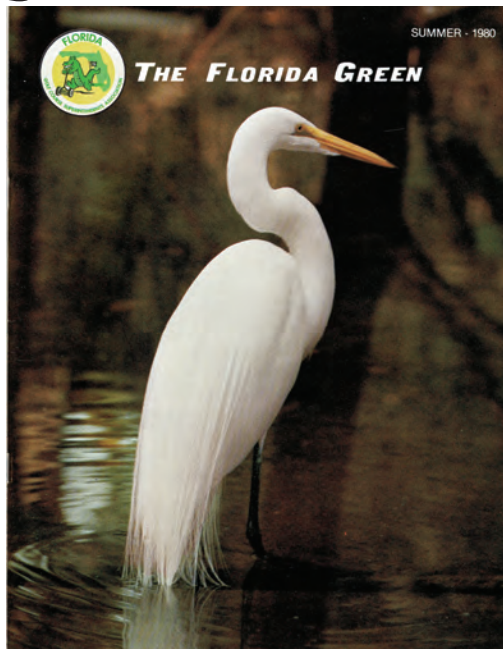
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Celebrating 30 Years of the Florida Green

Before there was a Florida Green, there was the South Florida Green. It was the official magazine of the South Florida GCSA, the oldest of the state local chapters, having been founded in 1939. You can see the founding dates of all of the state's eleven chapters in the FGCSA membership directory, which will give you a brief history of the evolution of the FGCSA that became a reality in 1980. At that time, the South Florida Chapter in a show of unity voluntarily allowed their magazine to become the official voice of all Florida superintendents.

The South Florida Green was seven years old at the time of the conversion, having begun in April 1973. The editorial staff remained the same for several years with Editor Mike Barger and Associate Editors Tom Mascaro and Max Brown. Dan Jones became the editor in 1976 and Tom



The first Florida Green Cover. Summer 1980. Photo by Henry McCartha

and Max continued in their roles. The following year 1977, the first photography credits began and Harry McCartha of Henderson & McCartha served as official photographer until the summer of 1981. Staff writers David Bailey, Guy Williamson and Harry

Lincoln, III also began as regular contributors in 1977.

In the early '80s, Jones and Bailey were the primary editorial contributors, and Daniel Zelazek joined the magazine in the summer of '81 as the principal cover photographer and still holds the job today. For many years,

Mark Jarrell, CGCS, penned an editorial column on industry issues titled, "Mark My Words."

By the mid 80's Dan began recruiting chapter reporters to submit stories on a theme or topic for each issue as told from that chapter's perspective. My name can be found in there from time to time reporting for Central Florida.

After 13 years of Dan and Irene Jones turning their home into a print shop with cut-and-pasted pages all over the house once a quarter, Dan began thinking of retiring as editor. Of course the rule of the day was you had to be a superintendent to be the editor. Go figure! Anyhow after rounding up stories with Irene as the assistant editor, the Joneses were ready for a break.

In 1989, Larry Kieffer came on board with the Spring issue as publications director and has held the position ever since. By the spring of 1990, I went for

The Advertisers Make it Happen!

The Florida Green wouldn't exist without the advertising support of our industry partners, the suppliers who support your local chapter events and your state magazine. Since we're reviewing the history of the magazine. Here are those companies that were there in the beginning. Some are still with us and many more have come on board since. Some of the companies have merged and some have gone away. Here are those pioneers from the beginning that will bring back memories for the veterans among us. In order of appearance in the 1980 issue:

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SPOTLIGHT



Winter 1995. The era of the gatefold covers. Saddlebrook GC. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

the Full Monty and became the FGCSA president and Florida Green editor while managing bentgrass greens at the Isleworth CC. (Pub Director's Note: Joel didn't mention that he had a heart attack that year as well)

In all this time, the magazine has gone from an eight-page chapter bulletin to issues averaging 88-92 pages in its heyday in the 1980s and 90s. We have gone from vertical covers to the horizontal fold-out covers and back to single page vertical covers. In 1991-92 we even tried six bimonthly

issues per year, but found the quarterly concept more practical for all concerned.

Speaking of the covers, people and places besides golf courses could be found on the covers in the 1980's and early 90's. Selected by the editor they depicted GCSAA Conference sites notable persons in the golf industry and of course scenic golf holes. By the early 2000s we settled on a rotating chapter plan so each region of the state could be highlighted on a regular basis. Each chapter is responsible for selecting the cover course and superintendent to be profiled.

In 2007 the FGCSA Board approved the addition of the GCSAA logo to the cover of the magazine to reflect unity with the nationwide brotherhood of superintendents on issues affecting our industry and the work being done by GCSAA to promote our profession.

Thirty years later the Florida Green goes to every golf course superintendent and club in the state with a known address. It is the official voice of the FGCSA and seeks to educate and promote the professionalism of our members.



Fall 2008. Resource stewardship forced a return to the vertical covers in 2008. Photo by Daniel Zelazek. The GCSAA logo was added in 2007.

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History is a fascinating window to look through, and I really enjoy doing background searches on our cover story courses. The Coral Oaks story is a perfect example of interesting tidbits and anecdotes that go unheralded until it becomes story time once again.

Coral Oaks is the municipal golf course for the city of Cape Coral and opened in 1988. The Arthur Hills course wasn't built until 30 years after the city was founded by the Gulf American Corporation. Prior to 1958 Cape Coral was mainly a hunting and fishing camp on Redfish Point on the Caloosahatchee River.

