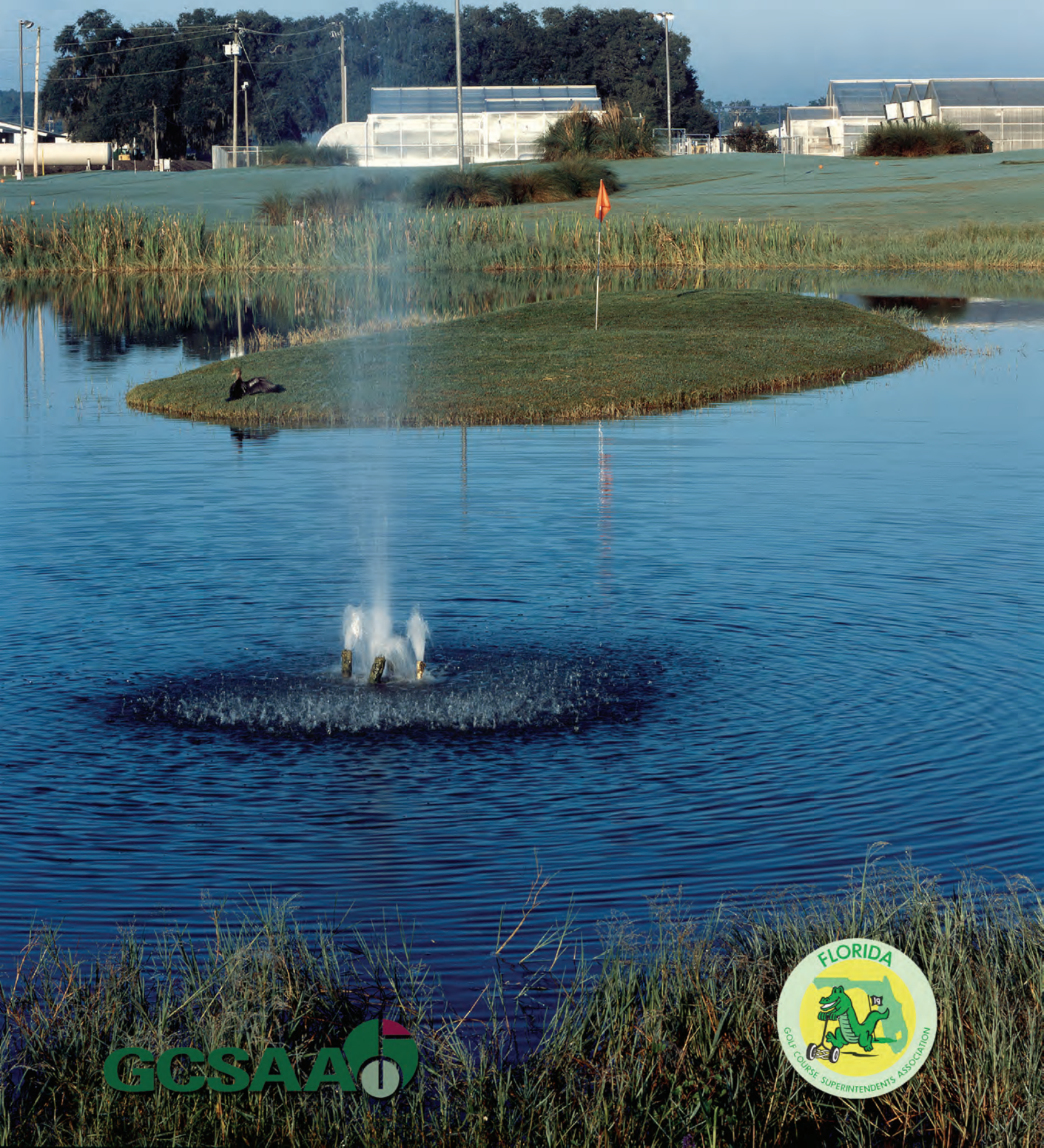


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Winter 2010



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ON THE COVER: *Island green, UF/IFAS Plant Science Center, Citra. Photo by Daniel Zelazek*

FOREWORDS

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a great Holiday season.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who responded to the challenge of fighting the EPA on the methyl bromide issue. Due to the hundreds of letters, emails, and phone calls, the EPA has had a change of heart. They are now looking at a phase-out plan for methyl bromide. Great job, everyone, as the feelings of many were heard as one voice.

Hopefully, many of you will have the chance to go to the GIS in San Diego. A new format this year will have the trade show open on Wednesday and end on Thursday with no classes competing with the show.

Don't forget about the GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic. This event also has a format change this year. The golf tournament will be held during the weekend prior to the GIS. You can compete in the tournament and still be able to take classes starting on Monday. I have already registered to play in the Golf Classic. It should be a great time. Everyone should play at least once in



Bill Kistler
President

this tournament. This is a great networking opportunity and making new friendships across the industry.

On Thursday night, Feb. 11, the Florida reception will be held on the rooftop of the Solamar Hotel in the Gas Lamp District. Watch for your invitation in the mail. Be sure to let Jennifer know if you and a guest are coming so we can order the right amount of food.

It's a new year, but we still have some of the same old discussions we had in 2009: fertilizer restrictions and water quality issues. Anyone who has attended these local government meetings knows how high the emotions run. The Sierra Club has been calling the University of Florida / IFAS turf research biased due to contributions from turf industry partners.

Who else would fund research to help us all do our jobs better? Besides that all the fertilizer research going on the past few years has been funded by a grant from the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection and not the turfgrass industry. An inconvenient truth omitted by the activists.

We need to stay focused on these issues and make our presence known at these meetings. Just like the grassroots effort with methyl bromide, our strength is in numbers and the unity of our message and purpose.

I look forward to seeing many of you in San Diego. Have a busy and profitable winter season.



FTGA Ribbon Cutting
Greg Pheneger, right, from the Johns Island Club is the new president of the FTGA. He is joined at the FTGA Trade Show ribbon cutting on the left by Immediate Past President Todd Himmelberger, and Vice President Mac Carraway. See Spotlight for more details. Photo by Joel Jackson.



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SPOTLIGHT



The Palm Beach Chapter won the 2009 FGCSA Team Trophy at Southern Dunes GC Sept. 26. Front row from left: Jeff Klontz, Deron Zendt (also individual winner) and Steve Bernard. Back row: Steve Wright, Jeff Veneklase, Kevin Downing, Mark Henderson, Steve Pearson and Mark Heater. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Golfing and Giving Wrap Up the Year

This Spotlight report is going to look more like a Palm Beach highlight film script. These folks are taking the fall season by storm.

It all began when the chapter defeated the SFGCSA to retain the Blackledge Trophy in the chapters' annual golf match at their September joint meeting at the Boca West CC. Then Deron Zendt from the Banyan CC in West Palm Beach won the FTGA and FGCSA golf championships back to back one week apart, also in September. Led by Zendt's score of 70, the Palm Beach No. 1 Team of Mark Henderson, Steve Bernard and Mark Heater fired the lowest-ever aggregate score of 293 to defend their FGCSA Team Trophy at the Florida GCSA Golf Championship at the Southern Dunes GC in Haines City.

Then the Palm Beach chapter scored a golfing hat trick as they defeated the Treasure Coast GCSA for the Wagner Trophy at their annual joint meeting at the Jupiter Island

Club in October. Let's hope the streak continues as the FGCSA No. 1 Team of Zendt (FTGA & FGCSA winner), Mark Henderson (Poa winner), Jim Torba (Crowfoot winner) and Seth Strickland (Low average in all events) tee it up in the GCSAA Golf Championships in Palm Springs, CA in February.

After seemingly taking home all the



Peter Snyder officially began his duties as the new executive director of the Florida Turfgrass Association at the Conference and Show Sept. 16. Photo provided by Leading Edge Communications.



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Bud Quandt
TOURNAMENT

The Florida West Coast Chapter thanks the following sponsors for their generous support of this event.

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SPOTLIGHT

gold and the glory this fall, The Palm Beach Chapter also has a charitable giving side. The members chose two very worthwhile projects to give back to the community. The chapter sponsored a beautification project that included a butterfly garden and a colorful entry way for the Special Olympics complex in Lake Worth. PBGCSA board member Kevin Downing,

cgcs, designed and coordinated this project with the supportive efforts of Aiello Landscape and Ryan Golf.

