

The Florida Green

SPRING 2011



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*1.75% Urea nitrogen stabilized with dicyandimide and N-(n-butyl) N-(n-Butyl)- thiophosphoric tri amide.

7-7-7

7-7-7

Total Nitrogen (N).....7.00%
1.0% Nitrate Nitrogen
6.0% Urea Nitrogen*
Available Phosphate (P₂O₅).....7.00%
Soluble Potash (K₂O).....7.00%
Iron (Fe).....1.00%
1.00% Chelated Iron
Manganese (Mn).....0.08%
0.08% Water Soluble Manganese
Zinc (Zn).....0.08%
0.08 Water Soluble Zinc

*3.00% Urea nitrogen stabilized with dicyandiamide and N-(n-butyl) N-(n-Butyl)-thiophosphoric triamide.

12-0-10

Total Nitrogen (N).....12.00%
2.0% Nitrate Nitrogen
10.00% Urea Nitrogen*
Soluble Potash (K₂O).....10.00%
Iron (Fe).....1.00%
1.00% Chelated Iron
Manganese (Mn).....0.30%
0.30% Water Soluble Manganese
Zinc (Zn).....0.10%
0.10 Water Soluble Zinc

Also contains non-plant food ingredients: Fulvic acid and kelp extract (Ascophyllum Nodosum).

*5.00% Urea Nitrogen Stabilized with dicyandiamide and N-(n-butyl) N-(n-Butyl)-thiophosphoric triamide.

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*Gary Myers, CGCS
President*

address it immediately. Don't ignore it. Before any worker operates a piece of equipment or performs any task, they should be properly trained and that training documented. Make sure you have all of the necessary personal protective equipment (PPEs) required for your employees to perform their tasks. One could argue that eye protection is a requirement for every single task performed on a golf course. We require all of our employees to wear eye protection 100 percent of the time while working. Mowers, tractors and utility vehicles come with seat belts now. We require all employees to wear their seat belts at all times. These are just two simple safety procedures that are easy to follow. None of us wants to see any of our workers hurt and none of us wants to be in a courtroom answering questions about our lack of a safety program if one of our workers is severely injured. We also need to apply safety to ourselves and remember that we work outside exposed to the sun. Sun block and hats should be PPE for us as and our workers. Long-term sun exposure will likely cause skin damage at some point in our profession. We should be seeing our dermatologists every year for examinations. I see mine every six months and have something frozen or cut each visit. Melanoma is a serious and deadly cancer and we need to take our sun exposure very seriously. Meanwhile, I hope everyone is enjoying the weather and has a terrific spring.

Safety First

Spring is here. Temperatures are rising. Flowers and trees are blooming. Pollen is affecting our allergies, covering our cars and outdoor patio furniture. Poa annua is thriving. Mole crickets are tunneling. Goosegrass and crabgrass are preparing to make their debut. Fires are running rampant throughout the state. Increased water restrictions are being discussed. Yes, a typical Florida spring is upon us.

At the FGCSA Annual Reception held at Epcot, we said thanks to two longtime FGCSA contributors; Larry Kieffer, publication manager and Daniel Zelazek, the official photographer of *The Florida Green*. Both men contributed a great deal to our industry through their contributions to the FGCSA publications. We wish them good luck in the future.

A few messages ago, I wrote about some of the stupid – and I do mean, stupid – things I had done in the early days of my career that were unsafe practices. Our main priority is to maintain golf courses in the best possible condition our resources will allow. Along with this, keeping our employees safe should also be one of our main priorities.

We work in an environment where potential injury opportunities are abundant. Spinning reels, lifting bags and sod, slippery turf, poisonous snakes and plants, flying golf balls, falling trees. These are just some of the potential hazards.

Each operation should have a formal written safety plan that needs to be a focal point rather than a document to pull off the shelf whenever someone asks. Each operation should be conducting weekly safety meetings with their entire staff. At Walt Disney World Golf Course Maintenance, we have a plan that includes 62 topics.

We address a topic each Thursday at 11:00 am with the entire staff. Once we have gone through the entire list of topics, we start over. It is also our responsibility to make sure all safety procedures are being followed. We cannot just stand in front of our staffs in our weekly safety meeting, go over a subject and that's it.

When you see an employee not following the proper safety procedure,

The Florida Green

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ON THE COVER: Hole #1, St. Augustine Shores, St. Augustine, FL. Photo by Joel Jackson



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IN THE NEWS

South Florida GCSA Raises another \$22,500 for Missing & Exploited Kids

Joe Pantaleo, Indian Creek CC, shared a thank-you letter from Nancy McBride, of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children Foundation, which said in part, "Please accept our sincere appreciation for your gift of \$22,500 through your sponsorship of the SFGCSA 26th Annual M&E Golf Tournament. This brings the total raised by your organization's loyal support to over \$345,000." So many of our chapters have long-term relationships with local charities. Please share your events with us so we can recognize the good work our local chapters do. At last count, golf-related events raised more than \$312 million per year for Florida Charities. Keep up the good work.



Check presentation at the 26th Annual South Florida GCSA M&E Tournament last October. From left, Nancy Sullivan, Nancy McBride of the M&E Foundation and Bryan Singleton, Joe Pantaleo and Lissa Donald-Minus of the SFGCSA.

Meanwhile up in Central Florida, the chapter's annual FTGA Research Tournament was rained out after four or five holes, but the event still raised \$2,750 and the attendees did get to hear Orlando Sentinel golf writer Jeff Shain talk about the state of the game and interesting sidelights in the business of covering golf. Jeff invited everyone to not hesitate to share news about their course renovations and improvements that he can maybe use in his regular column or Downswing Golf Blog.

The Annual Barkley, Bean, Bryant and Friends Golf Pro-Am event was held on Feb. 25 in Lakeland in support of the Lakeland YMCA Par 3 and First Tee Program. These athletes, NBA star Charles Barkley and PGA pros Andy Bean and Brad Byrant have a long track record of supporting this program. Also joining them this year was Lakeland resident and Chicago Bear linebacker Nate Williams.



Superintendent Mike Giddens with Brad Bryant, Andy Bean and Charles Barkley, from left, at the 2011 Barkley, Bean, Bryant & Friends Pro-Am in Lakeland. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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FGCSA Secretary/Treasurer Nancy Miller is Florida's most recent GCSAA Certified Golf Course Superintendent. Congratulations. Photo by Joel Jackson.

The YMCA Par 3 course started out as a recreation outlet built by Publix founder George Jenkins for his employees. Eventually, the lighted nine-hole course and range was leased to the YMCA and is a center for family golf, junior golf, adaptive golf, lessons, practice and just plain fun. This course will be the Ridge Chapter's cover story for the summer Florida Green.

Congratulations to Nancy Miller, CGCS. She recently passed her certification test and is now a Certified Golf Course Superintendent.