In 1963 Cape Coral covered 103 square miles with a population of 2,850. The land is mainly a peninsula bounded on the east and south by the Caloosahatchee River and on the west by Matlacha Pass which leads to San Carlos Bay and the Gulf of Mexico.

Reaching the 2nd green is a 401 yard journey on this tree lined par 4 hole. Photo by Daniel Zelazek

There were 80 miles of roads, 1,300 buildings, a public yacht club and one golf course. Before the Cape Coral Bridge was built, it was a 20-mile trip to Fort Myers just across the river.

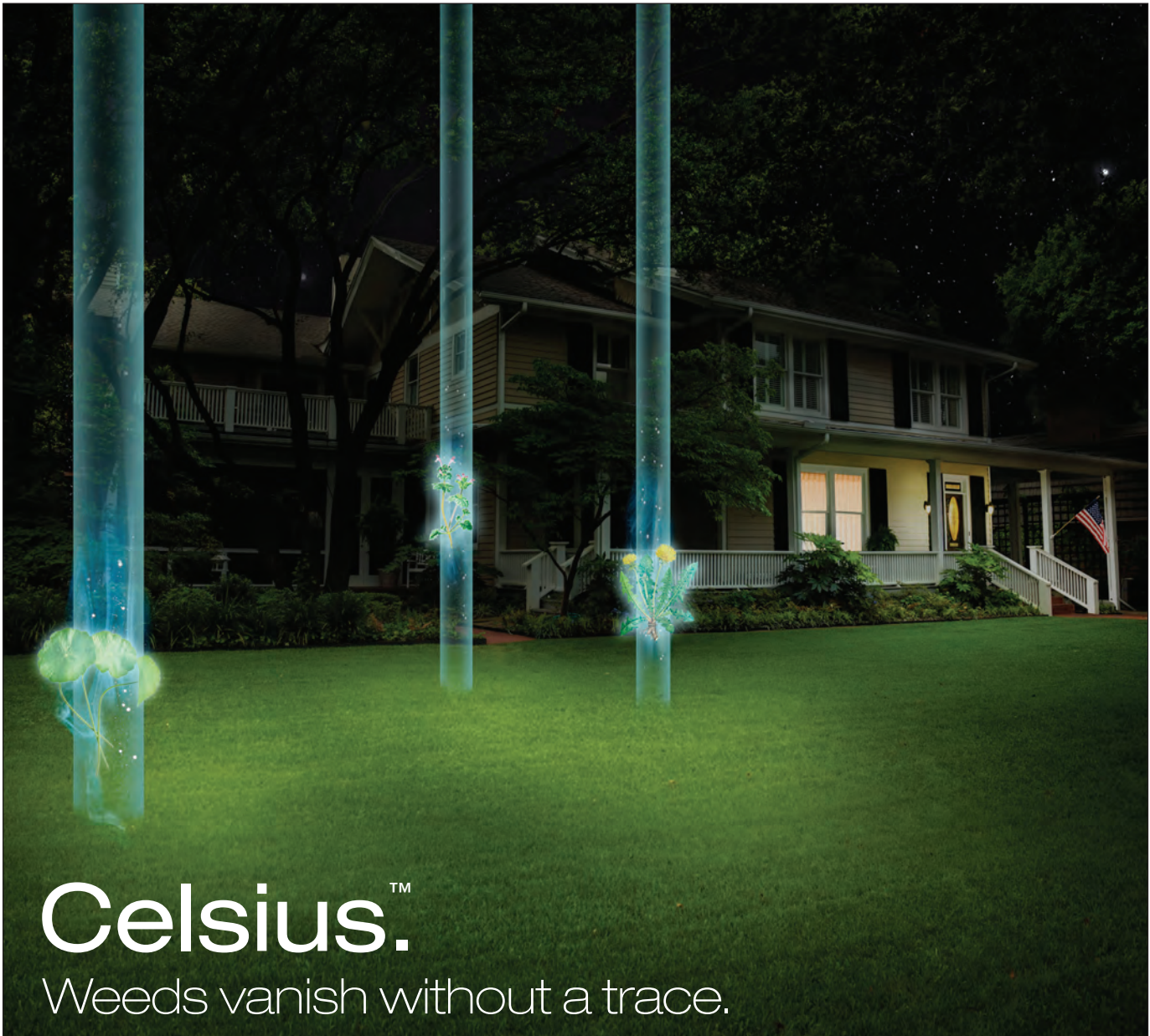
By 2009, thanks in part to the building boom of the 1980s and '90s, Cape Coral is the third-largest city by area (120 sq. mi) and ninth largest by population at 162,852. It contains parks and eco-preserves, more than 400 miles of navigable waterways, and seven golf courses in the city limits. While Cape Coral sports a large retiree population, in the 1990s young families and professionals began moving in as well. Cape Coral is also the home of the largest number of burrowing owls in the state.

According to an article by Larry

Kieffer in the *The Florida Green* 20 years ago, one of the most remarkable facts is that the Coral Oaks Golf Club cost the city and its taxpayers just \$10 to build. That was the token cost for the land donated by the developer. The actual construction cost was financed through municipal bonds which were retired from golf course operating revenues.

