

The Florida Green

WINTER 2011





*Gary Myers, CGCS
President*

people asking for cost reductions may not understand the effects of skipping maintenance practices

Be pro-active. It is better for you to look for and implement cost cutting measures than to be told what to cut. At staff meetings you hear what is going on within your club. If revenues are down, it is obviously time to look at reducing cost. While speaking with a group of Club Managers recently, I was asked if it was better for the General Manager to tell the Superintendent what to cut or give them a number or percentage to cut. I obviously told them that it is better to give the Superintendent the flexibility to determine where they can reduce cost. By being pro-active, you control your reductions rather than being told what to reduce.

Remind. You may be wondering why I stuck this word in there. It also pertains to communication but, I put it in its own category. You will need to remind your leaders that you are making cost reductions and doing more with less and when the economy picks up and revenues increase, you need those dollars back into your operating budgets. Don't let them forget that you made those reductions for the short term. In order to maintain quality conditions going forward, you'll need to restore many of those reductions. I also pointed this out to that group of Club Managers at their summit meeting.

I hope all of you had a Safe and Happy Holiday Season and here is to 2011 being a prosperous and profitable year for all of us.

Realistic Optimism

Another year has passed and it's a good year to have behind us. The economists predicted that the economy would pick up in 2010. It did pick up, just not at the pace we hoped for. I'm beginning to look at the economy forecast like a typical Florida summer day, it might rain, might not. In 2011 the economy might improve, might not. Golf rounds and revenues might pick up, might not. However, I am more optimistic than pessimistic and believe that the economy and golf revenues will improve in 2011.

Over the past couple of years, we have been asked to do more with less. With revenues down, maintenance cost reductions have been the target. We cut labor hours, expenses and prolonged equipment life. For certain, when we were asked or told to make those cuts, we were not told that we could also lower playing conditions expectations. Golfers that are paying the rates we are charging expect quality conditions and it's our responsibility to provide them. Even if golfers did not expect them, our pride would not let conditions slip. Here are some suggestions for dealing with cost cutting.

Have an open mind and look at the big picture. With revenues down, clubs must reduce expenses in order to remain profitable. Look at your operation and determine where you can save and don't be inflexible.

Communicate. Make sure you communicate with everyone on what you are doing. Let your leaders know about reductions and what the ramifications will be. Communicate with your staff to let them know why you are making particular decisions. Communicate with the other departments. Make sure your finance team knows your cost cutting measures. This includes detailing short term or long term sustaining reductions. You may decide to skip a fertilizer application, an aeration, and a topdressing application. These would be examples of short term reductions, but are not sustainable over the long term. You need to explain why. Remember, the

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ON THE COVER: 15th hole. Camp Creek G.C., WaterSound, FL. Photo by Joel Jackson



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From left: Joel Jackson and Jennifer Innes received the PBGCSA's generous \$10,000 research donation from Steve Pearson, CGCS and Chapter President Larry Balko.

2010 Ends on a Generous Note

Florida GCSA chapters got into the holiday spirit early in the fall of 2010 when the Everglades GCSA made \$5000 donations to the GCSAA's Environmental Institute for Golf and to the FGCSA Research Account.

The Palm Beach GCSA followed suit in October at the Joint Palm Beach/Treasure Coast meeting at the Loxahatchee Club by presenting a \$10,000 research check to the Florida GCSA. The Palm Beach chapter also donated \$5000 to The First Tee of the Palm Beaches junior golf program at the same event.

The Treasure Coast GCSA made the fall semester a little brighter for two local students pursuing careers in golf course management by awarding them scholarships. The two \$1000 grants went to Dustin Naumann, a student at Penn State University who worked at the Grand Harbor CC, and to Jake Connolly, a student at Lake City Community College who worked at the Monarch CC and Harbour Ridge Y& CC.

Steve Pearson, CGCS of the Palm Beach Golf Course Superintendents Association presented a \$5,000 check to Craig Watson, Executive Director of the First Team Program of the Palm Beaches to help with the development of young golfers and good citizens.

Photo by Joel Jackson.





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The Treasure Coast Golf Course Superintendents Association presented \$1,000 scholarships to two students from the area majoring in golf course management. Pictured are Scholarship Chairman Chris Gast, Jake Connolly attending Florida Gateway College (Lake City), Dustin Naumann attending Penn State University, and Treasure Coast President Tim Cann.

And last but not least, Tim Hiers, CGCS and Greg Pheneger, CGCS teamed up also at the Palm Beach/Treasure Coast meeting to present Shelly Foy of the USGA Green Section Florida Region with plaques for her years of service on the Audubon International Board of Directors and the FGCSA's 2010 Marie Roberts Award for Lifetime Service to the Florida GCSA. Shelly

was unable to attend the original awards ceremony back in May, and we wanted to acknowledge her contributions in a public forum. Many chapters hosted Christmas outings and events in December which was too late to make this issue, but we'll be looking forward to spreading the joy they shared with others in the next issue. Happy New Year, everyone.



2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- FEB 7-12** GCSAA Golf Industry Show (GIS), Orlando
- FEB 10** FGCSA GIS Reception, Disney's EPCOT Center

MARCH

- MAR 7** Ridge Invitational, Eaglebrooke GC
- MAR 14** NFGCSA Florida Research Tournament, Pablo Creek GC
- MAR 15** FTGA Regional Seminar, Orlando
- Mar 16** FTGA Regional Seminar, Vero Beach
- Mar 21** Suncoast Scramble, Laurel Oak CC
- Mar 24** South Florida Turf Expo, UF/IFAS REC

APRIL

- APRIL 11** North Florida, Memorial ~~ZZZ~~Tournament, Marsh Creek G.C.
- April 18** Seven Rivers Jeff Hayden Envirotron Classic, World Woods
- April 21** Everglades Spring Symposium, Naples

MAY

- MAY 12** FGCSA Spring Board Meeting & Past Presidents Dinner, Naples
- May 13** FGCSA/USGA Seminar, Naples
- May 13-14** EGCSA GC Horn & Poa Annua Classic, Naples Beach Hotel

Shelly Foy (center) received service recognition awards from Tim Hiers, CGCS (left) representing Audubon International and Greg Pheneger, CGCS representing the Florida GCSA at the October joint meeting of the PBGCSA and TCGCSA in Jupiter. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Without the generous support from our sponsors, this event would not have been possible. We look forward to seeing you next year for what promises to be an even better event. Thanks to everyone who participated – especially to those who volunteered their time and energy to help make this event happen: Mike Carver, Billy Browning (Harrell's), Tom Morrow (DST), TJ Swafford (Hendrix & Dail), Jaimi Clark (DST), and Jason Nugent (Bethel Farms).

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Camp Creek Golf Club:

Part of Florida's Northwest Passage

BY Joel Jackson

A maze of bunkers guards the 13th green. Photo by Joel Jackson.

As the title indicates, this issue of *The Florida Green* ventures into Florida's great Northwest Territory, affectionately known as the Panhandle. When the Tallahassee-based Coastal Plains GCSA dissolved, we added our At-Large FGCSA members as a group to represent this region in the state in our cover story rotation.

In September, I packed up our new digital camera, tripod and digital recorder and headed to WaterSound, near Panama City Beach, to visit with Larry Livingston, CGCS and tour the three area golf courses under his supervision: Camp Creek, Shark's Tooth and The Origins. These courses and a coastal

development called Water Color are all owned by the St. Joe Company. Once a giant in the paper industry, the St. Joe Company has also become a major land developer. Their approach to responsible development is a key part this story.