The Palm Beach GCSA also reached out to the First Tee of the Palm Beaches. The facility is located at the Dwyer Park landfill in northern Palm Beach County and is dedicated to promoting the game of golf as a positive influence on the area's youth. The Palm

2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY - FTGA REGIONAL SEMINARS

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 5 Tampa | St. Lawrence Parrish, 5325 N. Himes Ave |
| 6 Orlando | Valencia West Campus, 1800 S. Kirkman Rd |
| 7 Ft. Myers | Three Oaks Banquet & Conference Ctr, 20991 Three Oaks Pkwy |
| 12 Vero Beach | Richardson Center, Indian River State College, 6155 College Lane |
| 13 Lake Worth | Polish American Club, 4725 Lake Worth Rd. |
| 14 Plantation | Central Park, 9151 NW 2nd Street |
| 19 Ocala | Marion County Extension Service, 2232 NE Jacksonville Road |
| 20 Jacksonville | Duval County Extension Service, 1010 N. McDuff Ave |
| 21 Milton | Santa Rosa County Auditorium, 4530 Jimmy's Way |

Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. at all locations. Get more detailed information at www.ftga.org

FGCSA CHAPTER EVENTS

JANUARY

- | | |
|----|---|
| 8 | Calusa GCSA Meeting, Coral Oaks G.C. |
| 11 | Central Florida/FTGA Research Tournament, Interlachen CC, Winter Park |
| 13 | Seven Rivers Meeting, Continental C.C. |

FEBRUARY

- | | |
|------|--|
| 8-12 | GCSAA Golf Industry Show (GIS), San Diego, CA |
| 11 | FGCSA GIS Reception, Solamar Hotel, Gas Lamp Quarter |

MARCH

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 8 | NFGCSA Florida Research Tournament, Pablo Creek GC |
| 15 | Ridge Invitational, Eaglebrooke G.C. |
| (TBA) | Everglades Naples Princess Sunset Cruise, Suncoast Scramble, South Florida Turf Expo and FGCSA Spring Regulator Tour |

APRIL

- | | |
|----|--|
| 8 | Everglades Spring Symposium, Naples Beach Hotel |
| 12 | North Florida, Memorial Tournament, Marsh Creek GC |
| 19 | Seven Rivers Jeff Hayden Envirotron Classic |



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SPOTLIGHT



The SFGCSA celebrated the 25th M&E Tournament by donating \$25,000 to the Florida Chapter of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. From left, SFGCSA President Ted Hile, Nancy McBride and Nancy Sullivan of the NCMEC/FL and Kelly Cragin, tournament committeeman. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Beach chapter members are currently re-evaluating all equipment and programs used to maintain the turf and recently donated \$3,500 to refurbish many items. Craig Watson is coordinating these efforts as the facility's executive director. As a way of saying thanks, the First Tee will be sponsoring an educational program and skills challenge for many Palm Beach County golf course employees.

While the Palm Beach Chapter may have been hogging this Spotlight, it was hard earned and well deserved.

Meanwhile one of the oldest ongoing charitable tournaments hosted by superintendents, The South Florida GCSA M&E Tournament, celebrated its 25th anniversary this past October at the Carolina Club in Margate. This event has been raising funds for the National Center for

Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC/FL - Formerly known as The Adam Walsh Center/FL)

During 2008, NCMEC/FL was directly involved in 297 missing child cases and assisted in the recovery



Special Olympics Coordinator Richard Fleming, right, thanks Palm Beach board member Kevin Downing for the landscape beautification work at the Lake Worth complex.

of 113 children. The group also distributed more than 4,000 pieces of safety materials. Since the merger with NCMEC in 1990, Florida group has played a direct role in more than 2,500 missing children cases and has provided assistance in the recovery of more than 700 of Florida's missing children. This year the SFGCSA donated \$25,000 in honor of the 25th anniversary. The chapter has donated approximately \$500,000 for this worthy cause.

Congratulations to all our chapters for their local charity involvement. We look forward to reporting the results of the many holiday events that chapters will be holding in December. Happy holidays to one and all.

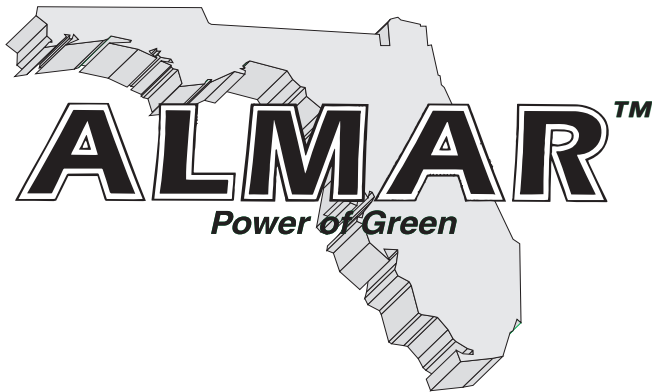


Founders of the SFGCSA M&E Tournament celebrate the event's 25th Anniversary at the Carolina Club. From left: Bob Klitz, Nancy Sullivan, Bill McKee, David Lottes, Bill Entwistle, Jr., Nancy McBride and Bill Entwistle, Sr. Photo by Joel Jackson.

And speaking of charitable giving, last but not least we'd like to recognize the Everglades GCSA for maintaining its annual Platinum Club status by donating \$5,000 to the GCSAA's

Environmental Institute for Golf. The FGCSA is currently in the annual Gold Tee Club. In cumulative giving to the EIFG over the years, the FGCSA is in the Presidential Club (\$100,000

to \$249,000); the EGCSA is in the Governor's Club (\$50,000 to \$99,000); the Palm Beach, South Florida and Treasure Coast chapters are in the Statesman Club (\$10,000 - \$24,999).



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Inaugural Wells Memorial Raises \$4,000 for Research

By Bobby Ellis

The Tom Wells Memorial Tournament was held at The Club at Eaglebrooke in Lakeland, Oct. 1 to pay tribute to the late Tom Wells, who unexpectedly died Jan. 20.

Wells enjoyed the game of golf and was a great ambassador for the industry. His tremendous passion for the industry was evident by his numerous volunteer hours for various FGCSA chapters and the Florida Turfgrass Association, which he served as president in 2004-2005.

He received the 2009 Wreath of Grass award posthumously at the 2009 FTGA Conference and Show in September at Palm Beach Gardens. The Wreath of Grass is FTGA's highest honor for dedication and service to the turfgrass industry. The award was accepted by his son Scott on behalf of the family.

Scott Wells helped to organize this event and the family was on hand to thank everyone for their



IN MEMORIAM

The Tom Wells we all love and remember, left, as he congratulates Matt Taylor on becoming the FTGA president back in 2005.

support and participatioion to honor Tom's memory and his passion for the turfgrass industry. In conjunction with the Ridge Chapter, Scott plans to make this annual event to raise turf research funding.

The weather was perfect for the golf tournament and, thanks to Alan Puckett, the course was in excellent condition for the four-person

scramble. A good time was had by all, and in keeping with "The Ridge" tradition, a barbecue cookout and awards dinner was held afterwards.

The overall winning team was from the FGCSA Suncoast Chapter, consisting of Darden Nicks, Laurel Oaks CC; Tom Robertson, Bird Bay GC; and Bill Tyde, Mission Valley G&CC. First low net went to the team from Coastal Equipment: Natalie Roy, Gary Newcomb, Big Cypress Golf Club, Rafael Villegas and Wes Weathers of Mystic Dunes. Second low net went to Scott Wells, Marc Dull, Brad Mashburn, and Pete Schownir (obviously up and coming Ridge sandbaggers!).

The tournament committee would like to recognize the following sponsors and to say "Thank You" for helping make this first annual event a huge success:

The committee pays a special thank-you to the man-

agement team of The Club at Eaglebrook; to Alan Puckett, golf course superintendent and his staff for a job well done; to Ray Cuzzone for donating his services for preparing the barbecue dinner, and to the many local courses and businesses that donated items for the raffle drawing.

The tournament raised more than \$ 4,000, which will be donated to the Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation in Tom's honor for the continuation of turfgrass research.