Today, we find the city's golf course hosting around 63,000 rounds per year. Unlike many courses that see winter feasts and summer famines, superintendent Jim Foster, CGCS says the course usually averages more than 100 rounds per day year-around.

Foster added, "Of course in the dog days of summer the tee times are more concentrated in the morning and twilight special hours."

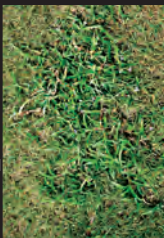


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Murdannia nudiflora (Doveweed) is a summer annual identified by its fleshy, narrow lance-shaped leaves as well as its stems that root at nodes. Doveweed is also identified by short leaf sheaths with short hairs on the upper margins. Doveweed usually germinates later in the growing season than other summer annuals and can be found from Virginia, into Georgia, through Florida and west into Texas.



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CORAL OAKS GOLF CLUB

Location: Cape Coral, Florida
Ownership: City of Cape Coral
Playing policy: Public; 63,000 avg rounds per year
No. of holes: 18 holes, 6,623 yards, par 72, 135/72.3 slope/rating
Designed by Arthur Hills, constructed by Ryan Incorporated Eastern
Opened: 1988
Management Team: Club Manager & Head Golf Professional Allen Manguson; Director of Parks & Recreation Steve Pohlman; Assistant Golf Professional Fred Cook; Pro Shop Manager Stan Geer; Food & Beverage Manager Doreen Ferrara and Course Superintendent Jim Foster, CGCS.
Major projects: Extensive tree canopy and root pruning and cart path improvements.
Acreage under maintenance: 82
Total property acres: 124
Greens: 2.7 acres, avg 5,500 sq.ft., TifEagle. HOC .120, no overseeding. Green speed goal: 10-plus
Tees: 3.5 acres. Celebration. HOC .5 inches; overseeding par 3s only. rye blend @ 300 lbs/acre.



Coral Oaks Golf Club Maintenance Staff

Fairways and Roughs: Fwys 27 acres, Roughs 50 acres, Tifway 419, HOC .5 in. on fwys and 1.5 in. on roughs; overseeding rye blend @ 300 lbs/acre.
Bunkers: 37. Sand type: GASH G-angle. Raked with Toro 3040 w/spring rake attachment.
Waterways/Lakes/Ponds: Total 10, covering 17.3 acres. Maintained by outside contractor.
Irrigation: source: Surface water (Azza canal). Pumping system: PSI Flowtronics. Irrigation; Control System:

Rainbird Stratus II. 567 heads.
Staff: 10 full time including superintendent. 40 hrs ST per week with 1.5 hours OT. No part time employees.
Key employees: Assistant Superintendent Dennis Nelson, Equipment Tech Ted Trantina, Pest Control Tech Jerry McKay, Irrigation Tech John Young; admin assistance from Sharon Smith in the clubhouse.
Communications: Weekly crew and staff meetings. Golf Advisory Board meetings quarterly. Monthly e-mail newsletter articles.

Foster has a staff of 10 including himself, to groom the course daily and perform those routine and seasonal cultural chores like aerifying, verticutting, top dressing and fertilizing.

“I definitely fall into the category of ‘working superintendent,’” Foster says,

“and I will be on the daily schedule for set-up service, cutting cups or mowing greens on any given day. When you pull out the equipment technician, pest control operator and irrigation technician performing their specialized functions, there are only six or seven

people to groom the course ahead of play each day. When you do the math, each person must care for about 15 acres of golf course per day.”

This past year Foster contracted out the greens aerification, while doing the tees and fairways in-house.

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Don't forget to fill your divots on the 168-yard, par-3 6th tee. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

"We try to do a thorough greens aeration three times per year and the tees, fairways and roughs twice per year," he explained. "By using a contractor they can bring in a whole raft of equipment and personnel and get the job done on a closed day set aside for the project.

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SUPERINTENDENT FACTS

JIM FOSTER, CGCS

Originally From: Des Moines, Iowa

Family: Two sons: Zack (32) and Kyle (25). Currently dating Schellee.

Education: Turf certificate from University of Massachusetts in 1984

Employment: May 2005-present, Superintendent Coral Oaks GC; 1995-2005, Superintendent with Valley Crest at various sites in Michigan and Florida; 1990-95 Grow-in superintendent Autumn Ridge GC, Ft. Wayne, IN; 1985-95 superintendent Lake James GC, Angola, IN.

Professional Affiliations & Offices

Held: Member & current president of the Calusa GCSA. 25-year member of the GCSAA. CGCS since 1992. Past board member of the Hoosier Trufgrass Assn.

Work philosophy and advice: Know your property and the conditions. Nothing worse than having someone else point out a problem. I make it a point to ask our golfers how the course is treating them and thank them for coming out.

Goals & Accomplishments: I earned my CGCS in 1992 and have been active ever since. I have been involved in two complete grow-ins. Probably the best times of my career. Nothing more rewarding than to see everything come together.

Hobbies & Interests: I play drums and enjoy going to natural history museums.



Jim Foster, CGCS. Photo by Joel Jackson.

“While the contractor is doing the greens, we will maximize the maintenance by aerifying tees, fairways and roughs or we might be applying fertilizer and/or Curfew while the course is closed. To complete our aerifications and verticutting programs

we will work on the tees, fairways and roughs a few holes at a time ahead of play so we can punch the holes and then clean up before the golfers get there.”