Florida's coastline has several nicknames depending on the region. Down the east coast and up the west coast most of us are familiar with The First Coast, The Space Coast, The Treasure Coast, The Gold Coast, the Keys and the Ten Thousand Islands, The Platinum Coast and The Suncoast. Once you get north of Tampa, The Nature Coast, The Forgotten Coast and The Emerald Coast are perhaps less widely known.

Once you get to the Emerald Coast, roughly from Panama City to Pensacola, we find the Gulf Coast GCSA, which is home to many of our northwest Florida superintendents and most of our At-Large FGCSA members. The Gulf Coast members have a thriving chapter affiliated with the GCSAA, but geography makes interaction with the rest of the FGCSA quite a challenge.

However, as Florida superintendents they know they have a stake in the state-wide issues we all face and as such made a donation of \$2,500 for the Florida Turf Industry Economic Impact Study which will be released soon. So we bid welcome to our FGCSA At-Large members in

northwest Florida and in the Gulf Coast Chapter to the pages of the Florida Green.

One such dual-member is Larry Livingston, CGCS who is no stranger to many of us down the Peninsula from his many years in the Tampa-Sarasota area. Livingston made his move to the Panama City Beach area ten years ago to become the superintendent of the Tom Fazio designed Camp Creek Golf Club. In 2006 and 2007 he also assumed oversight of the Origins and Shark's Tooth courses located just a few minutes' drive north and east from his office at Camp Creek.

"St. Joe recognized their strength was

in developing, not operating, projects including golf courses, hotels, marinas and even upscale camping areas," Livingston said. "So, they brought in Troon Management to operate the golf courses. They liked Troon's track record with high-end properties and felt it would be a good fit."

The Emerald Coast is similar to other coastal areas in Florida in that everyone loves the beach and that's where you logically find the most development, but you don't have to stray too far inland to be surrounded by the woodlands of the Point Washington State Forest. It is in that environment we find the Troon Trio of golf courses.

"St. Joe leaves as much native mate-

rial as possible whenever they develop a property," Livingston said. "You will see very mature trees and native vegetation up close to most all of the buildings and structures. It's almost like they dropped them into the landscape by helicopter. In all the condo or apartment sites, there are always large green spaces or 'commons' areas for people to enjoy and the kids to play."

The golf courses are surrounded by these woodlands and you see very little evidence of the residential areas, which makes for a truly enjoyable outdoor experience. In addition, the Shark's Tooth layout borders Lake Powell, a unique body of water known as a coastal

CAMP CREEK GOLF CLUB

Location:

WaterSound, Fla.

Ownership:

St. Joe Company, managed by Troon Golf; private 18 holes, championship tees 7159 yards, par 72, Slope/Rating 152/76, Avg. rounds 21,000/year.

Designed by: Tom Fazio, constructed by MacCurrach Golf Construction and opened in 2001.

Management Team:

Club Manager Mike Jansen, Head Golf

Professional Jaxon Hardy, Golf Course Superintendent Larry Livingston

Major projects: 2006 bunker renovation – added SandDam liners and new sand.

Acres under maintenance: 145.6; total property: 1023.3

Greens: 3.45 acres TifEagl; avg size 7485 sq. ft.; HOC 0.110 - 0.125 in.; no overseeding. Green speed goals 10 - 11.5.

Tees: 4.5 acres. Tifway 419. HOC 0.45 in. Overseeded with Paragon



Camp Creek Maintenance Staff

ryegrass at 15 lbs/1000 sq. ft.

Fairways and Roughs: Fwys 40 acres, Roughs 37 acres; Tifway 419 bermudagrass; HOC 0.45 in. on fwys and 1.5 in/ on roughs. Fwys overseeded with TMI Paragon Ryegrass @ 500 lbs/acre. **Non-turf areas:** 65 bunkers – sand type: Red Bay sub-angular from the Lamar Pit, hand raked. 12 large, native sand, waste areas raked with a Toro Sand Pro. 8 lakes total 40.15 acres. Maintained in-house.

Irrigation: Effluent with ground

water back-up.

Flowtronex VFD pump station @ 2,250 gpm. Three -75 hp turbine pumps. Toro Site Pro E-Osmac controls. 1,333 heads with part-circle heads along perimeters. Fertilization: 85 gpm double-headed pump with two 2,500-gal. holding tanks with concrete containment. Two back-up groundwater well, one 6-in.

and one 2-in. 2-million-gallon irrigation reservoir.

Water Conservation: ET-based irrigation programming adjusted by field observations.

Total Staff: 21. (18 full time and three part time at 40 hrs/week). Key staff: Josh Parker, first assistant; Clay Morgan, second assistant/irrigation tech; Tim Greggo and Greg Snow, equipment techs; Dave Conway, pest control; James Yeakel, admin assistant for all three courses.

dune lake. This stretch of Florida coastline has the largest number of coastal dune lakes in the US, Livingston noted. Using the Florida Atlas; I counted nearly 20 from Destin to Panama City. The lakes are really coastal estuaries that become sealed off from the Gulf by the shifting beach sand bars. Every so often large storms breach the barriers and the “lake” water and the salt water mix.

This part of the state also defies the norms we associate with golf in Florida. As the Peninsula bustles with winter golf activity, up here this is the slower season. They make hay in the spring and summer, but visitors begin dwindling in the fall as the cold fronts march through with much more regularity than in the southern regions. It also takes some getting used to seeing the sun set along the surf line instead of smack-dad over the middle of the Gulf.

This “reverse season” reality requires that Livingston get creative in performing the necessary annual maintenance programs like aerifying during their



View from the forward tee on the par-3, 12th hole. Photo by Joel Jackson

busy warm season. Livingston explained a concept he has devised to minimize disruption to play.

“I began experimenting with using smaller quadra-tines on a more frequent

basis to remove organic matter build-up and yet minimize disruption and recovery time to the putting surfaces. While southern courses may use large tines two or three times during late spring and

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summer, we go maybe five or six times with the smaller tines. We still have to aerify during the warm season to get turf recovery, but by using the smaller-diameter tines we don't have to top dress as heavy— or at all — because we are already on a regular light dusting program.”

“Sometimes we can get a closed day to do the job, or we may have to do nine holes a day back to back. The greens are puttable the next day versus the 10-14 days needed for full recovery of a large-tine plugging. Our regular golfers might finish their round and say, ‘I see you did the small holes again!’ We always tell them we aerified and we give them a money-back option if they feel the course wasn't up to expectations. We get very few complaints using this method.

“During the growing season we verticut weekly, apply 5 ounces of Primo™ weekly, topdress every one or two weeks, and roll greens every two weeks except when turf growth slows down. I feel rolling can be too aggressive sometimes and cause stress.”

Getting back to the responsible development theme, all three courses are certified in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. The design of the golf courses features abundant wildlife habitat and corridors. On the Origins course, Livingston showed me a bridge that St. Joe had installed, replacing an old roadbed that had cut across a wetland, to restore the natural wildlife corridor and flow of seasonally high water levels.

Livingston has been conducting school tours on the courses for several years as part of the ACSP Outreach and Education section of the certification process.

“We work closely with the Seaside Neighborhood School, a nearby charter,” Livingston said, “showing the students how golf course maintenance relates to overall environmental management. Some of their on-course activities have included wildlife counts, water sampling and native area plantings.”