Nancy is the superintendent at the Maple Leaf Golf and Country Club in Port Charlotte. She also is the secretary/treasurer of the Florida GCSA. You may have seen her in several GCSAA golf maintenance videos that have aired on the Golf Channel.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE

- June 4** Palm Beach GCSA Future of Golf Tournament, The Falls CC
- June 10** Seven Rivers GCSA Annual Meeting & Vendor Appreciation Day, Candler Hill GC
- June 15** Everglades GCSA Vendor Appreciation Day, The Quarry GC
- June 16** Ridge and West Coast GCSA Joint Meeting, Grasslands CC
- June 22** TGCSA Annual Meeting, Bert McCarty, Ph.D., Guest Speaker, Pipers Landing

JULY

- July 4** TGCSA Scholarship Application Deadline
- July 13** Everglades GCSA, Business Meeting & Golf, Wyndemere CC
- July 13** WCGCSA Chapter Meeting, Roundtable Discussion, Cypress Run GC
- July 14** PGCSA Annual Meeting - Eastpointe GC



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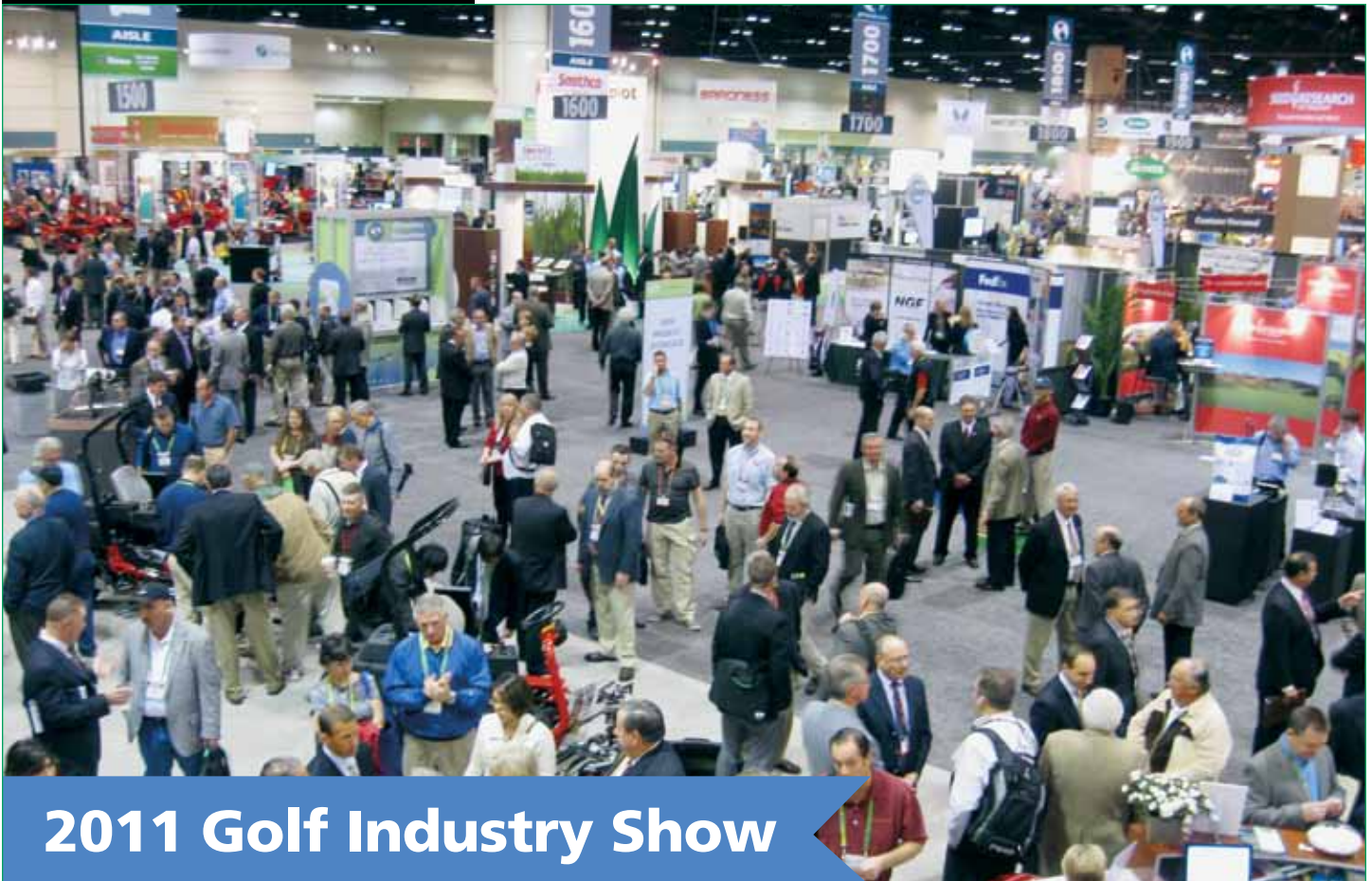
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2011 Golf Industry Show

Neither a Bust Nor a Bonanza

A smaller trade show in Orlando this year was easier to navigate and improved booth visits. Photo by Joel Jackson.

The Greatest Show in Golf came to Orlando this year and by now all the trade publication pundits have given their reviews. It wasn't necessarily a bonanza, but it certainly wasn't a bust either. It was a glimpse into the future of golf. We know it's changing, so it's entirely logical that this show also had a different look and feel.

If you're hung up on numbers, then this year's show didn't get four stars. However if you liked the fact you could get around the trade show easily, quickly and visit more booths because you weren't on a cross-country marathon, then it was a hit. With more than 5,000 seminar seats sold, once again the driving factor of quality continuing education definitely made it a success.

Perhaps the most glaring disconnect this year was the



Florida's own Bob Randquist, CGCS was elected President of the GCSAA at the Annual Meeting Feb. 11. Photo by Joel Jackson

Golf Championship being held in Palm Beach Gardens, when there are plenty of golf courses in the metropolitan Orlando area. This is one area that needs to be addressed to help reduce travel expenses when justifying participation in the GIS experience. The falling number of participants in our industry's national golf championship is a clear signal that changes need to be made in that part of the program, just as the golf industry as a whole needs to evaluate how golf courses operate and recruit new players.

As the host state this year, Florida can be proud that several of its members were honored as Bob Randquist, CGCS was elected President of the GCSAA at the Annual Meeting on Friday, Feb. 11.

Randquist is a 34-year GCSAA member, and has been at Boca Rio Golf Club since 1998. Previously, he was

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Special thanks to Superintendent Darden Nicks and the Laurel Oak C.C. for hosting this event

superintendent at Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa, Okla., for 19 years, where he hosted the 1982 and 1994 PGA Championships, the inaugural 1987 USGA Women's Mid-Amateur Championship and the 1995 and 1996 PGA Tour Championships.

Randquist has a bachelor's degree in metallurgical engineering from the University of Oklahoma. He serves on the Board of Trustees of The Environmental Institute for Golf, is a member Palm Beach GCSA, and a past president of the Oklahoma GCSA. Randquist is also a member of the Florida Turfgrass Association and the USGA Green Section committee.

Earlier in the week Christopher Flynn and Tom Vlach were co-winners of Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards in the Resort Course Division. Christopher is at the Marriott Grande Vista Resort in Orlando and Tom is at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, home of the PGA Tour's TPC Championship event. Both have done exemplary work at their courses to promote education and outreach about golf's environmental stewardship.

Congratulations to Bob, Christopher and Tom. See you next February at the GIS in Las Vegas.

Tom Vlach (right) from the PGA's TPC Sawgrass G.C. in Ponte Vedra Beach was the other national co-winner in the ELGA Resort Division. Photo courtesy of GCSAA.



Christopher Flynn (right) from the Grande Vista Resort in Orlando accepts his award from GCSAA President Jim Fitzroy as Co-winner of the GCSAA's Environmental Leaders in Golf Award in the Resort Division. Photo courtesy of GCSAA.