Coral Oaks installed TifEagle greens back in 2001 and Foster does a light verticut biweekly from April to October

to manage the thatch growth. In keeping with recommended golf course nutrient best management practices, Foster annually applies around 8-10 lbs. of nitrogen to the greens and 3.5-4 lbs to the fairways and roughs.

With lots of traffic on the course thinning out some areas and inviting weeds to encroach, Foster tries to make 2-3 pre-emergent herbicide applications: Ronstar in February, Barricade in May and sometimes Echelon in August.

“For insect pests like mole crickets and nematodes, we try to alternate yearly applications of Chipco Choice and Curfew,” Foster said. “Then we scout and monitor for activity and make spot treatments as needed.”

Foster holds weekly staff meetings to keep his crew on point and he also attends quarterly Golf Advisory Board meetings. The advisory board is made up of Foster, the presidents of the Men’s and Women’s Golf Associations, citizens who are usually golfers, a city council member and the director of Park & Recreation, who acts as liaison between the city and the course.

Foster writes a monthly article for the club’s email newsletter.

“I focus on what’s happening on the course,” he said, “what the players are seeing out there and what we are doing to address it. Also, the newsletter is a good way to educate the golfers about what, why and when we do certain things like overseeding, aerifying, etc.”

His “hot topic” at the time I visited in early April was dealing with *Poa annua* (annual bluegrass) plants on the course.

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Coming off the worst winter in more than 50 years, the normal conditions for overseeding and establishment of the ryegrass were out the window. The cold, wet winter didn't help the overseeding establish and sent the bermudagrass into dormancy. Later when the weather went from winter to summer in just a few weeks, the more heat- and drought-sensitive *Poa annua* started checking out rapidly and turning brown. The consolation was that once the warm weather kicked, in the bermudagrass began to fill in.

During our ride through of the course, Foster pointed out a bald eagle that had adopted one of the course's two osprey nesting poles as its own new home. I was able to take several photos of the eagle as it took off and landed several times putting on a nice show for the camera. In a follow-up e-mail, Foster said the eagles produced two fledglings. One fell out of the nest and was injured. The Clinic for the Restoration of



From 13th green looking back to No. 12. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.



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Vehicle: 2001 Toyota Tacoma
The last good movie I saw: The remake of The Taking of Pelham 123
I stay home to watch: Music concerts and shows on the Discovery Channel.
Favorite meal: Ribeye steak rare with sauteed mushrooms, baked potato and veggies
Prized possessions: My health
Favorite performer: Frank Zappa
Personal heroes: My father and anyone that has served in the military
Nobody knows that I: Used to weigh 150 lbs and 50 of that was hair
I'm better than anyone else when it comes to: Not losing my cool
If I could do it over: I wouldn't change a thing
I'd give anything to meet: Old Tom Morris
My fantasy is: To sit on the top of the pyramid of Ghiza
The one thing I can't stand: Is people trying to snow you
The words that best describe me: Centered
My dream foursome would be: Alice Cooper, Graham Nash & Steven Sills
My best fish story: Who has time to fish?



And the beat goes on.



A bald eagle commandeered one of the two osprey nesting poles on the course. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Wildlife (CROW) located on Sanibel Island was contacted and they picked up the eaglet and are nursing it back to health. Foster also said that CROW rehabs about 4,000 critters a year.

The critter count at Coral Oaks includes bountiful birdlife from the perching songbirds to waterfowl and wading birds. The lakes and ponds are also home to the usual suspects like alligators and turtles and smaller amphibians and reptiles. Furry critters tend to be of the smaller variety like squirrels, raccoons, possum and an occasional fox.

Foster hails from the heartland of the USA, Des Moines, Iowa.

He is a second generation superintendent following in the

footsteps of his dad, Dale Foster, whose career spanned 54 years. Foster might eclipse that record. He said, "I started in the business when I was eight years old. I knew from an early age that this was the career path for me. Being around the business for so many years I've had the opportunity to know many superintendents. However, it took me years to get a first name. I wasn't known as Jim, but rather as Dale's little boy."

How did Foster's career path get from Iowa to Florida?

"It was pretty simple," he said, "We moved to Indiana when I was in junior high school. I worked on golf courses in the area and one of my superintendents was a UMass,

Stockbridge School graduate and highly recommended their program, so that's where I went to college. After school I worked in Indiana and Michigan and after I took a job with Valley Crest and I did some work in Florida. The rest, as they say, is history.

"I've always been a working superintendent. Sometimes my crew will ask me why I get out there and do what I do. I simply ask them, 'Why should you guys have all the fun?'"

The other folks having fun seemed to be the golfers smiling and hailing Jim as we rode the course that April day. He seemed to know them all by name which seemed amazing to me for a course doing 63,000 rounds a year. There must be a lot of regulars, which would seem to definitely make Coral Oaks the people's choic.

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Giving turf painting a good name!

By Kyle D. Sweet, CGCS

Today's golf course superintendent has many talents and wears many hats. Striving to provide great course conditioning is the number-one goal day after day, and often there isn't much time left after that. But if you can find a little time and want to have a whole lot of fun, here's an idea to give your golfers a little extra flair out there.

Whether watching football, baseball or the races, you will see incredible displays of turf painting each and every weekend. Bringing that attraction to your course is not difficult and, with a few easy steps, you can do it with excellent results.