TOM WELLS MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

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Scott Wells, Bobby Ellis and Alan Puckett

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The Suncoast team of (l-r) Darden Nicks, Tom Robertson and Bill Tyde journeyed up from Sarasota to honor Tom and ended up winning the scramble tournament. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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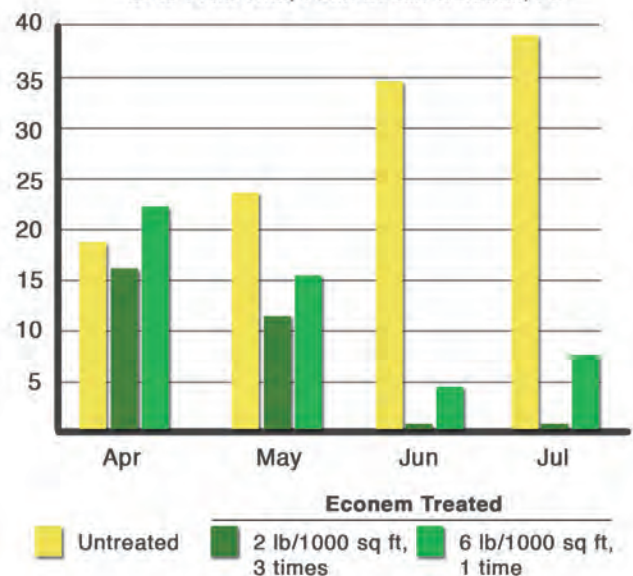
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Part of the 1.5 acre, 9-hole putting course. In the background football goal post and soccer net indicate area dedicated to sports turf research. Photo by Daniel Zelazek

west Gainesville, were relocated to this new facility which sports more than 40 acres of turf plots, three full-size golf holes and a nine-hole putting course

(or green if you like).

Mark Kann, current coordinator of research programs for turf, says travel time getting to the new turf plots by

faculty, staff and research assistants is about the same (20 minutes) when you factor in the crosstown traffic versus the easy drive down I-75 or even U.S. 441. By consolidating people and equipment at one location, IFAS was able to maximize productivity and economize on expenses. Kann says personnel at the whole unit assist one another in land preparation, infrastructure repairs and improvements, planting and harvesting crops and the latter includes helping to sod and sprig turf plots. It's a total team effort.

The best time to see the facility and absorb the scope of the work being done there is the annual IFAS Spring Field Day in May. After getting a handle on all of the comprehensive turfgrass research, take a full tour of the other research projects... from avocados to watermelons. Did you know blueberry breeding was a huge funding source for IFAS research?

Back to our own specialty, Kann and his three assistants – Joel Berry,

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In 2006 UF/IFAS dedicated the new G.C. Horn Turfgrass Field Laboratory in Citra. Photo by Mark Kann.

It's not just a question of mowing 40 acres of grass. It's a question of mowing 40 acres of different cultivars of turf.

Dave Carson and Bob Jones – are charged with the primary maintenance of the 40 acres of turf plots and the golf holes. It's not just a question of mowing 40 acres of grass. It's a question of mowing 40 acres of different cultivars of turf: bermuda (16), paspalum (3) bahia (3), zoysia (9), St. Augustine (10), centipede (3), carpetgrass (1), bentgrass (1), ryegrass (1), sporobola (1), buffalograss (1) and perennial peanut (1). Now put those grasses under the control of 15 faculty researchers and 12 graduate students monitoring 50-75 ongoing research projects and figure

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My goal is to maintain these plots and golf holes as close to the real world as possible... But we also have to compromise to meet our budgets.

out your mowing and maintenance schedule.

Kann admits the toughest adjustment he had to make was to learn that research can be ugly. He had to learn how to suppress his natural instinct to solve a problem or bad condition of the turf and, instead, let the turf plots exhibit the stresses without correction. Of course once a research project is over he can use his skills to rehab the plots and produce a healthy stand of grass for the next study.

One key to his job is keeping in

constant communication with the faculty researchers, so any routine maintenance that needs to be done doesn't interfere with something the researcher wants to accomplish.

For example, Kann planted some Larraflower to provide a food source for the Larra wasp that attacks mole crickets, including those that were chewing up the sports field plots. Dr. Detman-Cruz was very happy, but entomologist Dr. Eileen Buss needed to have a mole cricket population so she can study the pest. So the Larraflower planting was reduced in size to accommodate all sides. Remember, research can be ugly!

Besides the very complex scheduling challenge on the plots, Kann had to come up with a realistic maintenance plan for the actual golf holes. Budget constraints prohibit the luxury of daily maintenance. "My goal is to maintain these plots and golf holes as close to the real world as possible," Kann said.

Tom Burrows, Consulting
Agronomist/Turfgrass Specialist
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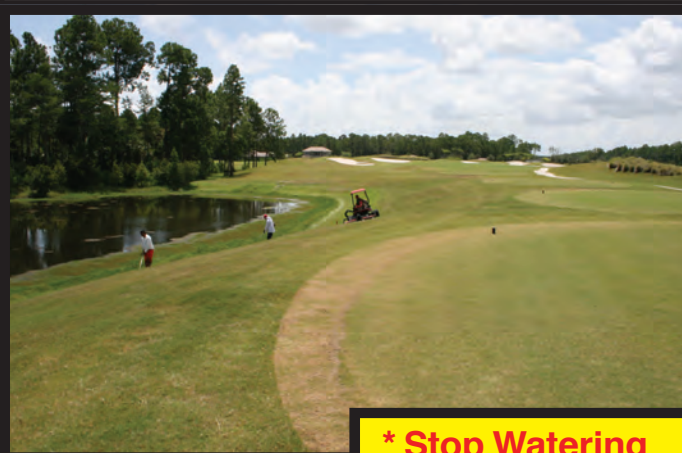
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SUPERINTENDENT FACTS



Mark Kann (far right) enjoys leading and teaching on student and visitor tours. Photo by Joel Jackson.

MARK KANN

Originally From: New Jersey

Family: Mother in Florida, brother in New Jersey.

Education: B.S. in Turfgrass Science, UF, 1999. AA from Pasco Hernando Community College, 1997. Undergraduate courses at Trenton (NJ) State College, 1993-95.

Employment: Coordinator of Research Projects 2006-present. Superintendent Meadow Oaks G&CC, 2001-2006; Assistant Supt Golden Ocala CC 2000-2001; Assistant Supt Champions Club 1999-2000.

Professional Affiliations & Offices

Held: FGCSA – current secretary/treasurer and education chairman,

director since 2005; GCSAA Class A member since 1997; Seven Rivers GCSA past president; FTGA – Board member and IFAS Advisory Committee chair; USGA.

Work philosophy and advice: Do things right the first time. It's about quality not just quantity. Doing something over takes longer than taking the time to get it right the first time.

Goals: Attain CGCS status and get my masters degree.

Hobbies & Interests: Anything to do with water – swimming, tubing, fishing. Also like cooking, golfing and attending Gator football and basketball games. Just started attending a new church, the First Lutheran of Gainesville.

“But we also have to compromise to meet our budgets, so we experimented with various mowing schedules to reduce scalping.

“We are a five-day-a-week operation. We found that mowing Monday and Tuesday, skipping Wednesday and mowing Thursday and Friday worked for us. Of course sometimes the researchers tell us not to mow some plots depending on their study objectives.”

When it comes to pest control and IPM programs, Kann follows a low-maintenance approach, monitoring the idle plots and golf holes, and applying herbicides and insecticides as needed to keep them from being infested and unusable for testing. He also applies preventive fungicides to the golf greens. In addition he maintains buffer zones around the site's water bodies.

The wildlife inventory on the property is huge, thanks to the rural loca-

tion and easy access by larger animals. The list includes alligators, bald eagles, barn owls, bears, cows, coyotes, deer, donkeys, fox, hawks, heron, sandhill cranes, all the small song bird species, and tilapia. Speaking of sandhill cranes Kann said there are about 20 year-round resident cranes, but during the winter migratory season, the sky is black like a thundercloud with them; about 20,000 will roost on the prairie just east of the turf plots.

With all the headaches that come with managing such a diverse expanse of turf under so many research-imposed restriction, Kann cites the teaching and education opportunities that come from hosting a variety of tours as a source of reward and personal satisfaction. Besides the annual spring IFAS Field Day in May, there are tours and classes all year long including the Farm Bureau, Master Gardeners and legislators.

One of Kann's favorites was a group called the Gulf Coast Air Streamers that just showed up one afternoon around 1:00 pm asking if they could have a tour. He said, “We're eager and happy to share and showcase our facility and the work being done so we don't really turn people down. Normally a typical group tour would last about an hour, but these folks were so engaged and asked so many questions that 4 o'clock rolled around before I knew it.”