Fireworks and Farewells



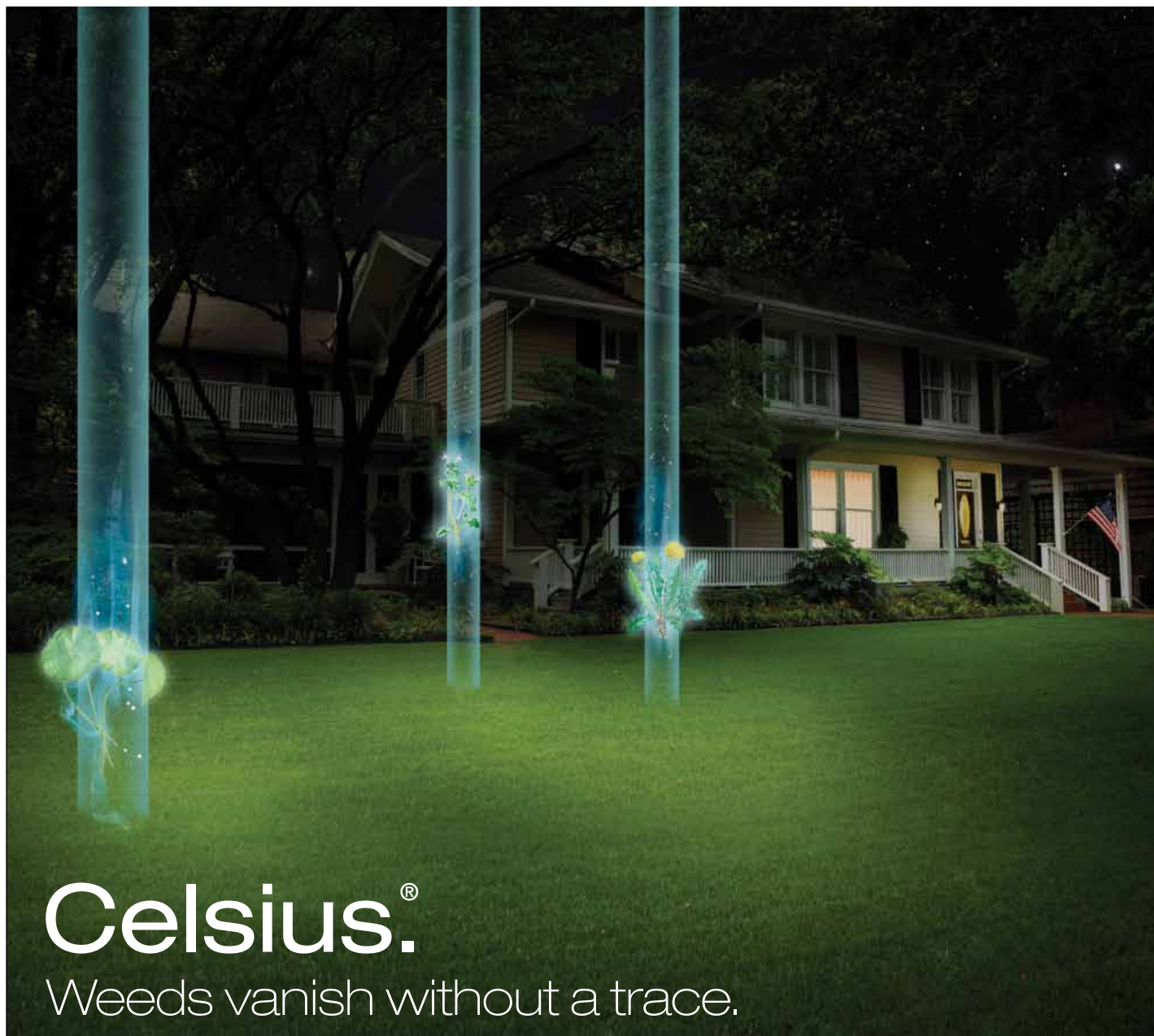
*From left, Larry Kieffer, Gary Myers, CGCS and Daniel Zelazek at the FGCSA Reception awards ceremony recognizing their combined half a century of service to *The Florida Green* magazine. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

FGCSA Association Manager Jennifer Bryan and FGCSA President Gary Myers, CGCS broke the mold when they planned the 2011 FGCSA Reception at this year's GCSAA Golf Industry Show. FGCSA members and sponsors were treated to one of the best venues we've ever had when we met at Disney's Epcot World Showcase Pavilion on Thursday evening, Feb. 10.

Jennifer arranged bus transportation from the Orange County Convention Center to Epcot and the pavilion was spacious and had seating enough for all – an important consideration after walking the trade show floor all day. Unique decorations and lighting effects coupled with a nice mix of background music made for a very pleasant atmosphere of networking and catching up with friends from around the state.

Our very special guests for the occasion were Larry Kieffer and Daniel Zelazek. Both gentlemen contributed their time and talents to making our magazine *The Florida Green* an outstanding publication over the past few decades. Daniel served as the official photographer for 29 years and Larry has been the publication manager for 22 years. Congratulations and thank you for your service to the Florida GCSA.

Following the awards presentation, the attendees were escorted to a private reserved section on the shore of the World Showcase Lagoon to watch the Epcot fireworks and laser show "Illuminations." It was a glorious ending to a wonderful evening. Many thanks to the generous support of our many sponsors that made this magical evening possible.



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Hydrocotyle spp. (Dollarweed), also called Pennywort, is a summer perennial weed common in Florida and Texas, among other warm season states. There are actually several species of dollarweed. Leaves are round in shape, approximately one inch in diameter. Weed leaves hold a bright green hue and are shiny, with scalloped margins.



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St. Augustine Shores Golf Club: Where Golf is Still Fun!

By Joel Jackson, CGCS

View from behind the par 4, 413 yard 18th hole. Photo by Joel Jackson.

The St. Augustine Shores course is located just off of U.S. Highway 1 south of the city proper. It has been around since 1973 and is now a member of the Capstone Golf Management group that owns a portfolio of five golf courses – four in Florida and one in Tennessee.

Capstone is a golf course management and development company founded to cater to the value-conscious customer. Its principals realized that the golf industry must build a market to prosper and grow, not simply run a golf course. Quoting the Capstone Web site, “The experts who say the golf industry is in trouble are the same ones who are

servicing the market with expensive greens fees, outrageously priced equipment, and cater to the well-heeled private membership types.”

Capstone takes a different view. The company promotes the game of golf to senior, beginning, and intermediate golfers through strong marketing strategies and highly efficient

...our courses are playable for everyone, conducive to walking, and promote a non-intimidating fun environment.

management techniques in order to provide affordable, accessible and sustainable golf courses.

Capstone further states, “A part of this equation is that our courses are playable for everyone, conducive to walking, and promote a non-intimidating fun environment. By applying our proven formula, Capstone Golf has successfully increased rounds, revenues, profitability and most importantly customer satisfaction at each facility we operate.”

Certainly in a time when golf participation has been flat and an era of overbuilding golf courses has come to and end, course operators can't keep doing the same thing and expect a different result. Capstone appears to be responding to

SUPERINTENDENT FACTS

Originally from Woodstock, Ga.

Family: Wife, Rachelle. Two daughters: Georgia Grace and Jenna Catherine

Education: A.S. in Golf Operations, Lake City Community College. 1995

Employment: 2008 – Present, Director of Agronomy, Capstone Golf Management Company; 2005 – 2008, Superintendent, Grand Haven GC, Palm Coast; 2001-2005, Superintendent of full course renovation, New Orleans CC, New Orleans, LA; 2000-2001 Superintendent King and Bear, World Golf Village; 1997-2000 Assistant Superintendent, Slammer and Squire World Golf Village; 1995-97 Assistant Superintendent, Isleworth G&CC, Windermere; 1994 OJT Bay Hill Club, Orlando.

Professional Affiliations & Offices Held: Board of Directors Louisiana & Mississippi GCSA; Board of Directors Gulf States GCSA; Member, board member and past president of the North Florida GCSA (2008-2010).

Hobbies & Interests: I really enjoy our family fishing trips and playing golf.



CHRIS MCCRANIE

Photo by Joel Jackson.



Mature pine woodlands frame many holes like the par-3, 5th hole. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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*View from behind the par-4, 261-yard 15th hole.
Photo by Joel Jackson.*

the challenge with their game plan. Their stable of courses includes Cecil Field in Jacksonville, St. Augustine Shores, Grand Reserve in Bunnell, Wedgefield in east Orlando and Greystone in Nashville, Tenn.