The 15th hole at Shark's Tooth borders Lake Powell, a coastal dune lake. Photo by Joel Jackson





SHARK'S TOOTH GOLF CLUB

Location: Lake Powell

Ownership:

St. Joe Company, managed by Troon Golf, private 8 holes, 7,204 yards, par 72, Slope/Rating 136/74.9, 12,400 avg rounds/year

Designed by: Greg Norman, opened in 2003.

Management Team:

Club Manager Mike Jansen, Head Golf Pro Mike Pazakis, Golf Course Superintendent Larry Livingston

Acreage under maintenance: 73.4.

Greens: 3.45 acres TifEagle; avg. 6,511



Shark's Tooth G.C. Maintenance Staff

Fairways and

Roughs: Fwys 43.6 acres, Roughs 20 acres; Tifway 419 bermudagrass, HOC 0.45in. on fwys and 1.5 in. on roughs. Fwys overseeded with TMI Paragon Ryegrass @ 500 lbs/acre.

Non-turf areas: 59 bunkers. Sand

sq. ft., HOC 0.110 - 0.125 in.; no overseeding. Green speed goals 10 - 11.5.

Tees: 4.65 acres Tifway 419; HOC 0.45 in., overseeded with Paragon ryegrass at 15 lbs/1,000 sq. ft.

type: Red Bay sub-angular from the Lamar Pit. Bunkers hand raked.

Irrigation, Water Conservation and Staff: included in facts about Camp Creek

The 18th green and clubhouse at Shark's Tooth. Photo by Joel Jackson

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Livingston also is involved in the school's mentoring program that exposes students to various occupational opportunities. He added, "Other mentors include doctors, architects and chefs. We donate one hour per week about six times a year to go and make presentations about our professions."

Later over lunch, Livingston offered his take on the current wave of regulations.

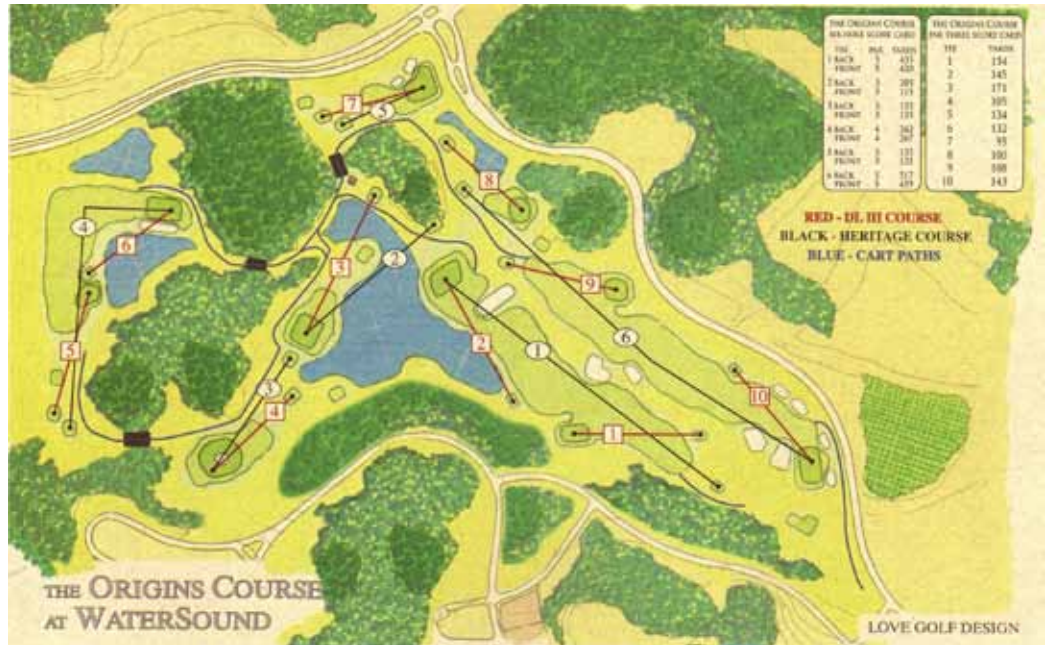
"The answer is education not regulation," he said. "You can't save the environment and exclude people, and people need to accept more responsibility for protecting our resources.

While the new soil-moisture-sensor technology is exciting, homeowners and HOA's can invest in simple rain switches or "mini-clicks" at a very low cost. And

they ought to be responsible enough to turn off the automatic systems when it is raining."

After lunch we toured the Origins Golf Course.

You will have to see this layout in order to really understand what I'm about to tell you. There are six regulation holes and 10 par-3 holes on the course. Many holes share the same green by using two



Scorecard for the 6-hole regulation and 10-hole, par-3 Origins courses. At right, a tee sign shows combination regulation and par 3 holes on the Origins course. Photos by Joel Jackson



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ORIGINS GOLF COURSE

Location: WaterSound

Ownership: St. Joe Company, managed by Troon Golf; private/resort

6 regulation holes: 10 par-3 holes. Heritage Course: 1,748 yds. Par 3 Course: 1,296 yds.

Designed by: Davis Love, constructed in-house and opened in 2006.

Management Team: Club Manager Mike Jansen, Head Golf Professional Jaxon Hardy, Golf Course Superintendent Larry Livingston

Turf type: Monostand of Sea Isle Supreme Seashore Paspalum for the entire golf course.

Greens: 2 acres, HOC 0.110 - 0.125 in.; Tees 1 acre, HOC 0.45 in., Fairways 12 acres, HOC 0.45 in., Roughs 6 acres. No overseeding.

Non-turf areas: 12 bunkers and 3 waste areas with native plants.

Irrigation: Effluent water source with groundwater backup. Flowtronex VFD 800 gpm with two 25 hp booster pumps. Toro Touch Net Controls. 327 heads with part circles along perimeters.

Staff: Assistant Superintendent Jay Weber with support from Camp Creek as needed.



JAY WEBER, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Photo by Joel Jackson.

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There's a bunker in the middle of this double green on the Origins course. Photo by Joel Jackson

different colored flags for the Davis Love or Heritage layouts, and at the request of the golfers, a nine-hole configuration is being mapped out. It is a great course for more casual golf and beginners or for an afternoon family outing.

I asked Livingston how he viewed his

position given his responsibilities seemed like a mini-regional superintendent.

"I have no title other than golf course superintendent and that's the way I like it," he said. "I can't say enough about the maintenance crews at each course.

They make my overall job very easy and

I want to give them the recognition they deserve. We are part of a big team with the partnership of Troon and St. Joe. Our job – my job – is to make sure the whole team is successful."



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SUPERINTENDENT FACTS

Born in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Raised in Tupelo, Mississippi. **Family:** Married to wife, Suzanne. Two daughters, Emily is a freshman at U. of South Florida and Lucy is a high school senior.

Education: B.S. in Agronomy, Mississippi State U., 1976.

Employment: Golf Course Superintendent over three courses:

2000 – Present, Camp Creek GC, and 2006 – Present, The Origins GC located in Water-Sound, FL (Enrolled in AI Silver Sanctuary Program) and 2007-Present, Shark's Tooth GC, Panama City Beach, FL (Certified AI Silver Sanctuary). 1990 – 2000, Golf Course Superintendent, River Hills GC, Valrico; 1982 – 1990, Golf Course Superintendent Gator Creek GC, Sarasota; 1981 – 1982, Assist. Superintendent CC of Birmingham, AL; 1980-1983, Co-owner Livingston Lawn, Birmingham, AL; 1978-1980, Golf Course Superintendent Geen Valley CC (now Hoover CC); 1976-1978, Golf Course Superintendent Tupelo CC, Tupelo, MS.