And some of the work currently going on is the research funded by the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection focused on the runoff and leaching of fertilizers and basic nutrient requirements for healthy turf.

Besides the DEP work, there are turf breeding programs, nematode work, pesticide studies, sports turf wear, fertility and overseeding and water-moisture-sensing technology and irrigation requirements. Research seeks an answer to a question framed as an hypothesis. Sometimes the results is perhaps inconclusive or, in many cases, leads to other questions. Research is an ongoing process that has helped all of us do our jobs more efficiently and in a more environmental friendly way.

While the Research Center staff is

FUN FACTS

Vehicle: 2000 Ford Ranger
The last good movie I saw: Angels & Demons.
I stay home to watch: How I Met Your Mother.
The book I've been reading: The Bible.
Favorite meal: Sushi or Mexican.
Prized possessions: Photos of my father, who passed away when I was 15.
Personal heroes: My parents
Nobody knows that I: Played lacrosse in college.
I'm better than anyone else when it comes to: Planning ahead.
If I could do it over: I would have become a professional wrestler.
I'd give anything to meet: Jimmy Buffet.
My fantasy is: Learn to sail. Cruise the Carribean. Hang out with Jimmy Buffet.
The one thing I can't stand: Doing things twice.
If I could change one thing about myself: I'd lose more weight. Down 41 lbs so far.
Most humbling experience: Being diagnosed with diabetes.
The words that best describe me: Dedicated and determined.



Representing the Seven Rivers Chapter, Mark presents a check for \$5,000 to FGCSA President Shane Bass, CGCSA in 2009. Photo by Joel Jackson.

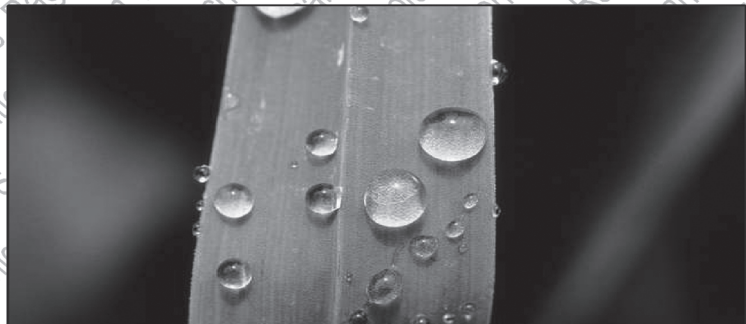
My dream foursome would be: Tiger, Arnold, Fred Couples and me.
My best fish story: Went fishing in 8-foot seas in a small boat. Caught fish. Got seasick.
My most amazing/lucky/important golf shot: Hole in one, 4th hole Ironwood GC.



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Two of the seven “mini” bunkers on the putting course. In the background just a partial view of the expansive agricultural research fields at the Plant Science Center. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

Kann lives on the property in a manufactured home. 'Yep, I live in a gated community!' he said.

basically on a five-day work week, Kann lives on the property in a manufactured home. I asked if his only way out was through the main gate on State Road 318, he smiled and said, “Yep, I live in a gated community!” While his commute to work might be short in the morning, Kann is on duty 24/7 thanks to the automatic freeze alarm installed in the house. He said, “My job is to crank up the irrigation all across the property if we are going to have a frost or freeze. I live in the coldest spot on the property so I have some lead time to make my rounds turning on the water as directed.”

Prior to assuming his current position, Kann was a full-time golf course superintendent at Meadow Oaks GC near New Port Richey. He served on the Seven Rivers GCSA board of directors including president of the chapter and he still serves as the chapter’s external vice president, and oh by the way, he’s also the secretary/treasurer of the Florida GCSA.

While it’s true that the acreage of the golf holes under his supervision is small and they submit to only a couple of hundred rounds per year by faculty, staff and students, Kann is still considered a Class A member by the GCSAA

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- ▶ 14-2-4 provides increased plant photosynthesis and aids in stress management.

Each gallon contains: 1.5 lbs. (N), 0.43 lbs. (K)

AMINO-BOOST

17-2-4

with Extended Release N

- ▶ 17-2-4 is designed specifically to increase plant health and overall turf quality on golf course fairways and athletic fields.
- ▶ The nitrogen source contains a Urease inhibitor which prevents nitrogen loss by volatilization and bacterial degradation.
- ▶ 17-2-4 will enhance overall performance when used with applications of plant growth regulators and fungicides.

Each gallon contains: 1.9 lbs. (N), 0.22 lbs. (P), 0.44 lbs. (K)

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Quick Start

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- ▶ 5-10-5 liquid starter provides two forms of nitrogen for fast uptake and longer lasting color.
- ▶ The phosphate in 5-10-5 promotes rapid germination and helps establish turf.

Each gallon contains: 0.5 lbs. (N), 1.4 lbs. (P₂O₅), 0.5 lbs. (K₂O)

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2% Non-ionic Surfactant

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Each gallon contains: 1.13 lbs. (N), 0.54 lbs. (Fe), 0.18 lbs. (Mn), 0.33 lbs. (S)

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From left: UF/IFAS Agricultural Assistants for turf Joel Berry, Dave Carson and Bob Jones.
Photo by Mark Kann

Location: University of Florida IFAS Plant Science Research and Education Unit, Citra

Ownership: University of Florida

Field laboratory includes: 3 golf holes, a 9-hole natural turf putting course, one island green and 40 acres of research turf plots.

Designed by: Jan Beljan, Constructed by UF personnel and opened in 2005.

Management Team: Director of Research Programs Daniel Colvin, Ph.D; Coordinators of Research Programs are Mark Kann (Turf), Jim Boyer (Citrus and Agriculture), Carl Vining (Private Research), Buck Nelson (Fruit & Vegetables) and Administrative Assistant Tonya Morgan

Major projects: Taking out undulations in #1 fairway and renovating the island green. Added back tee to #2. Added turfgrass nursery.

Greens: 3 acres. Turf types – Tifdwarf, Classic Dwarf, TifEagle and SeaDwarf. HOC: 0.100- 0.165 inches depending on turf type. Overseeded with Poa trivialis 6-8 lbs/1,000 sq.ft. Mowing schedule – Monday,

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Tees: 1 acre. Turf types – bermuda (Classic, TifSport, Celebration and Princess); paspalum (Sea Isle Supreme and Aloha); zoysia (Ultimate and Pristine). HOC: 0.5 inches. Mowed on Mondays and Thursdays. Various overseeding rates and types of seed.

Fairways and Roughs: Fwys: 4 acres. Roughs : 10 acres. Turf types – bermuda (Tifway 419, TifSport and Celebration); paspalum (SeaDwarf and Aloha). HOC: 0.625 inches on fwys and 1-2 inches on

roughs. Mowed on Mondays and Thursdays. No overseeding.

Bunkers: 7 on the golf holes and 7 on the putting course. Sand type: Florida Rock 329; raked with Sand Pro 3020 and by hand.

Native Plants and Trees: A variety of native trees and ornamental grasses and plants is used to landscape the area for display and examples of Florida friendly plants.

Irrigation water source: Well. **Irrigation Control System:** Toro Site Pro. Heads on 50 ft. spacing. Separate fertigation system for greens programs.

Water Management/Conservation: St. Johns River Water Management District. We use rain sensors, ET sensors, soil moisture sensors and common sense.

Communications: Weekly meetings with managers on Mondays and crews on Tuesdays.

Staff: Mark Kann, coordinator of research programs; Agricultural assistants – Dave Carson, Joel Berry and Bob Jones. Part time help using six county inmate day laborers.

and he is immersed in the future of golf as never before and it's time to tell that story. I wondered what possessed him to choose this particular career path.

"My dad was a science teacher and I think I was curious about how things worked," Kann said. "Unfortunately, Dad passed away when I was 15 and I think I struggled a long time to deal with that loss and I wasn't as focused as I should have been for many years. My GPA at Trenton State College was nothing to write home about, but when home became Florida and I took up golf, things began to change.

"Mostly they changed because of Sonny Kirkland at Beacon Woods GC and Jeff Hayden with Golf Ventures at the time. I had been looking for a part-time job to provide free golf and I applied to Beacon Woods as a cart attendant. Unknown to me was that Sonny was in charge of cart maintenance. When I followed up about the job, I found out that Sonny had pulled



Since the three full-size golf holes run alongside the turf research plots, when staff and students play the course they must take a free drop from the turf plots. No divots allowed.