Chris McCranie, our superintendent for this issue, serves as the director of agronomy for Capstone Golf, and he directs only the Florida course-maintenance operations. Superintendents Andy Jackson and Rick Herman oversee the Cecil Field and Grand Reserve courses respectively. Club Manager Ken Genova is temporarily filling in since the Wedgefield superintendent recently retired.

Modest green fees translate into modest maintenance budgets and crowded tee sheets, so you won't find lots of bells and whistles in the maintenance programs. Preemergent and preventive programs give way to more scouting, monitoring and curative chemical applications.

The patrons of the golf courses are more concerned with playability than perfection.

During my recent visit with Chris at St. Augustine Shores I was struck by the almost unanimous sea of smiling happy faces of folks having fun and just enjoying the game of golf for its social interaction and outdoor recreation.

They were just having fun playing golf.

Seeing a bunch of seniors in the clubhouse and on the first tee reminded me how my own parents took up golf after Dad retired at age 65 and, for the next 20 years, enjoyed the camaraderie and socializing at an affordable golf club as a major part of their lives.

McCranie indicated that St. Augustine Shores comprises about 80 acres. The course is bounded by a few homes and pine and oak woodlands. There are no formalized natural areas between holes, but the shorelines of the eleven lakes and ponds are not manicured and left to be natural areas that are rogued out and cut back periodically. The native plant growth provides cover for the gators and other wildlife roaming the ponds.

McCranie says they have a healthy hawk population along with the normal list of songbirds you see on Florida courses. I also saw two active osprey nests on the site and grey squirrels, cardinals, mockingbirds, blue jays and Ron Dodson's "little bitty birds" flitting among the trees.

While McCranie serves as the superintendent at St. Augustine Shores proper his director of agronomy duties make him the central procurement officer for all the Florida courses, buying the necessary supplies at bulk prices and helping to transport and share seasonal equipment among the courses. He makes weekly visits to Orlando and monthly visits to Jacksonville and Bunnell.

McCranie is a 1995 Lake City graduate and has spent the majority of his career in north and central Florida, with four years doing a major renovation and grow-in at the New Orleans Country Club in Louisiana. Says McCranie, "One of my career goals was to do a grow-in. I fulfilled part of that desire when I was an assistant during the grow-in of The Slammer and Squire course at the World Golf Village

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ST. AUGUSTINE SHORES GOLF CLUB



Number 9 and Clubhouse. Photo by Joel Jackson.

St. Augustine Shores Staff. Howie Jones, Paul Kane, Chris McCranie, John Eddy, Vida Sizemore and Zack Large. Photo by Mike Pullen.

Location: St. Augustine

Ownership: J. Michael Pullen II, (Capstone Golf)

Playing policy: Daily Fee; 18 holes, Blue tees 5,659 yards, Par 70, Slope/Rating 112/67.5

Avg. rounds: 50,000/year

Opened: 1973. Course design attributed to Chuck Almony.

Management Team: Club Manager Faye Conklin, Superintendent Chris McCranie

Ongoing projects: Maintaining and upgrading 30-year-old "Block" irrigation system

Acreage under maintenance: 80

Greens: 2.5 acres. Turf type: Tifway 328. HOC .150 - .185 in. Overseeded with *Poa trivialis* 10 lb./1,000 sq. ft.

Green speed goals: Consistent smooth ball roll.

Tees: 3.0 acres. Turf type – Tifway 419. HOC .45 in. Overseeded with ryegrass at 15-20 lbs/1,000 sq. ft.

Fairways and Roughs: Fwys 30 acres, Tifway 419. Roughs 44.5 acres. Turf types: Tifway 419, common and bahia. No overseeding.

Non-turf areas: 29 bunkers and 11 lakes/ponds. Out-of-play areas including lake banks naturalized. Lakes maintained as needed by outside contractor.

Irrigation: Water source: Wells. 40 hp pumps. Remote controllers. No Central Control system.

Fertility program: Fairways and Roughs – Annual bulk organic application. Tees – 2X/year spring and fall. Greens – 4 granular apps per year with monthly supplemental foliar apps as needed.

Total Staff: Six. Four full time and two part time.

Key staff: Assistant Zack Large, Equipment Tech John Kane.

Crew members/operators: Vida Sizemore, John Eddy and Howie Jones.

in 1997. A few years later, thanks in large part to the recommendations from Bobby Weed and Alan MacCurrach, I got to be the man in charge of the renovation of the New Orleans CC.

“Those gentlemen were instrumental in helping me fulfill that goal and I also have to thank a couple of other mentors who helped shape my career along the way: First, Steve Durand was the superintendent at Marsh Creek

where I had a summer job, his thoughtful encouragement got me interested in pursuing a career in golf course maintenance. And once in the business, Buck

Buckner at Isleworth and Steve LaFrance at the World Golf Village helped me learn the inside ropes of the industry and I thank them for their help.”

Working on a 38-year-old golf course comes with its set of challenges for McCranie. Foremost perhaps is a certain

inconsistency of the greens mix. Various changes to the course over the years have left a variety of soil types which react differently depending on the weather conditions and keep McCranie and staff on their toes. Also the old block irrigation system springs a leak now and again. McCranie says he can't stock too many repair parts because, when they go to replace a bad valve, they discover a new and unique plumbing hookup

and communication are most important. Since they all must rely on each other to get the jobs done efficiently, I asked McCranie about his management style.

“I try to keep an even demeanor. Lots of things can go wrong on a golf course. I try to stay positive and not stress over any setbacks. Don't take it out on others,” he replied.

As far as words of wisdom to others seeking a career in turf management,

McCranie had this advice, “Don't complain to anyone; word has a way of getting around. Be thankful for what you have and each day try to do something a little

above and beyond the routine job.” As I wrapped up my interview visit with McCranie on a Tuesday morning and headed out of the clubhouse, golfers were lined up seven deep at the counter and the parking lot was full. Maybe Capstone is on to something here.

Working on a 38-year-old golf course comes with its set of challenges

almost every time.

Including himself, there are six employees at St. Augustine Shores – four full time and two part timers. McCranie and his assistant Zack Large share the pest control and irrigation duties. With small crews at each location, teamwork

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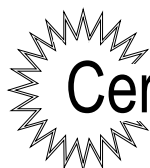
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A Live Oak strategically guards the dogleg on the 12th hole. Photo by Joel Jackson.



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Think Ahead.



Speaking of fish stories, this osprey at #1 Tee caught a fish while I waited for Chris. Photo by Joel Jackson.

McCranie's Fun Facts

Vehicle: 2007 GMC Sierra 2500

I stay home to watch: Georgia Tech Football

Last good movie I saw: "Furry Vengeance"

What I've been reading: *Boat Trader*.

Favorite meal: Maui Wowie Mahi Sandwich at the Sunset Grille, St. Augustine Beach

Prized possessions: My boat, *TIPSEA*

Favorite performers: Pink Floyd, Colt Ford

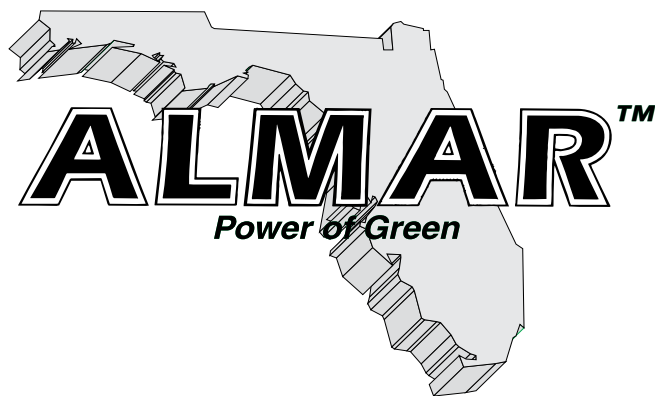
Nobody knows that I: If I told you, everybody would know

The one thing I can't stand: Liars! Always tell the truth no matter how bad it hurts

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

My dream foursome would be: My dad, Boo Weekly, Carl Spackler and me

My best fish story: Catching 51 Mahi (dolphin) on a trip last spring



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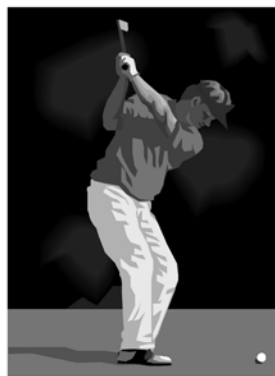
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WEED CONTROL PROGRAMS AND NEW PRODUCTS

Spot treatments are an environmentally proactive and economically practical methods of weed control.