Professional Affiliations & Offices Held: Class A, Certified Golf Course Superintendent of the GCSAA since 1988. Past Director, Mississippi Turfgrass Assn; Past President Suncoast GCSA; Past Director FTGA;

Goals & Accomplishments: GCSAA Conference Speaker, 59th International Golf Course Conference and Show, Houston, TX (1989); 1997 Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary, River Hills GC; 2004 Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary, Camp Creek GC; Oversaw construction of The Origins GC in 2006; Volunteer for Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance taking water samples for Florida Lake Watch in Western Lake since 2004..

Hobbies & Interests: Golf, tennis, scuba diving, fishing, kayaking, environmental protection



LARRY LIVINGSTON, CGCS

Photo by Joel Jackson.

FUN FACTS

Personal heroes: Chuck Yeager and Charles Lindberg I'd give anything to meet: The four people who raised my mother and father

My fantasy is: Going into space

My most amazing golf shot: Two double eagles, both made at the Tupelo C.C.

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*Before photo of cart path area to be naturalized.
Photo by Kyle Sweet.*



*Photo-shopped version of what conversion might look like.
Photo by Kyle Sweet.*

By Kyle D. Sweet, CGCS

As we all know, being a Golf Course Superintendent in Florida is a nonstop job. We're busy with the golfers in the winter and then fill our summers with course renovations and improvement projects. As managers, we are all skilled in getting the daily course duties accomplished for our players. Summer projects, however, can be a much bigger challenge to get planned and successfully completed. We have always taken on in house projects and with the current economy we are all doing more ourselves or working alongside contractors to make every dollar count.

Fortunately, I have been involved in a very effective process for the past three years that has put our in-house skills to the test as well as involved an outside contractor, Country Club Services. A committee was formed that included the G&G Chairman, Golf Chairman, Club President, Director of Golf, select committee members and myself. This group is dubbed the Aesthetics and

Playability Committee and annually travels the course together looking at improvements ranging from course conditioning to manipulation of several aspects of the course. After the course is reviewed a list is compiled, prioritized and approved: we contact our golf course architect Arthur Hills for approval and recommendations on how any design changes should be implemented.

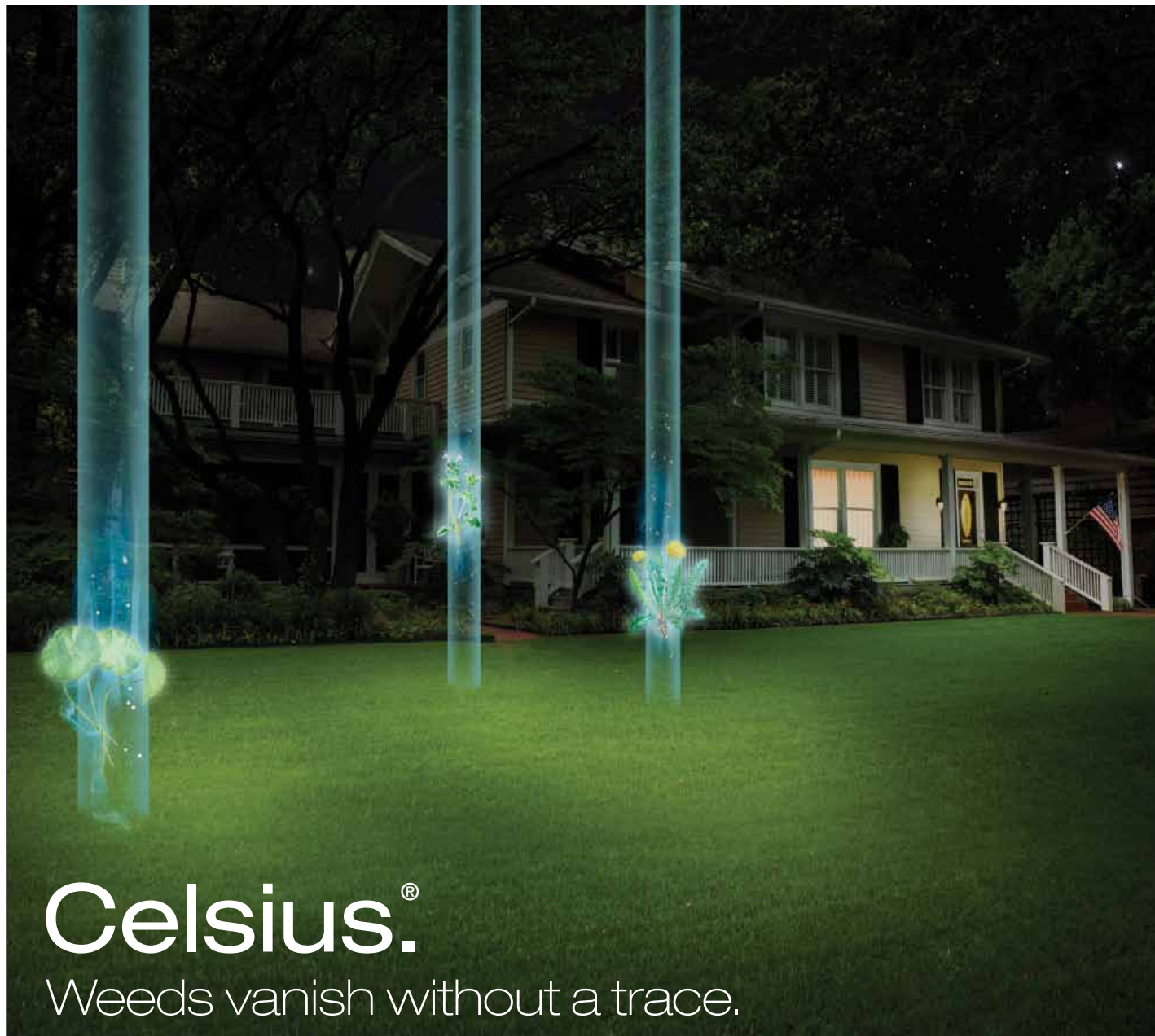
I have been photographing the course for nearly 15 years and it has never been more important that it is now with this new program in place. Each proposed change, regardless of size and scope is photographed before, during and after and kept for reference. It has become second nature to provide project progress photos to our membership during the summer months. This year, for the first time, we utilized Photoshop to show both our members and Art Hills what we anticipated the finished outcome of the projects to be. The use of Adobe Photoshop proved effective in the approval from both parties and is a part of the project process that we intend to carry out in future years.

This is not a difficult process. You will need a digital camera (at least 12 megapixel), digital photos, a photo editing program and a program to resize your photos. Most of the communication can be done via e-mail, but the purchase of a good photo printer capable of 8X10 photos is a must if providing the photography as handouts to your committee or club.

With the editing program in hand and a good original to work off of, much of the work you will be doing is accomplished with simple coloring, cropping, erasing and cloning tools. It's a lot of fun once you get started and fortunately you have infinite opportunities to edit it to look like your hopeful project outcome. Unlike working the land, you have many opportunities to get the result you envision.

Once you get the desired project outcome look using photo editing, save it and use it to get that project done that is either already planned or that you have been trying to get approved to make both your job and your course better. Good luck and have fun with it!





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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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Communicating Sustainable Use of Pesticides

Pesticides are safe for all on the course when used as directed by the label.