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I suppose deep inside I always wanted to be a teacher, and through my contacts with the university, it was an appealing career decision when this position opened up.

my application as cart attendant and he offered me a job on the crew.

“Two weeks later the overseed delivery truck pulled in and I and one other guy unloaded the whole truck by one bag at a time. I found out that’s why Sonny had hired that big, strapping young kid.

“I moved up quickly under Sonny’s guidance and my curiosity about things returned and Sonny tirelessly answered my questions about golf course maintenance. I enrolled at the University of Florida and thought I wanted to be a landscape architect. After a few classes and lots of money spent on buying supplies to build scale models, which often ended up in the instructor’s trash can, I switched to the new turf science major.

“While I was in school, Jeff Hayden would come visit us at our Turf Club meetings. Jeff was a legend in the area and he dearly loved working with students, talking shop and most of all talking about research. We spent many an afternoon at the Ale House in long discussions about turf management and the future of the business. When I made a 4.0 GPA in my last two years I brought the 1.9 GPA from junior college up to a 3.47. I was back on track thanks to my mentors.

“I suppose deep inside I always wanted to be a teacher, and through my career travels and involvement and contacts with the university, it was an appealing career decision when this position opened up. Helping researchers conduct classes and tours with their turf students and leading other industry and public tours at the Plant Science Center has helped me scratch that teaching itch.”

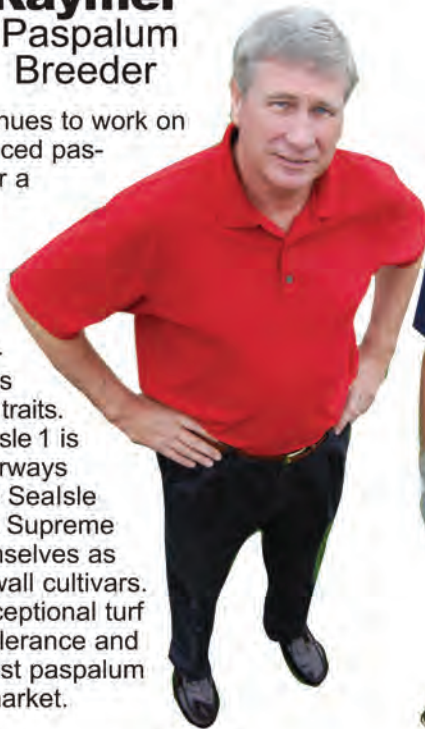


Research assistant Tommy DeBerry on the turf plots extracting a water sample from an in-ground lysimeter used to collect leachate. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

WHAT ARE THE TEAMUGA TURFGRASS BREEDERS UP TO NOW?

Paul Raymer
Paspalum Breeder

Dr. Raymer continues to work on developing enhanced paspalum cultivars for a range of fine-turf applications. His primary emphasis is on improving salt tolerance and disease resistance as well as turf quality traits. Currently our Sealsle 1 is in wide use on fairways and roughs, while Sealsle 2000 and Sealsle Supreme have proven themselves as excellent wall-to-wall cultivars. All three have exceptional turf quality and salt tolerance and are among the best paspalum varieties on the market.



Brian Schwartz
Bermudagrass Breeder

Dr. Schwartz is the newest member of TeamUGA. He's now responsible for our warm season breeding program in Tifton GA. Since January of 2009, Brian has worked side by side with Dr. Hanna and has been zeroing in on a bermudagrass with enhanced drought stress resistance. So far it has demonstrated the ability to maintain turf quality without



water 12 to 14 days longer than present cultivars. Another of Brian's goals is to improve plant parasitic nematode tolerance, with a special focus on sting nematodes. He will also be initiating a zoysiagrass breeding program in 2010 to develop cultivars that are more widely adapted, faster growing and more disease resistant.

Wayne Hanna
Bermudagrass Breeder

Dr. Hanna's TifSport and TifEagle bermudagrasses are still two of the most popular cultivars available for golf course fairways, roughs, tees and high-end greens. In 2008, Dr. Hanna and a select group of TifEagle growers introduced a new "No-Till TifEagle" program, which can save clubs up to 75% of the cost of conventional greens reconstruction. TifGrand, Dr. Hanna's new shade-tolerant bermuda, has shown great promise in multiple golf course test locations and will be available in the spring of 2010.



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Make Every Drop Count!

By Joel Jackson

At the 2009 National Golf Day visit to Washington, DC in May, the Allied Golf Associations presented the most recent data on the economic and environmental impacts of the nation's golf industry. Members told legislators that golf accounted for \$76 billion in revenues and 2 million jobs. Perhaps even more important in today's regional "water wars," the group noted that golf course irrigation accounts for only one-half of one percent of the water pumped in the United States. Yet the perception is perpetuated that golf courses are "big water users."

GCSAA also released the findings of the 2008 member needs assessment survey: 84 percent said their "top environmental topic of concern" is water efficiency techniques. When asked about priorities for funding by The Environmental Institute for Golf, 52 percent of respondents responded: "a template to develop water conservation plans." So even though actual golf water use is low compared to agriculture, public supply (indoor and outdoor uses), power generation, industry and business, we are still searching for better ways to manage our water resources in terms of

quantity and quality.

The South Florida Water Management District has asked the Florida GCSA to help draft and conduct a survey to detail the ways golf courses in its district efficiently manage water use. If you're in that WMD, please make it priority to participate. We are always looking for ways to showcase our environmental stewardship and this will be a good way to get some positive publicity about golf course management.

The following comments from your peers include new design, renovation projects and daily operation.

STEVE KELLER, JULIETTE FALLS CC

The design of Juliette Falls incorporated more than 30 stormwater retention areas, including three lined lakes, waterfall features, and several miles of underground storm piping to collect rainfall and stormwater runoff for use as irrigation and reduction on the dependence on groundwater.

The landscape palette is nearly all native species requiring no irrigation after establishment. The irrigation system was designed so each sprinkler can be controlled individually, making adjustments daily to prescribe irrigation for specific turf areas and plant

material. Each planted tree, bush and shrub was installed with low-flow bubblers to ensure plant survival until established.

During the recent drought, we limited the water on plant material to one time per week with individual plants receiving about 1 gallon of water as needed. These bubblers can be adjusted to match irrigation to each plant's needs.

We look at water use like balancing a checkbook; knowing what you have in the bank and making it work for you through the year. A little left over is always nice.

We did not overseed last winter and recorded 33 heavy frost and one period below 32 for 15 hours, which burned everything back. We estimated saving upwards of \$100,000 and nearly 25 million gallons of water.

STEVE PEARSON, CGCS, THE FALLS CC

We had a hydraulic Toro Vari-time system for the first 11 years at our club. In 1998 we upgraded to the Toro SitePro computer software with Osmac satellites using hydraulic/electric solenoids. We have saved at least 15 percent in our water use and most years when we aren't in a drought, we are saving 30-35 percent.

Individual sprinkler run-times have

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Cisco Navas (Cypress Woods Golf and CC), Greg Kriesch (Heritage Palms Golf and CC), Sean Anderson (Card Sound Golf Club) and others like Greg Pheneger at Johns Island Golf Club all have made conscious efforts to do what it takes to maximize the efficiency of their water use by utilizing this state of the art soil monitoring system. The system works by burying unique sensors in the ground that transmit real time measurements of soil moisture (volumetric water content), salinity (dS/m) and temperature (°F) with precision to above ground communication routers. A series of routers



make up a wireless mesh communication system so that any number of sensors and routers can be installed at a property to communicate with each other. All of the communication is directed to a gateway router that transmits the data to the secure UgMO™ server. The user can then see the data and interpretation of that data in real time from any internet browser source.

*Carmen Magro, CGCS
VP of Agronomy
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Lambda GC-O	~	Scimitar GC
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Rimsulfuron 25 DF	~	TranXit
Oxadiazon SC	~	Ronstar Flo
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taken out a lot of wasted water. We use different run times for at least 20 specific programs and then we use a percentage of that run-time for each sprinkler. Over time we have been able to fine tune our system to get even better control and use less water.