Photo by Joel Jackson.

By Joel Jackson, CGCS Retired

Now that MSMA® is being phased out as the standard for hard-to-control grassy weeds, superintendents must rely on new products. Adding to the re-evaluation of traditional weed-control programs are the budgetary pressures from a sluggish economy. Turf managers everywhere are taking a hard look at practices and products and coming up with new approaches to weed control on their golf courses. We talked to superintendents from north, central and south Florida to get input on what they are currently doing and the products they are using.

North: Timaquana C.C., Jacksonville

Chris Neff, Superintendent

We still have a proactive preemergent program at Timaquana. We have a variety of grass types in the fairways which can lead to weed infestations in the less dense off-types. In February we make a wall-to-wall application of fertilizer sparged with Ronstar sparged. We follow that up in May alternating Barricade and Pendemethalin each year, and again in August. In October/November we apply either Surflan or Barricade, alternating the products each year. We also have tried Tower recently in the May application to help control dove weed.

We also quit overseeding several years ago. We made that decision after thorough

discussions of the pros and cons, and in preparation for a U.S. Amateur event. The net result has been the ability to provide better year-around playing conditions by not having to go through seed establishment and transition periods in the fall and spring. It has definitely made overall conditions more consistent to manage.

Dove weed and purple nutsedge present our most persistent problems. The dove weed likes to inhabit the hard-to-mow and hard-to-spray areas like bunker faces and shady wood-lines. The nutsedge seems to be a perennial problem because our heavier soil profile tends to stay moist since we are near the river. We are not plagued by much goosegrass or signalgrass, thank goodness. I also think our attention to increasing fairway aeration and topdressing frequency has minimized some of the traditional weed problems.

Because of our mix of fairway grasses, uniform coverage is important so we do still do a lot of boom spraying to control

control as it is often harder to see outbreaks in the roughs.

We do a fair amount of spot treating for dove weed since it is on those hard-to-boom-spray areas like lake banks and bunker faces and any outbreaks in the roughs and naturalized areas. The assistant superintendent and the spray tech each take nine holes, then the next time they switch nines for a fresh pair of eyes looking for weed infestations. They will make runs with RoundUp or Revolver and Monument, depending on the target weeds and sites.

We stopped using MSMA two years ago in preparation for its eventual cancellation. We knew we had to develop a working trust of the new products. We alternate Monument, Dismiss and Revolver. In taking weed management classes at the Golf Industry Show over the years, I have learned from Drs. McCarty and Yelverton that it is essential to keep rotating products to minimize the chance of the weeds

building up resistance.

We are evaluating Celsius, Katana and Specticle so we can see how they work on our site, again building up that trust factor. I always

Turf managers everywhere are taking a hard look at practices and products and coming up with new approaches

weed outbreaks, especially for *Poa annua* control in November-December. Then we look for any breakthroughs and make another widespread application. After that we will spot treat for any subsequent outbreaks. The same goes for sedge

make trial applications on our driving range. For instance Specticle is reported to have up to 6 to 9 months control. To find out how the turf will react and how the weeds respond, I use the range as our test plot before we move on to applications to



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Central: Laurel Oak CC, Sarasota

Darden Nicks, Superintendent

We have modified our weed-control programs in response to budget cutbacks and observation of weed pressure, or the lack of it. We have been able to cut back on the perennial multiple large-scale grassy-weed preemergent applications of Ronstar® sparged onto fertilizer, that were previously employed, thus creating substantial savings in the chemical budget. We still apply seasonal preemergent, spot-spray applications of Barricade® to some roughs and bunker faces to help control broadleaf

weeds and Poa annua.

Our biggest weed problems are nut sedges, tropical signalgrass, dove weed and some bull paspalum. We do apply some Dimension® preventively around the clubhouse and driving range perimeters to control tracking of ryegrasses used to overseed those areas.

To control our cool-season grassy weeds, we apply tank mixes of Celsius® (3 oz/A) and Katana® (2.5 oz/A) via boom spray in roughs and on bunker faces.

In the summer season to combat dove weed, signalgrass and sedges, we increase the rates to 5 oz/A of Celsius® and add 12 oz/A of Dismiss South®. Sometimes we will replace Katana in our Celsius® mix with .88 oz/A of Monument® when spraying sedges, broadleaves and late season Poa.

We also go after dove weed with the label rate of Buctril and spot spray outbreaks found usually in shady areas, mulch beds, bunker faces and north-facing mound slopes.

Fortunately we do not have a big goosegrass problem, but if we have the need to treat for goosegrass, we use a mix of

Revolver® with a “pinch” (less than 1 oz) of Sencor®.

The bulk of our weed-control efforts are done by spot spraying from utility carts with small volume electric spray tanks. The spraying is done by the superintendent or assistant as part of a concerted program to target any current weed outbreaks. The weed infestations are scouted, sprayed, logged and monitored for control effectiveness.

We definitely take the IPM approach to our weed-control programs and we have found that our region of the county tends to have heavier blue/grey clayey soils, so the product stays in place longer and requires less frequent follow-up applications. We no longer use MSMA for grassy weed control. The heavier soils have the added benefit of having lower nematode populations. But that's another story.

South: Boca West CC

Steve Wright, CGCS Head Superintendent and K.C. Henderson, Superintendent Fazio II Course

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HANDS ON

input on herbicide programs on seashore paspalum turfgrass. Overall, Boca West like many others have adjusted their programs not only because of budget crunches but also based on the increased prices of the newer, more selective, herbicides.

While Boca West still boom-sprays for weed control, that too is done with a spot-treatment approach by targeting the higher-traffic, damper areas that are more prone to weed infestation.

Follow-up treatments of sporadic outbreaks are done with the smaller electric 15-gal. sprayers; 2.5-gal. backpack sprayers are used when treating paspalum encroachment into the bermudagrass.

One of Wright's chief priorities is the overall safety factor regarding turf responses to products, making sure to minimize any root pruning effects. He tries to maintain a uniform inventory of products that will give results on both grass types. As a last resort, Wright and K.C. are not bashful about using a pocket knife to administer the *coup de grace* on persistent or stray weeds.

In the paspalum on the Fazio II course, signalgrass and crabgrass are the biggest headache in the summer and *Poa annua* in the cooler months. Henderson says if they go after the signalgrass in the cooler months beginning in October, he has good results just using salt to knock back the plants. The procedure is to wet the signalgrass clumps lightly with water from a spray bottle and then sprinkle granular salt over the plant. The cooler weather prevents the plant from regenerating quickly. He also says even if the plant does not completely die, it is easily pulled out once it weakens.

On the bermudagrass courses, signalgrass, goosegrass and crabgrass are the biggest offenders.

Back in 2009 and 2010, with the looming cancellation of MSMA, Wright said they tried everything on the signalgrass and crabgrass, but MSMA with a little Sencor was still the most effective product. Combined with Monument, it also worked well on controlling encroaching paspalum in the bermudagrass. Of course MSMA is no longer a viable option as inventories of the old turf-labeled materials are being used up.