*By Todd Burkdoll,
BASF Technical Specialist*

Superintendents are faced with all kinds of job-related questions, particularly about the agronomics of using pesticides and other chemicals on their courses. Many are having a hard time clearly explaining the benefits of chemical use to curious golfers and community members, and as a result, sometimes avoid the topic. However, communicating with the public is no longer optional; superintendents must address questions, ease concerns and take part in community education programs on a regular basis in order to continue building and sustaining community confidence.

Many people assume pesticides are toxic and harmful to their health. That belief, however, is rarely grounded in science. Antibacterial soap, dishwasher soap and laundry detergent are technically toxic pesticides because they kill germs; however, when used correctly, they do not harm humans. The same goes for chemicals that are used to protect plants. Just as soap controls harmful pathogens that humans encounter, fungicide controls



Be smart. Be Safe. Photo by Joel Jackson.

pathogens that damage plants.

Simply put, plants – like people – get sick. For example, when their systems get over-run, plants can suffer from environmental stress that creates conditions for pest pressure and disease. When that happens,

medication in the form of pesticides is required to nurse the plant back to health. Like human drugs, pesticides today are highly targeted to specific problems, including fungi, weeds and insects.

The need for plant medication, so to speak, is understood by most people. But they may need more explanation about the science behind responsible chemical use.

The Safety Stance. Scientifically proving with reasonable certainty that a pesticide will not harm people or the environment is a fundamental part of the product-approval process. The United States has one of the strictest registration processes in the world. Federal law requires that before selling or distributing a pesticide in the United States, a person or company must obtain registration, or license, from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Before registering a new pesticide – or a new use for a registered pesticide – the EPA must first assure the public that the pesticide is considered safe, when used according to label directions. To make such determinations, the EPA requires more than 100 different scientific studies and tests from applicants.

Even before they go through government review, these chemical compounds are tested for toxicity by non-biased, third-parties. If a pesticide receives a “strike” against it at any point during testing process, the manufacturer does not approve it for government testing.

Once the product is registered, it is selected and applied by highly trained professionals. Just as a pharmacist would recommend medicine for a specific ailment, superintendents work with industry experts – including chemical applicators with years of formal education – to prescribe a pesticide for a specific problem.

Not all pesticides are equal. Toxicity levels vary by product and instructions for use are clearly outlined on each pesticide’s label. Labels are designed to explain the correct application procedure, so the chemical has little or no direct negative impact on organisms beyond the targeted pest. As a rule, chemical experts consistently stress the importance of reading and following the pesticide label.

As a precautionary measure, most pesticides cannot be bought over the counter. Some products also require applicators to post signs or flags that alert the public that a given area has been treated recently. The signs, which usually are left standing for 24 hours, are simply informative, since no danger to humans or animals exists after application. In many cases, the majority of pesticides break down naturally in the soil after controlling target pests.

What is your role? Some superintendents have taken a proactive communication approach to combating the general public’s misperceptions and fear of pesticides. Superintendent Jed Spencer, CGCS, for Chenal Country Club in Little Rock, Ark., participates in monthly Greens Committee meetings and now hosts annual open houses to give all members a behind-the-scenes look at how he maintains his course. In addition to addressing topics such as chemical and fertilizer use, maintenance and even golf etiquette, his crew operates equipment for participants, allowing them to get a firsthand look at what his crew does and how they do it. Spencer’s goal is to educate the community, and show members the purpose behind his crew’s actions.

“The response to our communication efforts has been extremely positive,” Spencer said. “Community members really appreciate the visual component. It reduces concerns about the possible effects our treatment plan could have on them and their surroundings.”

Spencer has taken additional steps to show his concern for the environment, which the community has applauded. Three years ago, he formed a partnership with Ducks Unlimited to establish a wood duck colony on the course, which helps attract the birds and allows his crew to manage the population. He also maintains a chemical building on his property that houses a 1,000-gallon storage tank for recycling chemicals.

Fred Gehrlich, superintendent for Highlands Fall Country Club in Highlands, N.C., holds educational forums for residents living on or near his course to explain what his crew is spraying and why. He also writes a regular column for his local newspaper that addresses course issues such as the scientific benefits of safely controlling disease and



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*The food chain thrives on golf courses.
Photo by Joe Hubbard.*

invasive plants on his course.

Gehrisch also is involved in a study under way by the University of Missouri on salamanders at 10 courses in the area – including his – to see how they are affected by chemical use. Along with the university, he regularly works with environmental groups, whether it is coordinating joint speaking engagements or donating his staff to support a local event.

Gehrisch says most people he speaks with are relieved once they learn the chemicals he uses are similar to everyday household products.

“I have found that using common medications as examples is the most effective way to demonstrate why they do not need to fear the products we use,” Gehrisch said. “I read a list of side effects and lead them to believe it is a chemical I am using to treat turf disease when, in reality, it is aspirin.”

Communicating with the public falls under the many day-to-day responsibilities of a superintendent, and more of them are taking it upon themselves to go above and beyond that duty. At a minimum, superintendents should be able to confidently explain the parallels between plant and human disease, and how science helps alleviate damage in both cases.

“We talk a lot within our inner circle about what needs to be done, but as an industry, we tend to be slower in responding to the public than we should,” Gehrisch said. “For any change to happen, supers need to leave their desks and get out in front of their communities.”

Despite the fact that pesticides are useful tools that can provide significant benefits to our communities, the debate over whether to use them will undoubtedly continue. By basing communications on science instead of emotion, superintendents can help community members appreciate the time, labor and money-saving benefits of environmentally sound chemicals.

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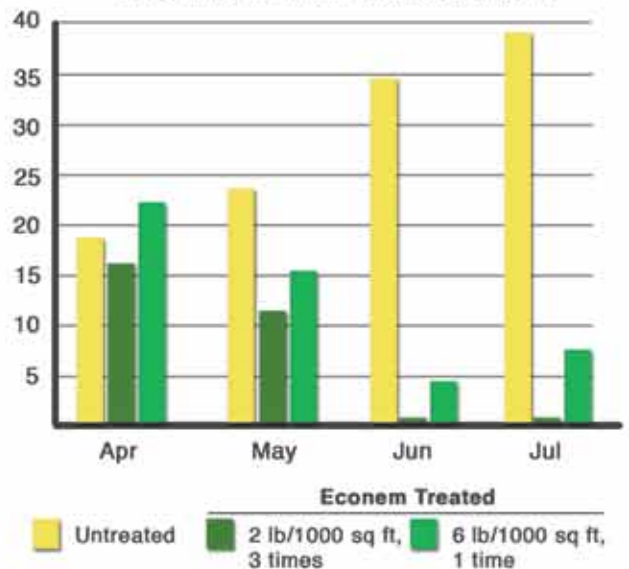
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FTGA Foundation Presented Four Scholarships at 2010 Conference



Bradley Williams



Douglas Faller



Steven Denvir



Bradley Quakenbush

*By Heather Russo,
FTGA Director of Marketing*

At the October 2010 FTGA Conference in Show in Orlando the Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation (FTRF) presented four Florida students with scholarships for the 2010-2011 academic year. All recipients attend either the University of Florida or Florida Gateway College (formerly 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.

University of Florida: Bradley Thomas Williams received the Col. Frank Ward Memorial Scholarship for \$1,500. A 2009 recipient of the FTGA's Max J.