In the summer of 2007 we totally redesigned our greens complexes and were able to again refine our system by putting in more than 100 new heads so that we have in-board and outboard sprinklers around the greens. Each sprinkler's arc is adjusted to attain proper coverage without overwatering. We are covered wall-to-wall with 813 sprinklers throughout the course.

We equipped some small landscape areas with drip irrigation even though those areas didn't really use a lot of water to begin with. But by doing so we still saved water.

We have done a lot more hand watering of greens since our 2007 conversion especially with the change from



Superintendent Todd Draffen checks green's head for proper operation, and using native plant material (in the background) reduces irrigated acres on the course. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Tifdwarf to Mini-Verde. By watering only the "hot spots" we put the water exactly where it is needed.

Greens and tees get monthly spray applications of wetting agents; all areas

get additional year-round wetting-agent coverage through our fertigation system. Not only have we reduced water use, but I have seen a real reduction of dry areas since we have been on a regu-



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lar wetting-agent program. On severe dry spots we apply granular wetting agents and we also apply wetting agents while hand watering.

We hope to convert some out-of-play areas to a naturalized look which would save additional water.

BILL DAVIDSON, CC OF NAPLES

During the summer of 2009, the Country Club of Naples, built in 1964, underwent a major renovation. Most importantly, a focus was placed on increasing the irrigation and drainage efficiencies. The recent dramatic increase in the cost of water was one factor that triggered the project. We needed to reduce the irrigated area and increase the application efficiency!

The first step was to discuss our concerns and issues with our architect, Gordy Lewis. Because the course was a parkland style, Gordy was able to eliminate 32 sprinkler heads through creative design.

Another major consideration was application efficiency. Prior to the renovation, all fairway and rough heads were paired, with multiple holes being controlled from one satellite. In discussions with our irrigation vendor regarding converting to single head control, they estimated that an efficiency increase of 30-50 percent could be realized.

Conversion would mean an additional capital investment in hardware, but the return on investment would be realized in 10 years or less. During reconstruction of the course, eight additional satellites were installed and all heads were separated into single head control for maximum control potential.

Another part of the irrigation plan was to address poor sprinkler head placement around the greens. All of the greens had dedicated greens and slope heads, but most of the greens complexes only had three heads to water the putting surface, causing a lot of water to be applied to non-target areas. Again,

the irrigation distributor was asked for advice on correct head placement and nozzle sizing for each green.

We learned that, prior to the renovation, all the greens heads had much larger nozzles in them than required. This meant that a tremendous amount of water was being applied outside the target area. So all green diameters were measured and the correct nozzles were installed. The cost to replace the nozzles to increase water application efficiency was well worth it in water savings.

AND NOW FOR SOME QUICK TIPS:

1. Make sure your wet well is clean and you have no debris in your lines or heads – Mike Radford, MRI, Inc., Cape Coral.
2. Verify proper nozzle size for each head location.
3. Adjust computer ET values to adjust run times based on actual head location – mound, fairway, rough, etc.
4. Create programs to address dry



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spots, mounds, low areas, greens, tees, etc.

5. Consider manually knocking a minute or two off computer-generated run times to save water.

6. Monitor and note stations where time can be reduced without sacrificing turf quality or playability.

7. Investigate alternative sources of water to reduce dependence on wells – reclaimed water, storm water, surface

water and horizontal wells. If considering switching to seashore paspalum turf you may be able to tap into a brackish water aquifer.

8. Invest in a water audit to maximize system efficiency.

9. Experiment with self-imposed restrictions on water use to test the limits of your turf before you are forced to cut back. Try the practice range or a rough. By learning how to “harden off”

the turf you can prepare the course to better withstand mandatory watering restriction.

10. Consider using moisture retaining soil amendments on hot spots.

11. Install high/low pressure cutoff switches and remote soil moisture sensors.

12. Communicate and document what you are doing to conserve water.

SUPER TIP

Going for the Green

By Darren J. Davis

“Going green” has become a popular, feel-good catch phrase, but “going green” can often cost lots of green, thus deterring the effort. At Olde Florida we have always adhered to the legal recycling requirements with the proper disposal/recycling of used oil, batteries and tires. In Collier County, business recycling of paper, plastic, cardboard etc. comes at a cost.

Recently my equipment manager attended a Turf Equipment Service Technicians Association meeting and the Collier County recycling coordinator, the guest speaker, provided take-home materials that outlined tips for going green. After reviewing the materials with key staffers, we determined that we could

institute several programs that would be beneficial to the environment and remain cost-neutral.

Our initial efforts included eliminating plastic silverware and Styrofoam cups in the breakroom, saving over \$1,400 annually and reducing waste.

According to invoices, we had been spending at least \$1,100 a year on paper towels in the golf course operation facility. The three towel dispensers were replaced with electric hand dryers. I had not been a fan of electric hand dryers

but the Exlerator brand units we purchased are exceptional. They provide excellent air velocity with minimal electricity. The units will pay for themselves in a little more than a year.

We also initiated club-wide collection and recycling of plastic containers and cardboard. Most of the plastic is from the water bottles we supply golfers, but containers were also placed in the kitchen and the golf course operations facility.

Cardboard boxes are also collected from all departments and placed in a 2-yard recycling bin. Collier County provided a list of licensed recycling vendors, and after research by my office manager, the fee we pay for three 96-gallon plastic recycling bins and one 2-yard cardboard bin is \$112 a month. To recover the additional cost of those recycling bins we can now reduce the size of our existing waste dumpster from 8-yard to 4-yard which will result in a monthly saving of \$123.00.



Electric hand dryers (top left) save Olde Florida \$1100 on paper towels annually; dumpster and water bins are a cost-neutral way to “go greener.” “Plastic Only” containers save labor costs to sort waste.

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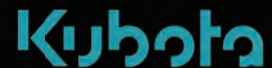
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Wells, Unruh Awarded FTGA Wreath of Grass

The Florida Turfgrass Association honored Dr. J. Bryan Unruh and the late Thomas R. Wells with the 2009 FTGA Wreath of Grass Awards Sept. 17 during the 57th Annual Conference and Show Awards Luncheon.

The FTGA's highest honor recognizes outstanding service to the turfgrass industry and also to the FTGA.

Wells' award was given posthumously; his wife and son accepted the award, which was presented by Robert Ellis.

Dr. Barry Brecke with the University of Florida presented Unruh his award. "The FTGA is extremely proud to present Tom and Bryan with the 2009 FTGA Wreath of Grass Award," said FTGA President Gregory A. Pheneger. "Tom dedicated his life to turfgrass and the industry has lost a superb advocate."

In 2004-05, Wells was the FTGA president and served on several committees. "Bryan's extensive knowledge and research has been vital to the industry," said Pheneger. "He continues to provide exceptional education." Dr. Unruh is an associate professor of environmental horticulture at the University of Florida on the Milton Campus. He teaches courses in turfgrass culture,



FTGA Immediate Past President Darren Davis with Mrs. Judi Wells and her son, Scott Wells, as they accept the Wreath of Grass Award posthumously dedicated to Tom Wells. Photo provided by Leading Edge Communications.

landscape and turfgrass management, and golf and sports turf management.

At the Awards Luncheon, the Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation also announced that six Florida students will receive scholarships for the 2009-2010 academic year. All recipients attend either the University of Florida or Lake City Community College and are preparing for careers as a golf course superintendent or in turfgrass management. These students were selected based on their academic record, leadership capabilities and extra-curricular activities.

LAKE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PHILIP SOUKUP received the James L. Blackledge Memorial Scholarship awarding \$1,500. Soukup is from Oxford, Miss. and plans to pursue a career as a golf course superintendent in Florida with the goal of becoming a certified golf course superintendent at a "top tier" course.

ROBERT MITCHELL received the General Scholarship awarding \$1,000. Mitchell is from Mississippi and has worked at three golf courses including FarmLinks GC in Alabama. He plans to become a golf course superintendent in the Southeastern United States.

TRAVIS CROSBY received the Hans Schmeisser Memorial Scholarship awarding \$1,500. Crosby is from Tallahassee, and aspires to finish his turf degree at Lake City and earn a business degree prior to joining the Florida golf industry full time in pursuit of a career in turf.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

ANDREW TAYLOR received the Col. Frank Ward Memorial Scholarship awarding \$1,500. Taylor is from Las Vegas, and plans to combine his education in turf and pest management to pursue a career as a golf course superintendent in Florida.