First, you will need the desired design electronically produced on your computer. Use an LED projector to project that image onto a material on which you can easily create a stencil. 1/8-inch white hardboard works well



A putting green slope is an excellent location for a turf painting. Photo by Kyle Sweet.

for the stencil and is much easier to work with than plywood.

Fasten the board to the wall or to a stepladder to get it up to a good working height. Once projected on the board, carefully trace the design with a

pencil or crayon. Fastening the board tightly will be very important to this process so your tracing is as accurate as possible.

Once the entire desired design is traced, the design must be cut out. This is the most tedious part of the entire process and a good cutting tool is a must. A small pneumatic hacksaw will do an excellent job of cutting through the hardboard with great detail. Once the design is cut out and removed from the wall or easel, it must be stored flat on the floor or secure against a wall.

Once the hard work is done, you can get out and do the painting. Picking a good, visible site where everyone can enjoy and appreciate your work is a must. Putting green walkups are a great spot as well as the first tee. The shorter the turf the better for getting good detail when painting turf. The stencil must be placed on a flat surface or an even slope so the design can be properly lined up. To get the best results, press

Turf paints come in many colors, but if you can't find the color you need in a turf paint, you can paint the desired area with a turf paint first and then go over it with an over-the-counter spray paint without injury to the grass



Kyle Sweet, CGCS cuts out the stencil for the Sanctuary Logo. Photo by Fred Fulford.

the stencil tightly to the ground and begin painting the desired design area.

Turf paints come in many colors, but if you can't find the color you need in a turf paint, you can paint the desired area with a turf paint first and then go over it with an over-the-counter spray paint without injury to the grass. Practicing the painting process will pay off when it comes to the final project and will help you determine the best processes to get your desired results.

Store the stencil and paints in a safe place. Hopefully you will be able to use them again and again for events at your club and provide that something extra that everyone appreciates.

Good luck and have fun!



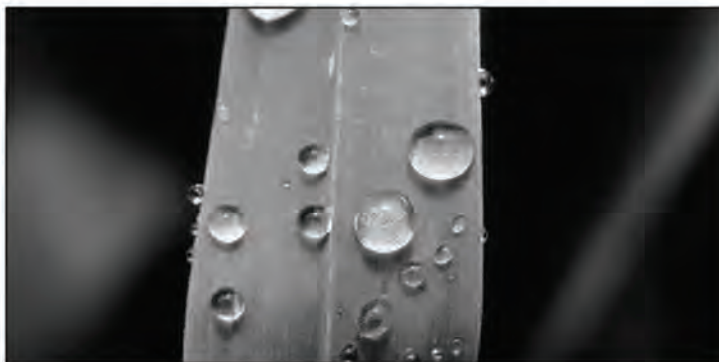
*Give fundraising tournaments some extra flair with turf painting.
Photo by Kyle Sweet.*



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Equipment on display at South Florida Expo Demo Day. Photo by Joel Jackson.

New, Used, or Leased?

Stretching the Budget to Meet Rising Expectations in a Tanking Economy

By Joel Jackson, CGCS

We pick Hands On topics over a year out so we can provide our advertisers an opportunity to showcase a product or service in an issue with a related story in the Hands On section. Little did we know then how the economy might bite into capital equipment budgets and affect purchasing decisions for a couple of years.

While budgets might be reined in, it appears that golfer expectations have not. Golfers seem to have a disconnect between spending levels and quality levels in grooming. It shouldn't take a rocket scientist to know that old, worn-out equipment will be less reliable in producing demanded results. I love the

quote by Kurt Kuebler at the Everglades Spring Symposium this past April, "No club ever cut its way to prosperity!"

You can choose to delay spending on equipment, but there will be a price to pay for those decisions.

Be that as it may, wear and tear goes on and equipment gets to a point where it's cheaper to purchase something than to keep pouring repair dollars into it. So what are people doing and how are they keeping their fleets operational to meet expectations in the face of restricted spending?

The most obvious options are buying new, buying used or leasing. Only four superintendents volunteered answers to our Hands On survey on the topic, but in researching articles and reading their responses, we can get a sense of the current trend and hopefully gain some useful ideas.

We've all heard about leasing programs, but I didn't really think about customizing the package to cover the high-use items like mowers and

purchasing other items that are used more seasonally, thus having longer life spans.

Speaking of life spans, have you ever had the conversation with a member who also belongs to a club "Up North" and who brags on how long their equipment lasts, like 10 years plus-plus? They never stop to think about those long winter months they are down here playing golf, while their course is closed and the equipment sits idle or gets rebuilt every year or so. Life spans for mowers in Florida are three to five years, since those engines and reels are humming almost daily, year after year.

The mowers may be mowing at that furious pace, but the dollars aren't there right now for most clubs to stay on those ideal capital equipment replacement programs. Here's what's happening at the four clubs in the survey.

1. Three out of four are not planning any purchases this year and one is renewing a complete lease package. One of the three does have some leeway if

a piece of equipment becomes more costly to repair than to replace.

2. Three will consider buying used equipment, "new" demos, etc.

3. Obviously only one leases equipment. They are in their third three-year lease, but will increase to a four-year lease to include more pieces and lower the payments. They will also do a buy-out of the seasonal equipment (aerifiers, etc) in the fifth year.