Now Wright and company are using tank mixes of Celsius (12 oz/A) and Dismiss South (5 oz/A) to control the big three weed pests in bermuda and it took multiple applications to affect the signalgrass. Henderson uses a Dismiss (*not* Dismiss South) and Drive, a mix called Solitaire to control goose and sedge in paspalum. He said that the product worked best in the early spring with temperature in the 70s. Once the temps starting getting up into 80s he could see some turf burn.

Boca West also maintains an active preemergent program. Formerly using Ronstar and Dimension mixes, Wright discovered that the new Tower product is working quite well. They make three applications a year; March, May and late August or early September. These applications help suppress goosegrass and signalgrass in the warm months and *Poa Annua* in the cool season. As Wright noted, "Timing is everything."

Currently Wright is also evaluating Specticle, another new preemergent product to see how it might fit into their program.




ROTATE, ROTATE, ROTATE!

By Todd Lowe
USGA Florida Region Senior
Agronomist

Goosegrass removed from a Texas putting green that was later confirmed to be resistant to a sulfonylurea herbicide.” Photo courtesy Gary Brooks, Bayer Environmental Science.

Golf courses constantly battle weeds in our region due to subtropical conditions that favor rapid establishment and growth. Eradication of weeds however, is economically and environmentally impossible. Thus a philosophy of maintaining an acceptable level of control is required and the use of herbicides is a necessary part of an integrated pest management program. Weed management programs on most Florida golf courses generally includes two to four preemergent herbicide applications for warm-season and cool-season weeds, and spot treatments of postemergence herbicides to kill infestations of established weeds.

There are a variety of herbicides that are effective on turfgrass weeds in our region. Factors that are often considered when purchasing herbicides include cost, safety, efficacy, and ease of application. However, an additional factor that is overlooked is mode of action. It is human nature to continue using products that provide consistent results, or are the least expensive, but we



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Some annual weeds like goosegrass and annual bluegrass produce thousands of seeds that can be quite genetically diverse. Some seedlings may have a herbicide-resistant gene, and if the same herbicide is applied each year, this gene can be passed along to future generations. To date,

goosegrass and annual bluegrass resistance has been confirmed with several different turfgrass herbicides.

For goosegrass, resistance has been documented with Illoxan (*diclofop*), Fusilade II (*fluazifop*), Dimension (*dithiopyr*), Pendulum & others (*pendimethalin*), Barricade (*prodiamine*), Surflan (*oryzalin*), Balan (*benefin*) and Team (*trifluralin*). For annual bluegrass, they include Dimension, Pendulum & others, Barricade, Surflan, Balan, Team, Prograss (*ethofumesate*), Princep & others (*simazine*), Aatrex & others (*atrazine*) and Sencor (*metribuzin*). There has been a recent report of sulfonyleurea herbicide resistance in goosegrass as well, but results are not yet published (*see picture*).

Rotating different modes of action is recommended to reduce the development of herbicide resistance. An example might include rotating

Ronstar into a preemergent Barricade program, if it has been applied consecutively for several years. Pendulum and Surflan would be poor choices for rotation in this scenario, as these

It is human nature to continue using products that provide consistent results, or are the least expensive, but we may be doing more harm to our golf course in the long run.

chemicals have similar modes of action as Barricade. Some basic knowledge of herbicide families is necessary to make an informed decision, but these are easily accessible via the internet or turf management textbooks.

Consider your weed control programs and whether reduced control of a particular weed like goosegrass or annual bluegrass has occurred. If the same herbicide has been applied for several years consecutively, then there may be a chance that resistance is occurring. Rotate herbicides with different modes of action to reduce the likelihood of herbicide resistance and improve weed management efficacy at your golf course.



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JUMP START HIGH TRAFFIC AREAS

By Todd Lowe

Golf cart and other vehicle traffic has taken its toll on bermudagrass health over the past few months and has created a ragged appearance in high traffic areas. Bermudagrass growth decreases significantly when nighttime temperatures drop below 50 degrees F and eventually ceases to grow at all. Florida golf courses receive most of their play at this time, and continual traffic removes green turfgrass

Like a bear coming out of hibernation, the turf is hungry, and feeding it at this time will significantly improve turf quality.

leaves and exposes the tan-colored underlying stems. The soil in high traffic areas also becomes compacted, and this further reduces turfgrass root growth and oxygen uptake.

Although there continue to be a few cold nights, a gradual temperature increase over the past few weeks has caused the bermudagrass to green up throughout the region. Golf course roughs have been especially responsive to increased soil temperatures, and are maintaining better color and overall quality. Now that sustained bermudagrass growth and recovery can take place, several cultural practices are recommended to improve turf quality.

High traffic areas will benefit from soil cultivation practices at this time. Deep slicing or solid-tine aeration are particularly beneficial, as they cause less surface disruption than hollow-tine aeration, while relieving soil compaction.

Increased fertilization will also improve turf recovery. Most nutrient reserves have been depleted, and the turf must convert stored energy from its roots to create new green leaves. Like a bear coming out of hibernation, the turf is hungry, and feeding it at this time will significantly improve turf quality.

Peak winter season play will continue over the next couple of months, but increasing soil temperatures will help sustain better turf quality. Give your turf a little jump start at this time, with supplemental soil cultivation to relieve compaction, and fertilization to feed the grass. ■



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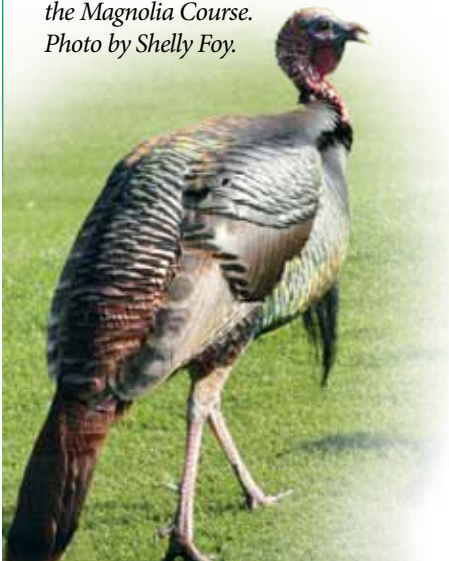
On the Disney courses you can find solitude even in the middle of the busy resort. Photo by Joel Jackson.

By Shelly Foy

The words “Disney” and “Magic” easily go together. I learned first hand how true this is when I had the opportunity to spend a couple of days visiting the Walt Disney World golf courses, all five of which are fully certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries.

There are four 18-hole courses, and one 9-hole walking course at Disney World.

Close up of one of Disney's wild turkeys on the Magnolia Course. Photo by Shelly Foy.



The Palm (130 acres) and Magnolia (142 acres) were the first, built in 1971, both designed by Joe Lee. Lake Buena Vista Golf Course, also a Joe Lee design (105 acres) opened in 1972, and Osprey Ridge (194 acres), a Fazio course, opened in 1991. Oak Trail (32.7 acres), the nine-hole walking course, was designed by Ron Garl and opened in 1980.

Every golf course has a unique story to tell. The foundations for their success are staff longevity and commitment to their environmental programs, the abundance of wildlife on the properties, and the fact that even though you know you are in the middle of the Walt Disney World Resort, on the majority of golf holes you think you are in the middle of Florida one hundred years ago.

The golf management team of the Disney Courses, Gary Myers, CGCS, manager, Golf Course Maintenance Operations; Robert (Bob) Karnes, superintendent of Osprey Ridge and Lake Buena Vista; and Scott Welder, superintendent of Magnolia, Palm, and Oak Trail, collectively has almost 100 years of experience managing these courses. Myers has been at WDW for 15 years, Karnes for 37, and Welder is celebrating 40 years in 2011. The three of them know every square foot of the

properties, and their experience helps them anticipate problems and head them off.