IVAN VARGAS ALTAMIRANO received the General Scholarship awarding



Darren Davis, immediate past president of the FTGA congratulates Dr. J. Bryan Unruh from UF/IFAS upon receiving the 2009 Wreath of Grass Award for his continued research and education efforts in turfgrass science and management. Photo provided by Leading Edge Communications.

\$1,000. Vargas Altamirano is from Costa Rica and plans to use his education to create a strategic alliance between researchers and other turf professionals working in the similar climates of Florida and Latin America.

BRADLEY WILLIAMS received the Max J. McQuade Memorial Scholarship awarding \$1,000. Williams earned a bachelor's degree in soil science from the University of Wisconsin. For the past seven summers, Williams interned at golf courses in Wisconsin and Colorado. Upon graduation, he intends to pursue a career in golf course management in Florida.

FLORIDA TURFGRASS RESEARCH FOUNDATION LIVE AUCTION

The Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation announced that the 2009 Live Auction Fundraiser, held in conjunction with the 57th Annual Conference & Show, raised \$4,400 for turfgrass research and student scholar-

ships. Because of participants' support, the FTRF is able to continue funding valuable turfgrass research and supporting turfgrass students who are the industry's future.

**USGA REPORT
Early Season
Golfer And Disease
Concerns**

By John H. Foy

The Florida winter golf season is under way. While play is now increasing, rounds and membership levels are still down at many courses compared to just two years ago. Many courses and clubs throughout the state continue to deal with very challenging times.

With reduced revenues, cuts in operating budgets and capital expenditures have been mandated at essentially all facilities. However, based on Turf Advisory Service visits in late autumn,

appropriate and good quality course conditioning for daily play is being provided. Many courses are operating with reduced staff, which has required reductions in grooming and manicuring practices of perimeter areas and hazards. So far, this change has not been noticed by most golfers.

In the central and northern Florida, elimination or reductions in large-acreage winter overseeding programs also has been a common cost-saving measure. Large-acreage overseeding is not an economic, agronomic, or environmentally sustainable course-management practice.

As bermudagrass enters into a semi-to fully-dormant stage, which is the normal response to colder temperatures, quality conditioning can still be provided. Aggressive and ongoing traffic management must be employed when turf is not actively growing, and recovery from wear damage cannot occur, regardless of inputs. While we still have a way

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to go, golfers are beginning to understand and accept that green color is not a critical factor in course conditioning and quality.

Unfortunately, however, unrealistic demands and expectations for fast to very fast putting green speeds have been a concern at some courses. In Florida, slow, soft, and wet putting green conditions in the fall was a legitimate concern when establishing a winter overseeding cover on Tifdwarf bermudagrass. This concern was compounded by the fact that putting greens at northern golf courses were in superb condition and were used as a basis of comparison for golfers returning to their Florida courses.

Today with ultradwarf bermudagrass cultivars now being the base turf on putting greens at most Florida courses, winter overseeding is no longer necessary, and thus it is possible to routinely provide a smooth and true ball roll along with putting speeds in the range of 9.5 to 10.5 ft. on the Stimpmeter.


This is certainly appropriate conditioning for the vast majority of golfers. There are always a few who tend to be the most vocal, always demanding faster putting speeds. With more frequent double cutting, or cutting and rolling, faster putting speeds can be maintained. Along with the necessary equipment, additional labor hours and time must be available to routinely conduct these practices, which incurs additional cost.

While the ultradwarf bermudagrass cultivars can tolerate extremely low heights of cut, sufficient leaf surface area must be present during the late summer and fall for sustained growth, photosynthesis, carbohydrate production, and storage. This is critical for properly preparing the base turf to survive the late fall, winter, and spring months. Maintaining slightly elevated heights of cut during the fall is necessary, and once cooler temperatures prevail, putting speeds will increase. If turf health and coverage is compromised

or sacrificed early on, producing a full recovery during the winter is not possible.

Recently, putting green disease outbreaks have been another concern in central to southern Florida. Going back to October, rainfall has been well below average; however, the persistence of warm and humid conditions, along with reduced sunlight intensity, resulted in moderate to severe outbreaks of leaf spot disease on putting greens, tees, and fairway areas. While not necessarily desirable, continuation or implementation of fungicide treatments is advised.

Extreme care also needs to be exercised with nitrogen fertilization and supplemental irrigation so as not to further favor disease development. If a disease problem is suspected, submit samples to the University of Florida's Rapid Turfgrass Diagnostic Service. For more information on this tool, access their website at <http://turfpath.ifas.ufl.edu/>.



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ACSP Certifies Florida Courses As Sanctuaries

SARASOTA NATIONAL GOLF CLUB

Sarasota National Golf Club recently achieved designation as a Certified Silver Audubon International Signature Sanctuary. Signature certification is awarded only to new developments that are designed, constructed, and maintained according to Audubon International's precise planning standards and environmental disciplines. The focus of the Signature Program is to promote sound land-management practices and appropriate land-use changes based on sound scientific research. This is the first project in Sarasota County to become certified through the Signature Program.

Developed by Tuscano, LLC as an amenity to a planned development in Venice, the 18-hole, Gordon Lewis-designed course features oak forest and Florida scrub with many wet habitats created for stormwater control and treatment.

The entire development, covering 2,418 acres, features more than 71 acres of restored and enhanced wetlands, 477 acres of preserved jurisdictional wetlands, and more than 500 acres of upland preserve plus the removal of more than 125 acres of invasive plant materials including maleleuca, and Brazilian pepper.

Focusing on sustaining the potable water supply in Florida, for irrigation Sarasota National uses reclaimed water from the local wastewater treatment plant. Good water quality of receiving waters (natural and man-made lakes) within the golf course and downstream waters was also one of the highest priorities.

"Sarasota National golf course was planned and is managed to incorporate golf course play with existing and

preserved natural features including forested and freshwater marsh wetlands, live oak hammocks and preserved palmetto prairie," said Signature Programs Director Nancy Richardson. "More than 600 acres of golf course and other open space/recreational areas are an integral part of the overall open space/preserve connecting to regional corridors including Forked Creek and Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve."

To date, 87 projects internationally have achieved certification through



The Sarasota National property preserved and enhanced hundreds of acres of native habitat and wildlife corridors.

the Signature Program. Only 15 in Florida have achieved the coveted Silver Signature Certification.

– Nancy E. Richardson

OLD CORKSCREW

Old Corkscrew, an 18-hole golf facility on Corkscrew Road between Fort Myers and Naples, recently was re-certified for the second time since its designation as the first Silver Signature Sanctuary in Lee County.

Enhanced through the restoration of a historic flow way through the property, the course features 40 acres of preserved wetland habitat and more than 300,000 native plants introduced strategically in landscaping and re-vegetation of disturbed areas throughout the property. The golfing experience on this 275-acre site is enhanced by the

native oak hammocks, pines, palms, and palmettos with beautiful vistas of lakes and preserves.

– Nancy E. Richardson

SHADOW WOOD COUNTRY CLUB

The golf courses at Shadow Wood CC and Shadow Wood Preserve have retained their designations as Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses. To reach certification, a course must

demonstrate that it is maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas including: Environmental Planning, Wildlife & Habitat Management, Outreach and Education, Chemical Use Reduction and Safety, Water Conservation, and Water Quality Management.

"Shadow Wood CC and Shadow Wood Preserve have shown a strong commitment to its environmental program. They are to be commended for their efforts to provide a sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property," said

Jim Sluiter, staff ecologist at Audubon International.

Shadow Wood CC course and the Shadow Wood Preserve course are among 95 courses in Florida and 709 courses in the world to receive the honor. The Shadow Wood golf courses were each designated as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary in 2006. After designation, courses go through a certification process every two years.

This year, as part of the recertification process, Eric Ruha, director of golf operations at Shadow Wood CC and Shadow Wood Preserve, required a visit by a local environmental expert who conducted the site visit and sent his observations to Audubon International.

"The best part of our job as golf course managers is the environment we get to call our office," explained Ruha.

“There is nothing more rewarding than riding in at the end of the day as the sun goes down, admiring nature’s handy work. We’re fortunate to work for the Bonita Bay Group who has been committed to environmental excellence from the beginning and continues to foster these types of relationships.”

“We see the site visit as an important component of a course’s recertification,” stated Sluiter. “It provides an objective verification of some of the more visible aspects of the course’s environmental management activities. In addition, it offers an opportunity for golf course representatives to share publicly some of the voluntary actions they have taken to protect and sustain the land, water, wildlife, and natural resources around them.”