McQuade Scholarship, we are once again enthusiastic to award Bradley Thomas Williams an FTGA Scholarship. Bradley is working toward his Masters Degree in Environmental Horticulture. His Master's Thesis examines traffic tolerance and recovery rate of eight bermudagrass

cultivars, under the guidance of Assistant Professor Jason Kruse. He has taught turfgrass labs to undergraduate students at UF, delivered several guest lectures and is an active member of the Turf Club. Bradley earned a Bachelor's degree in soil science from the University of

Wisconsin. He has spent seven summers working on golf courses, has interned with the USGA Green Section, and upon graduation, he intends to pursue a career in golf course management in Florida.

Florida Gateway College:

Douglas Faller received the James L. Blackledge Memorial Scholarship for \$1,500. Douglas was born in Winter Haven and is studying turf management with the intention of becoming a Florida-based golf course superintendent. During the school year, he works in golf course maintenance at Haile Plantation Golf & Country Club.



From left: FTGA President Mac Carroway, FTGA Past President Greg Pheneger, U. of Florida student Bradley Williams and FTGA Scholarship Chairman Stacie Zinn at the FTGA Conference Awards Breakfast. Photos by Leading Edge Communications.

His summer internship this year was at Cardsound Golf Club on Key Largo. He also participated in prep work for Jack Nicklaus' Memorial Tournament at Murifield Village in Ohio. Douglas is an active member of Gateway's FTGA Student Chapter.

Stephen Denvir received the Hans Schmeisser Memorial Scholarship for \$1,500. Stephen was born in New Jersey and grew up in Florida. He is studying to become a golf course superintendent and has a special interest in grow-in renovations in Florida. Stephen is an avid golfer and serves as Secretary of the College's Turf Club. He worked at Riviera Country Club in Coral Gables, Spessard Holland Country Club in Melbourne Beach and this summer interned at Trump National in Bedminster, New Jersey. The youngest of seven children of a retired firefighter's and his wife, Stephen said in his application that he was trying to win this scholarship as a gift for his parents for all of their financial support.

Bradley Quackenbush received a General Scholarship for \$1,000. Bradley was born in Winter Haven and is studying turf management at Gateway to pursue a career as a golf course superintendent in Florida. During the school year he is employed at Haile Plantation. He has worked in turf maintenance at Champions Gate, near Orlando, and at highly ranked Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck, New York. This summer his internship was at Arnold's Palmer's Bay Hill Club & Lodge in Orlando.

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Divot Recovery

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

Variety	Propagation ¹	2003		2004		
		K ²	(SE)	K ²	(SE)	
La Paloma	S	0.115	(0.0071)	0.96	0.201 (0.0125)	0.96
Yukon	S	0.122	(0.0078)	0.96	0.193 (0.0112)	0.97
SR 9554	S	0.130	(0.0011)	0.93	0.179 (0.0143)	0.93
Celebration	V	0.121	(0.0066)	0.97	0.177 (0.0107)	0.96
Arizona Common	S	0.119	(0.0117)	0.91	0.178 (0.0101)	0.96
Panama	S	0.122	(0.0100)	0.93	0.173 (0.0078)	0.98
NuMex Sahara	S	0.141	(0.0047)	0.99	0.152 (0.0114)	0.93
Princess 77	S	0.129	(0.0064)	0.98	0.160 (0.0155)	0.89
Sunstar	S	0.117	(0.0134)	0.88	0.170 (0.0124)	0.94
Transcontinental	S	0.114	(0.0075)	0.96	0.169 (0.0082)	0.97
Riviera	S	0.132	(0.0067)	0.96	0.151 (0.0108)	0.94
Mohawk	S	0.120	(0.0090)	0.94	0.159 (0.0091)	0.96
Sundevil	S	0.117	(0.0045)	0.99	0.148 (0.0087)	0.96
Southern Star	S	0.097	(0.0052)	0.97	0.162 (0.0074)	0.97
Aussie Green	V	0.108	(0.0049)	0.98	0.143 (0.0114)	0.91
GN-1	V	0.092	(0.0038)	0.98	0.158 (0.0101)	0.95
Patriot	V	0.125	(0.0073)	0.97	0.121 (0.0087)	0.93
Midlawn	V	0.114	(0.0059)	0.98	0.130 (0.0075)	0.95
MS-Choice (Bulbeve)	V	0.111	(0.0083)	0.95	0.131 (0.0098)	0.93
Tifway	V	0.096	(0.0062)	0.96	0.139 (0.0072)	0.96
Ashmore	V	0.093	(0.0070)	0.95	0.119 (0.0068)	0.93
TifSport	V	0.074	(0.0072)	0.91	0.128 (0.0096)	0.92

¹ S = seeded, V = vegetative
² K values determine recovery percentage according to the formula:
 $1 - \exp(-K * \text{DAI})$, where DAI = days after injury. Higher K values indicate faster recovery from injury.

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BMP's – More Important Now Than Ever Before

By Todd Lowe

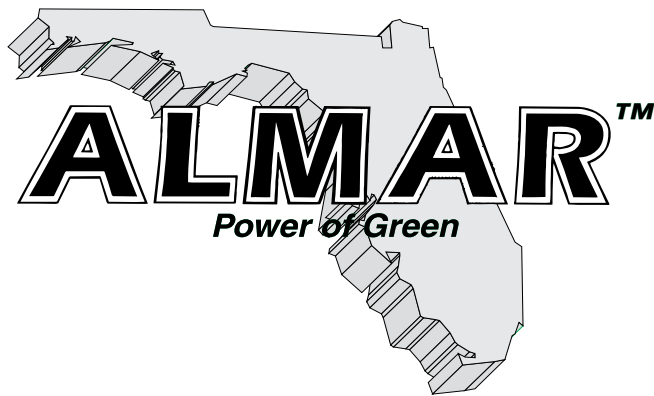
Best Management Practices have been created for many industries. For golf courses, BMP's provide a framework of practices for turf health and good playing conditions while decreasing the use of natural resources. BMP's have become more important for Florida golf courses, with several counties having become pressured by environmental activists to implement erroneous practices like fertilizer blackouts during rainy summer months. Such practices may ultimately damage the turf and have a negative impact on environmental quality, and in most cases, regulators have fallen back on the BMP's as guidelines for golf courses.

The manual *Best Management Practices for the Enhancement of Environmental Quality on Florida Golf Courses* was created in 2007 with the support of University of Florida personnel and various allied associations, and funded by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. It highlights sound principles for proper golf course construction, turfgrass cultural practices, fertilization, irrigation, and chemical handling/

application for Florida golf courses. So far, there is no certification process for golf courses, but the BMP manual is a valuable resource and includes a checklist that highlights important practices.

The checklist is an easy-to-follow outline of do's and don'ts for each chapter of the manual. Since fertilizer use is currently an important topic with local governments, this might be a good time for golf course superintendents to run through the fertilizer storage and handling section and make sure there are no issues at your course. The checklist includes:

- Are pesticides and fertilizers stored in separate buildings, or with a concrete firewall maintaining separation?
- Is bagged ammonium nitrate stored at least three feet away from any building wall?
- Are ammonium nitrate and other strongly oxidizing materials stored away from sludge products or organic materials?
- Are all unloading and loading points for fertilizers/raw materials designed to minimize accidental release and allow for easy cleanup?
- Are dry fertilizers and raw materials covered from the elements?