Karnes, the environmental liaison for the golf courses, spends a lot of his free time reaching out to schools to promote environmental stewardship. He and Tami Jones, superintendent, are currently working with five schools in the area, either giving talks or working on community outreach projects.

Karnes has a goal of speaking to 5,000 students this year, and he is well on his way to meeting this goal. He and Jones have what they call the “Audubon International Road Show” - they enlarge and mount wildlife photos to help teach kids about Florida wildlife.

To garner support from other cast members, they are hosting a WDW Golf Maintenance Photo Contest, offering prizes, and enlarging to winners to join the road show in local schools.

“Every day I come to work and just try to make a little magic happen,” Karnes says. Sometimes it is hard to gauge success of environmental programs, but Karnes was thrilled to recently receive a call from the front desk of the Old Key West Resort letting him know guests are asking for hotel rooms close to the golf

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A golfer shares Disney's Oak Trail Course with a flock of wild turkeys. Photo by Shelly Foy.

course because they have heard about the course's certification in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program.

When talking to Welder about what drives his commitment to the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, he said, "I am old school. My father taught me the importance of leaving things better than I found them."

In discussing changes in golf course management over the years, and specifically as they relate to environment issues, both Joel Jackson (who spent 20 years at Disney before retiring) and Welder agreed that "We've gotten better... the sense of environmental awareness is there, and it gets better every year."

Jackson added "Technology, methods, and products have and continue to improve as well."

The majority of cast members (maintenance staff) are also long-term

employees. Every cast member we rode by, or spoke to, seemed genuinely happy to be there. Whether the course staff is filling bird feeders or monitoring nest boxes, or rangers are speaking to golfers about the turkeys, or the starters are telling golfers about the wildlife they can expect to see on the course, there is a collective effort to share environmental information with guests.

The longevity and continuity of the staff and their enjoyment of their jobs is an asset and a reason they work so well together as a team. As strongly as they feel about making magic happen on the golf courses every day, they also are committed to continuing to protect and enhance the natural environment of the golf courses.

One of the highlights for me was watching golfers and a flock of turkeys (estimated 300 on property) amicably share the golf course.

A lot of families play the courses and

sharing a round of family golf with turkey, deer, and more birds than one could count can only add to the magic of a trip to Disney. Welder told me there were days when you can round a corner and see herds of deer on the fairways. Most of the golf holes are bordered by hundreds of acres of undeveloped property, and wildlife has ample space for safe travel.

On the Palm Course, according to Welder, "each hole is like its own little world."

We came upon a fairway where a large flock of wading birds was foraging on the fairways between two lakes, turtles were sunning on a log, and an osprey was flying overhead looking for lunch. It was an amazing experience, yet just another day on the course for Welder, who has this pleasure every day.

The abundance of wildlife rarely causes damage to the course.

"Occasionally, if the deer are spooked,

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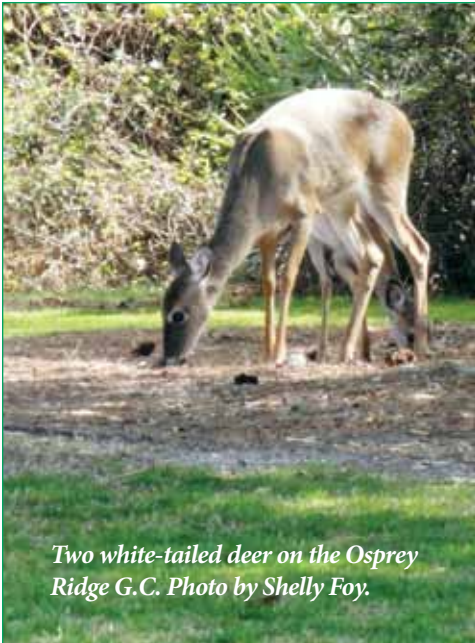
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Two white-tailed deer on the Osprey Ridge G.C. Photo by Shelly Foy.

they can cause a little damage on the greens, but nothing we can't handle," he said.

Two days on the Disney golf courses do not seem like two days at a major tourist attraction. On the Lake Buena Vista Course there are holes where you can see townhouses, cars, buses, and even parts of Downtown Disney, but there is an overwhelming sense of quiet on most of the holes on all five courses.

The next time you make the trip, do yourself a favor and don't miss the golf courses. Take the time to notice the smiles on the faces of the staff, the abundance of wildlife on every hole, and don't forget to breathe deeply and take it all in on those holes where you feel you are the only person out there.



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Helping Others Get Into the Swing of Things

*By Bob
Randquist,
CGCS*

I began playing golf as a teenager and quickly fell in love with

the game. After nearly 40 years in the golf course management profession, I admit I am biased in my feelings about the game.

I believe there are few leisure activities that are as enjoyable as golf. Golf offers us the wonderful opportunity to appreciate nature's beauty while enjoying the camaraderie of others. Yet, national tracking data indicates the number of people playing golf is flattening. Certainly the challenging economy has had an impact. We know that leisure spending tends to be the first to go when the belt tightening begins.

Even before the economy soured, golfer participation showed signs of waning. For the past four years we have had more golf courses close than open. That means the loss of opportunities to play, the loss of

employment opportunities and the loss of open green spaces in our communities.

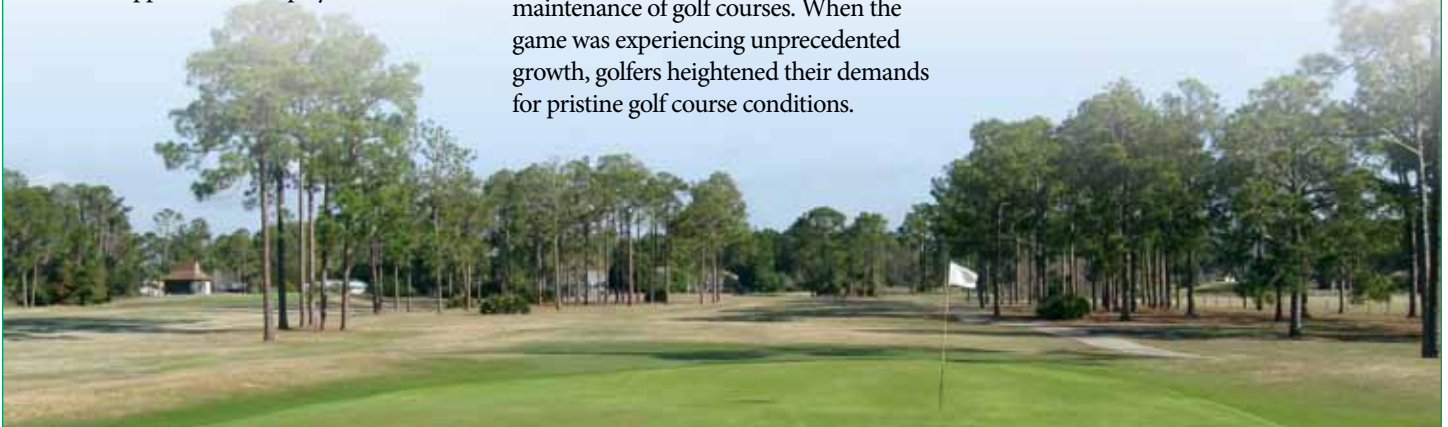
Some industry experts say the reduction in the number of golf courses is simply a market correction. My opinion is that we need to focus on getting more people to play this great game. Golf has so much to offer for people of all ages and backgrounds. It is one of the few activities that is truly accessible to all. Organized golf has responded with a number of programs aimed at increasing golfer participation and making the game more affordable. As president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, I am heartened by what the industry is doing to address its challenges.