4. Most critical needs among the three were a roller, a new triplex and an out-front rotary trim mower.

5. Most do not routinely share equipment with other courses, but all confirm that in an emergency fellow superintendents are always ready to lend a hand or piece of equipment. One is part of the IGM group and they do share specialty equipment with one another.

6. In all cases, they report having rigorous preventive maintenance programs in place and tracking

scheduled and emergency repairs and repair costs on computerized record-keeping programs. In one case, the course maintains a backup piece of equipment for as many critical units as possible and, with good maintenance and rotating the primary unit after four or five years to a back-up role, they are getting a 10-year life span at that position. However, having back-ups also means needing to have the storage capacity to keep the equipment under cover.

In the case of the course with the lease program, the fact that the equipment technicians are so efficient is the reason they feel that can extend the lease period another year and save money.

I would like to thank Mike Caudhill, Lone Palm GC, Tyler Green, Southern Dunes GC, Dustin Plemons, IGM @ Ridgewood Lakes and Alan Puckett, Eaglebrooke GC for their comments and contributions to this article.

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SUPER TIP

Headache Rack Cuts Risk

By Darren Davis

On June 2, we embarked on a significant renovation and upgrade of the irrigation system at Olde Florida GC. The contractor chosen to perform the job was Leibold Irrigation. With offices in Illinois, Ohio and Florida, owner and President John Liebold has more than 100 employees and a fleet of trenchers, dozers, trucks, backhoes, pullers, pipe wagons and utility vehicles, many of which are equipped with custom-made Toro "headache racks."

According to Liebold, the headache rack is intended to reduce the risk of items shifting forward and potentially injuring the operator, and prevent sand or other loose material in the cargo bed from inadvertently entering the engine area. Liebold credits Fred Roepsch, Leibold Irrigation shop manager for the

design and construction of the rack.

Roepsch, who has made more than 50 of them, estimates it takes him two and a half to three hours to build and install each rack. The price of each, excluding shop costs (grinding wheels, welding wire, paint, etc.) is between \$150 and \$175. His time and cost of materials drop considerably when he produces the racks in quantities of five or more.

The framing, which is 4 feet, 7 inches wide by 2 feet 7 inches deep, is made from 2-by-2-inch steel tube. Attached to this frame are six rectangular posts (two on each side and two in front), constructed from 1.5x2-inch steel tube cut in 6-inch lengths. The front and side pieces of the rack, which are strip-welded to the frame to avoid warping, are cut from 3/16-inch steel sheets.

When finished, the six posts welded to the underside of the frame are inserted into the two front and two side pockets of the Toro cargo bed. After insertion, Roepsch recommends tack



Custom-made rack prevents loads from shifting forward causing injury or damage. Photo by Darren Davis.

welding the six posts to the cargo bed for added safety.

Since the company's inception in 1987, Leibold Irrigation has completed more than 300 projects nationwide. Liebold admitted that some of his previous clients were so smitten with the custom-made headache rack that he had Roepsch build a few for them to purchase.

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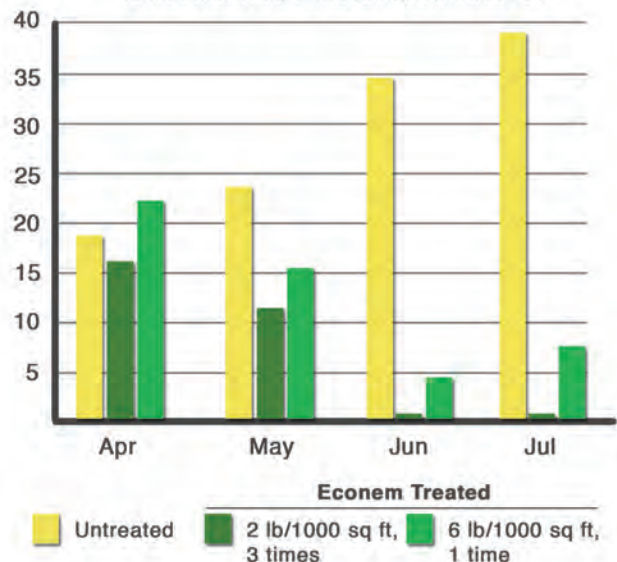
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No-Till Celebration

New Fairway Regrassing Option for Florida Golf Courses

By Todd Lowe

USGA agronomists discuss many different topics during Turfgrass Advisory Service visits, and a popular one is long-range planning. Factors like the average life expectancy of components such as putting greens, irrigation systems, the success of new turfgrasses, and renovation techniques most suitable for a particular club are discussed. Fairway regrassing is often discussed, but for several reasons this practice has not been strongly encouraged for several reasons.

DIFFICULTY IN KILLING EXISTING BERMUDAGRASS Bermudagrass is a difficult grass to kill, and even our

No-till Celebration regrassing provided excellent playing conditions and consistent turf quality at less than half the cost of conventional renovation. Photo by Todd Lowe.

most aggressive measures of multiple, long-interval herbicide treatments and methyl bromide fumigation only provide about 95 to 98 percent control. The bermudagrass that is not killed grows in size and number each year so that what initially starts as small spots can increase to large patches within three to five years after a renovation.

FIRM FAIRWAYS A layer of thatch and organic matter in fairways acts like a pad, providing surface resiliency and resistance to soil compaction from cart traffic. Conventional renovations remove this organic layer, and fairways are left overly firm following a renovation.