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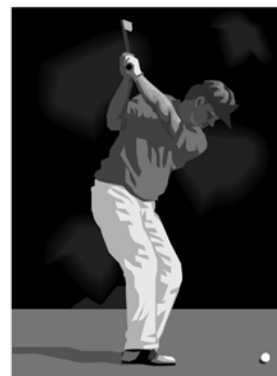
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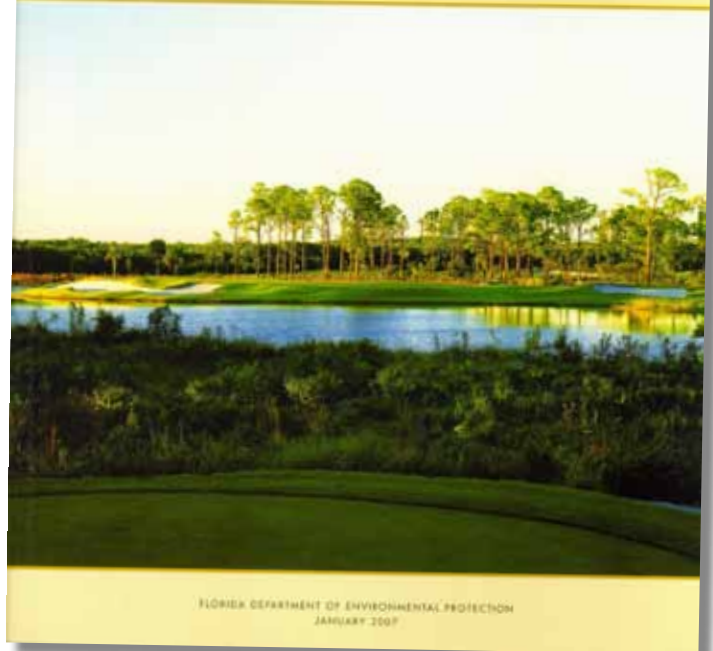
*Best Management Practices
for the
Enhancement of Environmental Quality
on
Florida Golf Courses*

- Are unloading, loading and other critical control points swept after use to further control dust and spills?
- Are all fertilizers loaded over impervious areas or over a tarp or other temporary barriers to contain spills?

The manual includes nearly 140 checklist items that cover various golf course management topics, and while no governmental agency or municipality can require adherence to them, they are certainly good principles to follow, especially if some type of pollution is detected downstream from your location.

Visit <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/WATER/nonpoint/docs/nonpoint/gfbmp07.pdf> to download the manual, or call the Nonpoint Source Management Program at 850-245-7508 for a hard copy.

The Florida GCSA in cooperation with regulators and scientisted created the Golf BMP manual published in 2007. Photo by Joel Jackson



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The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program Celebrates 20 Years!

Compiled and Edited by Shelly Foy, USGA Green Section



Editor's note: This section consist of a series of articles highlighting the benefits of participating in the ACSP. They have been edited slightly to conserve space.

INTRODUCTION

By Ron Dodson, President,
Audubon International

It seems nearly impossible to believe that it has been 20 years since we launched the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System. What started as a new way to promote membership with an environmental organization has started a partnership-oriented approach to conservation.

We wanted to stop yelling and screaming and start listening and working with people where they lived, worked, and recreated. With the help and support of the United States Golf Association, we have been proven right!

Although we have always said that we will work with anyone, anywhere, it has been golf by far that has outpaced any other type of land use in participation in the Cooperative Sanctuary System.

The program works because golf course superintendents want to work outdoors, they understand plant management, they don't want to spend any more money than necessary to meet golfer expectations. I would hazard to guess that the majority have found that managing bird nesting boxes, watching bald eagle nestlings, taking pictures of the

occasional fox on the course – and even the deer that made tracks across the green – was actually a very pleasant addition to the work week.

As states go, Florida has been the leader of the pack. There are more golf courses in Florida than any other state, but even on a percentage basis, Florida is a leader.

The recent economy has been tough on everyone; but Florida seems to be especially hard hit. The management of Audubon worried about the state of the economy and what sort of drop-off rate we were going to see in our membership ranks.

But a drop-off didn't occur, and this includes the hard-hit courses of Florida. I like to think most golf course superintendents understand that conservation starts with the word "conserve" and that doesn't only mean environmental conservation, but it also includes economic conservation.

Doing good for the environment means doing good for the budget. Courses embedded with a conservation ethic embedded in the fabric of the way the course operates, the way the course management thinks, and the way the course membership acts, are the least likely to close up shop.

Those courses that were built on the foun-

dation of over-use, hard-to-maintain and unrealistic expectations are the first ones to face the economic realities we have all read about in the newspapers. While it is sad to hear about a course closing and friends and neighbors losing jobs, the situation was brought about by previous, unsustainable decisions.

Florida is in a tough position, but those courses that come out of this downturn will be the strong, conservation-oriented courses, and they will be even stronger. Walking the walk is much more important than just talking the talk.

Thanks for sticking with us these past 20 years and I look forward to the next 20!

Estero Country Club: The 100th Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary in Florida

By Shelly Foy

I had the pleasure of touring Estero Country Club very early on a recent cool, foggy Monday morning when the course was closed for maintenance. Even though the course is totally surrounded by urban sprawl, I felt I was in a nature preserve. I now understand why superintendents say their favorite time on the golf course is very



Estero Country Club is the 100th Florida Course Certified in the ACSP Program. Photo by Shelly Foy.

early in the morning when no golfers are in sight.

Superintendent Bruce Bach had invited me to speak to the members about the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, and to present the club with its certificate signifying it was the 100th golf course in Florida and the 796th in the world to be certified in the program!

Estero CC was built in 1985 on 167 acres of former pasture. This club with 350 golfing members beautifully illustrates how a course, completely surrounded by residential area, can offer great habitat for a variety of wildlife. It has an outstanding ACSP in place, and the keys to its success have been member support and commitment, naturalizing out-of-play areas, and replacing a 22-year old irrigation system.

Bruce said members had been interested in the ACSP for a long time, and knew replacing the irrigation system would yield successful results. In June 2008, the course underwent a five-month irrigation replacement project.

Management also wanted to reduce turf, so the original designer, Gordon Lewis, developed naturalized areas to replace 7 acres of turf. The goal was to reduce water use

by 15 percent with the new system and an additional 10 percent by replacing turf with natural areas. The club now saves \$50,000 annually on repairs to the irrigation system, and anticipates significant savings with its 20-year contract with Lee County to provide the club with reclaimed water; their sole water source.

Jim Sluiter, staff ecologist with Audubon International, noted that “Estero Country Club’s water conservation on the golf course is exceptional. The new irrigation system provides outstanding reliability and flexibility in their watering program. Uniform and responsible irrigation has resulted in reduced fungicide applications as well. . . I am learning that the certification submissions delivered by a course are often a great reflection of their dedication to their stewardship efforts. Estero C. did an exceptional job submitting all materials. The comprehensive water quality testing was very good, and their formal documentation of all efforts speaks highly of their work ethic.”

Estero Country Club’s outreach and education program keeps members updated on the ACSP, and reaches out to include the surrounding community in environmental programs and projects.

Estero hosts an annual Golf Maintenance Facility Open House for members and neighbors. It recently worked with Boy Scout Troop 119 to install 20 nestboxes to be monitored by club members.

The club’s Resource Advisory Committee includes members, staff, Lee County officials, experts on horticulture, landscape, and irrigation, as well as a local superintendent who is very active in the ACSP. The committee meets regularly to discuss ongoing and planned environmental efforts. Club members strongly support ACSP, and plan continued outreach and education programs to improve and expand the club’s environmental stewardship efforts as well as its standing in the larger community.