But I believe the renaissance of the game can be driven by golfers as well. They are the ones who can introduce friends and family to the game. They are the ones who can work with golf facility leaders to adopt programs that not only attract new golfers, but retain them as repeat customers. Golfers can also help to make the game more affordable. A large share of golf facility expenses comes in the maintenance of golf courses. When the game was experiencing unprecedented growth, golfers heightened their demands for pristine golf course conditions.

With a strong cash flow, the industry reacted by meeting those demands. The consequence came in the higher costs that came with providing such conditions. Increased expenses for labor, fertilizer, pesticide, water, maintenance equipment, etc., continue to drive up the cost of the game. As a result, the game has become too expensive for some people.

What does this mean for golf? It means that consumer demand and professional desires for perfect golf conditions have diminished the core appeal of the game. Golf is a visual sport, offering some of the most stimulating environments to the human eye. But the "look" or the aesthetics of the sport should not mask that the most important aspect of the golf course is how it plays, not how it looks.

Part of the beauty of the game has been that golfers must develop the skills and mental toughness to play golf shots from a variety of lies, both good and bad. I think by returning some of our focus back to providing economically realistic playing conditions, we can make golf more accessible and enjoyable for everyone.



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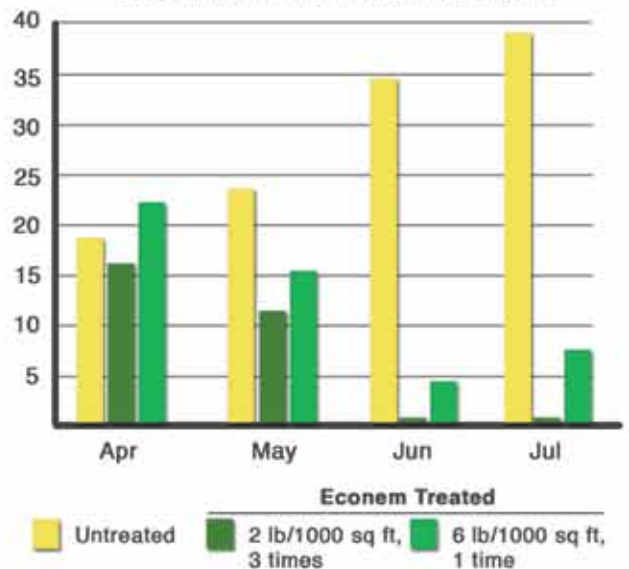
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**GREEN SIDE UP
BY JOEL JACKSON**

I can't help continuing the seasonal theme. Spring has sprung and the new growing season is upon us and hopefully any winter woes are on the mend. We're in that time of renewal that rubs off

on us too when the greening up of the turf and the buds and blooms offer the hope of new life, new beginnings.

We hope that the economy is regenerating. Many prognosticators in business, and especially golf, keep saying the face of golf is changing – or needs to change – to survive, much less grow. I'm not a pessimist by nature, so I hold out for modest growth in the game as folks retool and re-evaluate their approaches to the business of the game and individual golf course operations.

There is an adage that "Success comes when preparation meets opportunity!"

Preparation and opportunity are things we have some control over. Preparation for sure is something you can control by your daily choices,

planning and goal setting. Opportunities are less directly controlled by a person, but can be enhanced by one's behavior and approach to their careers and situations.

Five points by Wendy Enelow, author of *Expert Resumes for Military-to-Civilian Transitions* and *Executive Resume Toolkit*.

- Moving your career forward is your responsibility
 - Dedicate yourself to lifelong learning
 - Stay visible
 - Maintain an active responsive network
 - Dedicate yourself to your career, and understand that it will require your active participation – forever
- That last line is the clincher. All chapters are seeing a break between the generations especially in terms of participation at meetings and

but also in volunteerism in general. It is getting harder and harder to get folks to step up and serve on the local boards. Now, more than ever, our associations need to be strong in the face of growing regulations and changes in the golf industry.

Older and younger superintendents need to bridge any widening gaps to understand the history and value of camaraderie of one generation and the needs and perceptions of the other. Younger and newer is not always better and older and traditional is not always wiser. A combination of both is what's practical and necessary to be the most effective for each individual and the profession.

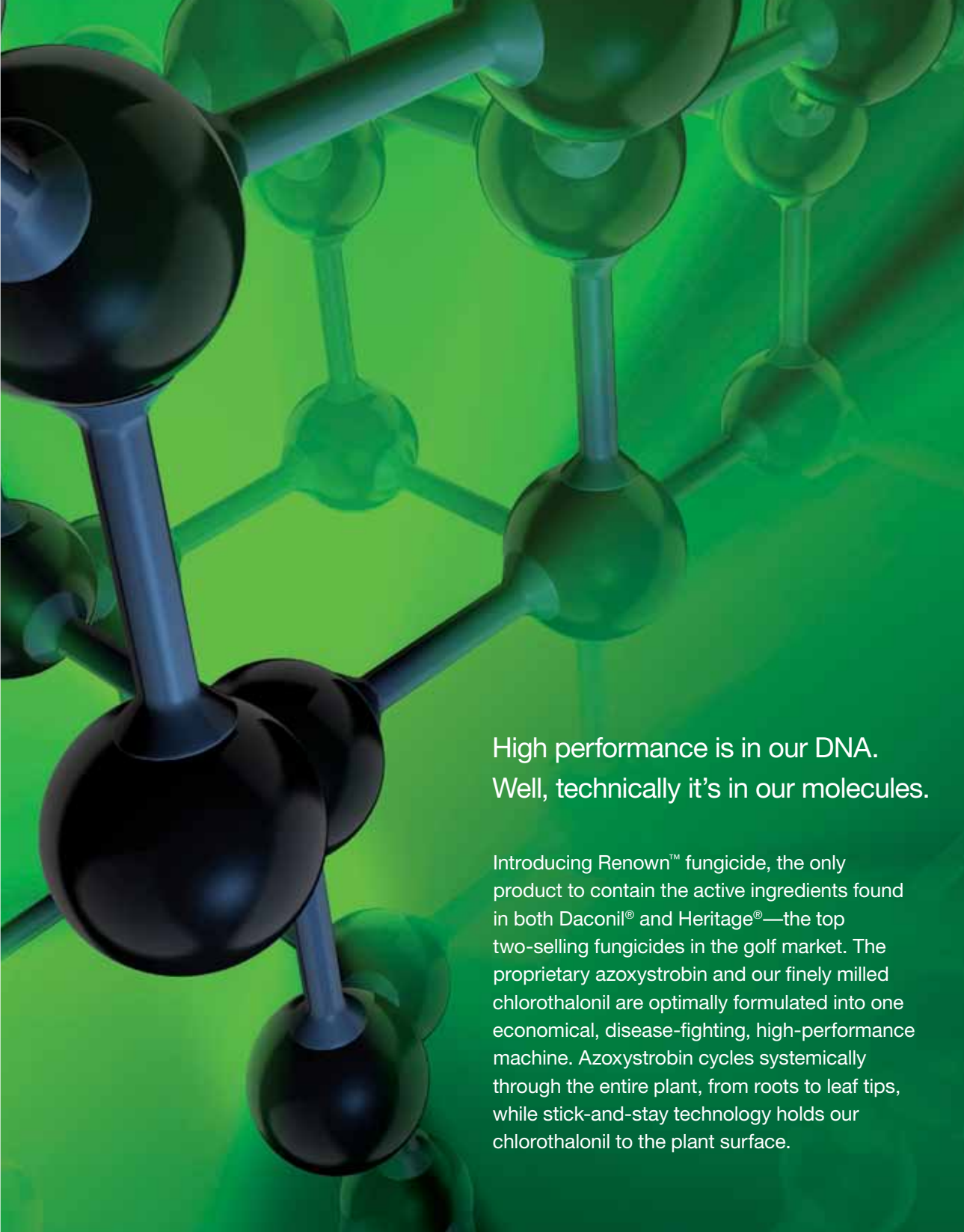


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