– Jennifer Laderer

VICTORIA HILLS GOLF CLUB

Victoria Hills Golf Club – the award-winning, Ron Garl-designed

course owned by The St. Joe Company and managed by Billy Casper Golf – has been designated a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary for environmental stewardship by Audubon International.

In attaining certification from the conservation group, Victoria Hills’ 18-hole layout successfully maintains sound environmental practices in six key areas: environmental planning, wildlife and habitat management, outreach and education, chemical use reduction, water conservation, and water quality management.

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses helps protect the environment and preserve the natural heritage of the game of golf. It emphasizes maximizing efficiency and minimizing the potentially harmful effects golf operations can have.

“Environmental conservation and education are key components to golf course operations here,” says Juan

Perez, head superintendent at Victoria Hills. “The St. Joe Company, Billy Casper Golf and Victoria Hills Golf Club are committed to upholding strict environmental practices that create sustainable places to live, work and play.”

“The unwavering commitment from the Victoria Hills team to create and maintain a sound environmental program is exceptional,” says Peter Hill, chairman and CEO of BCG. “We’re very proud of all courses which have become members of the elite group to achieve prestigious ‘Sanctuary’ status.”

Following the Audubon International-approved steps for an environmentally-friendly golf course reduces waste and promotes efficient operations. An effective program results in a reduction of maintenance costs, including insurance premiums, energy, water, pesticides, fertilizer, equipment wear and labor.

– Shane Sharp and Bill Feidler

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

How can EPA come up with one number for fifty states without undoing nature and wrecking local budgets trying to comply?... If you feel like running off at the keyboard, don't write me, write your legislators. If more of us did that, we could clear up some of that gloom and doom.

Happy New Year and I mean it. I'm tired of all this gloom and doom stuff. Here's some extemporaneous explanations of the world's current status.

CARBON FOOTPRINT – This has been a man-made problem since Cro-Magnon man began tracking ashes from the cooking fire all around the cave. The Neanderthals were “greener” because they didn't have as much fire, but then they also couldn't live in those European caves and cross the Siberian Peninsula until the glaciers receded, and wasn't that before man started burning lots of wood?

CLIMATE CHANGE – I'll guarantee you it will get colder this winter and it will warm up in the spring and summer. Always has and always will. We will have some years with more hurricanes and some with less. Always have and always will. The people who chose to build homes and live on coastal islands formed by eroded and water-borne sand

particles or in river flood plains will be flooded and washed out again. Always have and always will. Come to think of it the more things change the more they stay the same.

TREE RINGS AND GLOBAL WARMING – As long as the planet was in a warming cycle global warming scientists correlated the warming by measuring tree ring width. When the tree rings started getting narrower and suggested a change to a cooling cycle, the global warming advocates cut down the trees and made them into hockey sticks to use as graphs to perpetuate their theory. In real hockey you get penalized for high sticking. Our leaders need to review the rules before they put us all in the penalty box.

SCIENCE IS NOT A FOUR LETTER WORD – Dear environmental activist, Show us your data gathered by using the scientific method and subjected to rigorous independent peer review and we'll show you ours. By the way data is a four letter word. You quote lots of data, but you never show us the verifiable science behind it.

BIG BROTHER LANDSCAPE COMPANY – Otherwise known as the EPA. It's not enough that water management districts and authorities across the USA monitor their watersheds and aquifers and impose water use restrictions based on real time pressures on local aquifers. No the EPA is seeking to issue a uniform 50-state watering restriction of twice per week.

To further intrude into private property matters, EPA is proposing all new homes only have 40 percent of their landscape in irrigated turf. Not satisfied with those intrusions into local governance and homeownership, the EPA says it will issue a magic number to limit the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus in all U.S. water bodies with Florida being the guinea pig model.

Where will EPA get the data to make such a determination for every creek, river, lake and bay in the U.S.? They'll get it from the states of course or not use it all, if their crystal ball isn't on the fritz. According to data gathered by our FLDEP over the past ten years, current nutrient levels in our waterways vary tremendously depending on the region, rainfall patterns, soils and potential nutrient inputs. How can EPA come up with

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one number for fifty states without undoing nature and wrecking local budgets trying to comply?

I see I'm in danger of going over my word budget for this column. While going over budget seems to be a trend for congress, I could get in real trouble with our publisher. If you feel like running off at the keyboard, don't write me, write your legislators. If more of us did that, we could clear up some of that gloom and doom. ■

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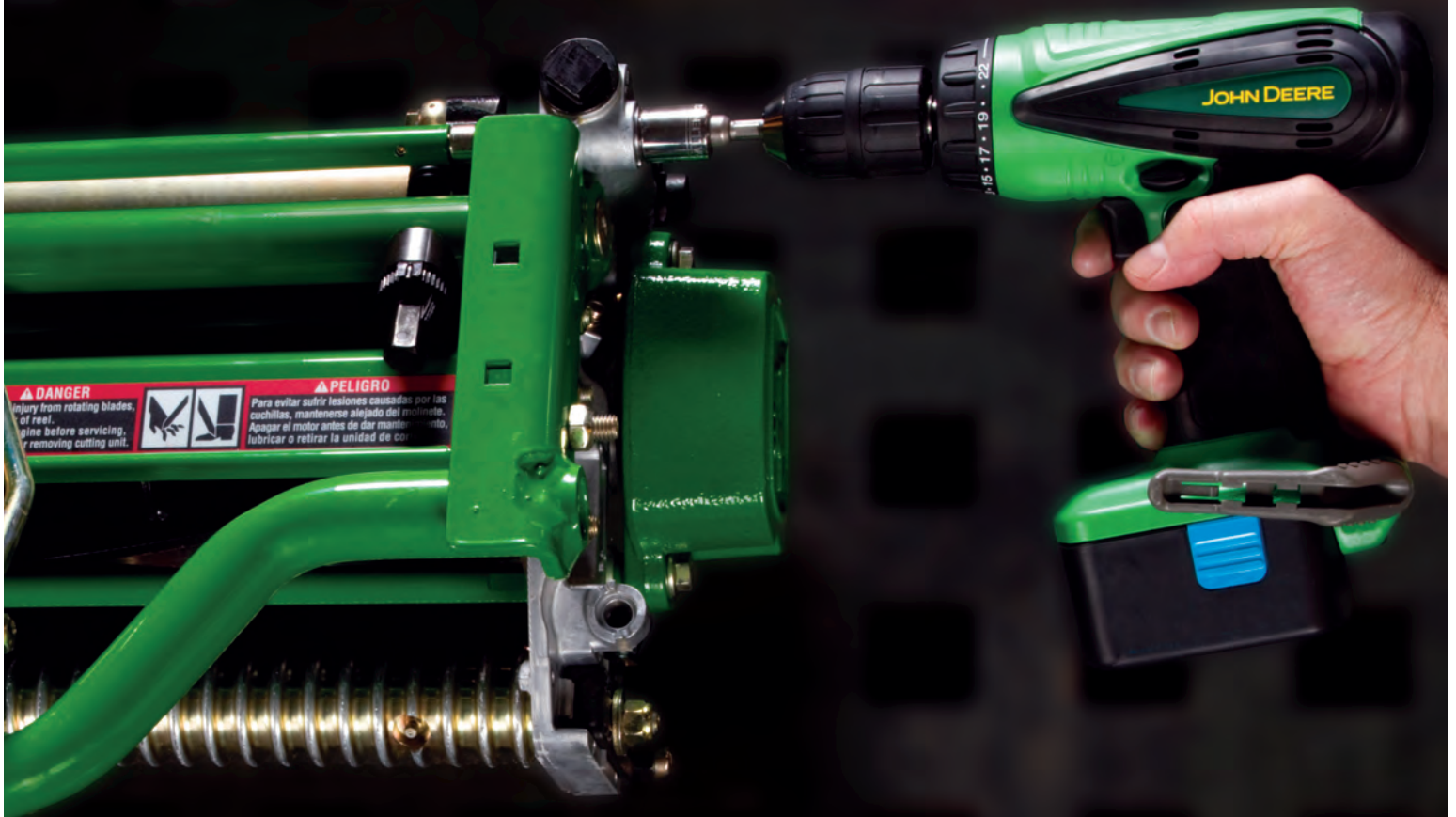
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