TIFWAY PERFORMANCE Tifway (419) bermudagrass was chosen for its fine leaf texture and overall uniformity. It has been considered the standard of quality for more than 40 years. Tifway bermudagrass provides excellent playing conditions in summer, but the peak

golfing season for Florida occurs in the winter when bermudagrass is not actively growing. While Tifway does not go fully dormant in the winter in South Florida, it is not able to quickly recover from peak seasonal play and thus complaints about very tight fairway lies and a loss of definition between the fairway and rough cuts arise at most courses.

The Club Pelican Bay, a 27-hole golf course in Naples, undertook a major course renovation and updating project in the summer of 1999. During the renovation of the fairways, multiple Roundup herbicide treatments were applied as well as methyl bromide fumigation performed before replanting with certified Tifway bermudagrass. Even with this, previously existing bermudagrass off-types and common bermudagrass became apparent within two years following the renovation. Needless to say, golfers were not pleased

with overly firm fairways that were inconsistent within just a few years.

At about the same time Celebration bermudagrass was making inroads on Florida golf courses because of its improved shade and wear tolerance compared to Tifway bermudagrass. Several shady areas at Pelican Bay were grassed with Celebration, and Bob Bittner, CGCS, also established a fairway test plot of Celebration. Two Roundup+ Fusilade treatments were applied at three-week intervals and the killed turf was then verticut and core aerated prior to sprigging with Celebration. The objective was to evaluate the playing conditions of Celebration bermudagrass on a golf course fairway as well as its longevity with such a simple regrassing technique. This initial fairway plot yielded excellent results in establishment and long-term consistency.

Additional test plots were established in 2006 and 2007 to evaluate other fairway turf conversion options. Even



A patchwork quilt appearance of multiple bermudagrass varieties can occur on all South Florida golf courses, even following complete conventional regrassing. Photo by Todd Lowe.

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At just over \$2000/acre, the no-till process is less than half the cost of conventional renovation

with plots that received no herbicide treatment and were simply row planted with Celebration sprigs, the sprigs established and the percent coverage has progressively increased.

Based on the results of all the test plots, it was decided to regrass nine fairways at Pelican Bay in summer 2009. The no-till process consisted of two herbicide treatments with Roundup + Fusilade II on April 20 and May 11. Fairways were verticut once, core aerated twice, irrigated, and fertilized to encourage turf re-growth between herbicide treatments. The last sprigging date was June 4, and the fairways were rolled and topdressed with sand to encourage good soil contact.

Sprigs established quickly, as the organic matter from the previous fairways was left intact, providing ample nutrient and moisture retention for the developing roots. The fairways were open for play on Aug. 21.

Uniform turf quality was observed on the new no-till fairways, and golfers were very pleased with playing conditions. The winter of 2010 was one of the coldest on record in the past 40 years, and the new fairways outperformed the other 18 fairways.

At a cost of just over \$2000/acre, the no-till process is less than half the cost of conventional renovation and is now viewed as a no-brainer for the other 18 fairways in 2010 and 2011.

Conventional bermudagrass renovations of completely stripping the existing bermudagrass, methyl bromide fumigation, and sprigging with Tifway bermudagrass might be a bygone practice for South Florida golf courses. Conventional techniques are

not foolproof, and alternative grassing techniques are being investigated, as they save a considerable amount of money and are showing excellent promise. Following the initial success at Pelican Bay, several clubs in South Florida are implementing no-till Celebration wall-to-wall in 2010. Many other clubs are also establishing their own evaluation plots for future regrassing.

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TURF WARS



FTGA VIEWS



BY PETE SNYDER

The turfgrass industry has been under attack from environmental activists for over a decade. But it has only been in the past few years that the attack has been most direct.

Activists may be well-intentioned, but they are misinformed about the benefits of healthy, well-managed turf. Their attacks are mostly emotional and lack scientific validity.

The Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP) has offered “science” that activists have promoted. But TBEP science relies on questionable statistical modeling that lacks independent peer review. TBEP and activists advocate a four-month summer ban of all residential fertilizer applications, which scientific studies have shown will be counterproductive.

In 2008, activist groups sued the EPA, saying that it had not done enough to protect the state’s waterways, citing algae blooms as a result. The EPA settled the lawsuit by signing a consent decree to set legal limits for nutrients (primarily

phosphorous and nitrogen) in Florida waterways. The EPA held a series of public hearings and will soon announce the limits, called Numeric Nutrient Criteria.

The prospect of one-size-fits-all NNC across the State has generated widespread opposition from numerous stakeholders, but the limits will come. Significantly, the onus will be on local municipalities to comply, which has left many of them looking for answers.

Last year, the state legislature tried to bring clarity to water issues through the passage of Senate Bill 494. The bill includes a model fertilizer ordinance that specifies amount, timing and certifications required for fertilizer applications. The ordinance also requires scientific documentation and approval by FDEP, IFAS and FDACS for adoption of local ordinances that are more stringent than the State model.

Until recently the turfgrass industry believed peer-reviewed science, BMP’s and SB494 would suffice. Unfortunately this has not been the case.

Activists have campaigned for adoption of the TBEP proposal. And the Tampa Bay Policy Board (which is composed of environmental protection officials from Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco and Polk Counties, plus the municipalities within these counties) has pledged support for the four-month ban.

It appears that the bans are going forward despite the fact that peer-reviewed science indicates the bans

will do more harm to the environment than good. The bans are going forward despite the concerns of FDACS, FDEP and IFAS. The bans are going forward based on emotion, political expediency and the threat that activists will campaign against any opposition.

So, what will happen when these bans don’t work? What next? What new municipalities (activists are working all over the state); what additional inputs (pesticides? water? sod varieties?); and what new industry sectors will be next? Golf is exempt from the new ordinances “for now.” Activist objectives are clear, “Turf is a dinosaur that needs to be encouraged into extinction,” said one of the group’s leaders.

Beyond aesthetics, healthy turf is nature’s best filter. Weakened turf is more prone to disease, weeds and other pests. Studies show that poor turf quality can result in lower real estate values. It can also adversely impact surface play, which in turn can decrease a club’s income from lower green fees, and less spent on merchandise and food and beverage.

The industry must act now. It must show solidarity and support residential fertilizer applications, which is our first line of defense. As the umbrella association representing all industry sectors, the FTGA needs the support of all industry participants, not just a few. The FTGA needs money to carry on the fight, and it needs size to enhance our standing in Tallahassee.

The industry must change the dialogue and the debate. We all want safe,

quality water. So we need to show our concern through ongoing environmental stewardship; embracing sound, peer-reviewed science. Our opponents are emotionally-charged activists who seek change they cannot substantiate. We should counter with our emotion over lost jobs and revenues that they have caused and we can substantiate, but we also must keep clean water as our primary objective.

Finally, the industry must build a war chest to fund research and education. The FTGA has proposed to create “environmental assessments” for those industry sectors that are under attack. In this way fertilizer, pesticides, irrigation equipment, enhanced turf varieties and other industry inputs can fund a unified response to activist actions.

Under the proposal each industry input would be asked to pay a small environmental assessment... less than one-half of one percent of product sales. Half of the assessment would be retained in the corresponding industry sector, and the other half would go to a larger industry-wide fund that is collaboratively managed.

As adherents to the scientific method, we in the industry need more research. Research is our ally. Education is our tool. We need to be sure that we are educating industry participants so we can continually improve our craft. We need education to reach out to policy makers. And we need to educate the general population that healthy, well-managed turf provides many environmental benefits.

TIMELESS WORDS OF WISDOM



GREEN SIDE UP BY JOEL JACKSON

▼ The transition of The South Florida Green into The Florida Green marks the beginning of a new era for golf course

superintendents in the state of Florida. As professionals in the golf course industry, our objectives and activities must be coordinated on a statewide basis in order to properly keep pace with today's technology and varied crises. We should continually seek to improve our professional image not only with upper management but with the general public. This can be demonstrated through work we do by continuing to upgrade our professional capabilities and through skilled communication such as this magazine. Only by making people aware of the skills, management, technology and immense responsibility required to operate a golf course facility, can the golf course superintendent

receive the recognition for his accomplishments.

This magazine is a valuable communication tool which if used properly will create a multitude of benefits. It's up to the individuals to promote themselves. The golf course superintendent is a great salesperson at budget time, why not promote him or herself with these same skills?

The re-organization of the Florida Golf Course Supt. Assoc. occurred nearly two years ago. From the beginning, the officers of your local chapters have devoted many hours to carefully nurture and construct a solid foundation for our state association. Seven organized and unified chapters working toward a common goal and speaking with one voice can be more

As a state association, our number-one priority is to focus on Florida issues and meet the demands of our members and their chapters.

productive than a fragmented organization. This does not mean a loss of identity, functions or uniqueness for your local chapter. In fact, the accomplishments of each chapter will be magnified because of increased communication across the state.

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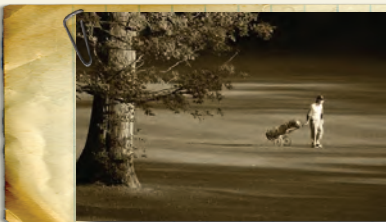
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our members and their chapters (an example would be registering a complaint on the ban of DBCP in Florida). The number-two objective is to gain support and membership for the GCSAA. This is our national organization that needs our backing and input. The benefits will be many and the recognition that comes from unification of our efforts will be readily available to us.

But, there are many other benefits. Just recently, one of our fellow golf course superintendents Dan Meyers (CGCS) of the West Coast chapter had his story concerning golf course employees featured in the National Magazine, Golf Course Management. The article was pertinent to our

problems, beneficial and educational.

The golf course superintendents in the state of Florida have been thrust into an enviable position. Because of geographical location, climate, tourist attractions, and expansion, Florida has the fastest-growing golf industry in the country. We should take advantage of these opportunities and assume a leadership role in the nation's turf industry.

Possibly, even with all our collaboration and hard work, government agencies will continue to tie our hands and people will still refer to us as "Greenskeepers." It's unfortunate that the work of qualified professionals can be affected or altered by the misuse of others less qualified

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and thousands of miles away. Let's join together and try the positive approach. Support your local chapter, the state association and the GCSAA. Hopefully, we can continue to endeavor in the field we love for ourselves and the game of golf.

NOTE: That was the Tim Hiers President's Message

in the first Florida Green 30 years ago. The more things change, the more they stay the same. The future of our profession and industry is in our own hands. We can found associations and magazines, but it takes people to make them prosper and be effective. It's up to each and every one of you to play a part in our success.

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