Estero members are involved in every aspect of their program, including water-quality management. Staff educated homeowners about the effects of poor fertilizing practices on the health of the lake system and encouraged them to discuss the problem with their lawn-maintenance contractors.

Since joining the ACSP, the golf course now uses 90 percent slow-release fertilizer and has increased use of natural organic fertilizer to further minimize the potential for leaching and nutrient runoff. In 2007



*Recent Estero irrigation upgrades improved turf quality and helped reduce costs.
Photo by Shelly Foy.*

Estero established buffers by raising the height of cut along all lake banks from 1.25 to 6 inches.

The result has been lower maintenance requirements in lakes for control of algae and aquatic weeds, and a steady increase in the amount of wildlife. Ducks once were rare; now several species call Estero CC home. Wading birds are in abundance, and eagles and osprey regularly fish the lakes. A family of otters often visits. Estero's inventory lists 53 birds, and more than 14 species of mammals, including bobcats. Management has received nothing but positive responses from members about the increase in wildlife and the beauty of the naturalized areas.

Since joining the ACSP, Estero CC has added 20 wildlife habitat areas, and has decreased the amount of managed turfgrass by an additional 7 acres for a total of 23.9 acres of natural areas.

They restored 1.8 acres of wetlands and increased their native plant percentage from 50 to 75 percent. They have increased their naturalized shoreline from 25 to 75 percent. They regularly remove exotic plants – 90 melaleuca trees in 2009 and this year ficus trees. Member education about the problems caused by invasive trees was key to the removal program.

A unique feature of Estero CC is a railroad track that runs through the middle of the property, which is seldom used except by maintenance vehicles. The Seminole Gulf Railroad owns 65 ft. on each side of

the track and is responsible for maintaining this acreage. The roadbed creates an incredible wildlife corridor.

Estero CC also has reduced fungicide use, a move made possible by the new irrigation system and the ability to maintain healthier turf with fewer inputs. Committing to spot-spraying instead of broadcast or boom spraying, fungicide expenditures are now one-third of what they were in 2004, and insecticide expenditures have been cut in half.

The real success to Estero Country Club's environmental programs is they have made good, solid, well-conceived decisions. The members have bought into the program,

ACSP Perspectives from Long-Time Members of the Program, Tampa Palms Golf & Country Club

By Bill Kistler, CGCS

It has been almost 18 years since Tampa Palms became the first golf course in Florida to become a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. Many things have changed over the years, but one thing has remained constant: Tampa Palms Golf & Country Club remains a great wildlife sanctuary.

Our property totals 277 acres, of which only 90 are maintained turfgrass. Only five holes have homes next to the course, and woods and wetlands make up the rest of the property. Our wildlife inventory is vast

and includes alligators, wild turkeys, deer, bobcats, otters, wild hogs, red shoulder hawks, and over 33 additional species of birds.

Water management at Tampa Palms has changed over the years. With the implementation of a computerized irrigation system, control of where and when water is used has greatly improved our usage.

It has been an honor for Tampa Palms to be a part of the 20 years of commitment by Audubon International to work with golf courses and communities to raise public awareness about water quality and water management and to help provide wildlife habitat for golfers and the public to enjoy.

Hole-in-the-Wall Golf Club

By Russ Geiger, CGCS

Nearly 17 years has elapsed since the Hole-in-the-Wall Golf Course became a certified Audubon Sanctuary. Throughout this span, vast resources have been directed toward achieving the program's goals, resulting in improved wildlife habitat, conservation, and member awareness of the importance of the certification process.

As the manager of the golf course and grounds, I have been directly involved with numerous projects and specific maintenance practices that have greatly benefited the property and native wildlife species. Over 40 acres of wetland preserves have been carefully restored to their natural state after decades of invasive, exotic vegetation. Large native trees such as cypress, palm, pine, and live oak have recovered from near destruction over time as exotics smothered and robbed the natives of required space, sunlight, and water.

Consequently, many native species of birds and other wildlife have returned to the property to thrive and reproduce such as the beautiful North American wood duck, black-crowned night heron, osprey, and bald eagle. Just 15 years ago it was rare to observe these birds on the property and today they reside in increasing numbers.

Golf course maintenance strategies have progressed by utilizing Best Management Practices centered on conservation of resources and limited impact to the immediate environment. Inputs such as controlled-release fertilizers have helped



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to improve the consistency of turf growth while simultaneously eliminating excessive leaching and thus reducing overall costs. A new, more efficient irrigation system utilizes 30 percent less water than previously needed to irrigate the course while improving playing conditions and increasing energy savings at the power meter.

Many additional elements included in the ACSP form an extremely viable and cost-effective management approach in caring for and maintaining a given property.

Golf courses are relatively complex landscapes and are very dynamic in terms of their specific needs to satisfy the demands of clients. By using the approach outlined by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, managers can be successful in providing quality course conditions and enhancing the local environment.

Royal Poinciana Golf Club

Matt Taylor, CGCS, Director of Golf Course Operations

Royal Poinciana has been a proud member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for over 15 years. The program has helped our club showcase our conservation efforts and the natural beauty of the property. There has been increased member and staff awareness of the importance of conservation and doing the right things for the environment.

Constant and consistent communication over the years has given many members a better understanding of course-management efforts, and particularly the constant need to reduce maintained turf acreage by creating more natural areas. We use our club newsletter to educate members about water restrictions and the effect this will



*Estero C.C. is teeming with wildlife.
Photo by Shelly Foy.*

have on the golf course; and at the same time we explain the overall effect of removing areas of irrigated turf, the amount of water we will save, and how that saving can be applied to areas that are in play.

We use every opportunity to educate members about making better environmental decisions, and a good opportunity came after Hurricane Wilma in 1995. Our native trees survived much better than non-native trees, and our policy since then is to use only native plants.

An additional benefit of being a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary has been the weight it carries with local and state agencies when working to acquire permits for course renovation and updating project work. These agencies are aware

of the requirements for certification in the ACSP and know that we are making sound environmental decisions that not only benefit our property, but the surrounding community as well.

Participating in the ACSP just makes sense. It gives golf courses a place to have their environmental efforts recognized. There is strength in numbers, and the more golf courses that are fully certified, the better the overall message that we are good stewards of the land we manage.

Olde Florida Golf Club

By Darren J. Davis, Director of Golf Course Operations

Olde Florida Golf Club was the fourth golf course in Florida to become certified by Audubon International in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. It's been more than 15 years since we completed the required documentation of our environmental efforts to achieve the designation, and I can honestly say that it was well worth it then, and our involvement in the program continues to pay dividends.

I joined the program shortly after being hired by Olde Florida in 1992. I can recall an internal conflict I had when joining.

In my mind I was already a good steward of the environment, so I pondered my decision to become involved. However, after joining and becoming a certified ACSP golf course, I realized the program is extremely beneficial in advancing my knowledge and – equally important – my ability to educate others.

In addition to the knowledge, the potential cost savings, and other numerous benefits, the program provides a platform for me to tout the environmental benefits

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P R O V E N S O L U T I O N S



*The Estero Country Club serves as an urban nature preserve.
Photo by Shelly Foy.*

of Olde Florida Golf Club, and of golf courses in general.

Most golf course superintendents truly are environmental stewards; however, just “saying” that your golf course is good for the environment is no longer sufficient. Regulatory agencies and the general public continue to become more skeptical of the environmental attributes of a golf course and many hold a very negative outlook of golf courses. It is more important than ever for golf course superintendents to “walk the walk and talk the talk.” Being a certified ACSP golf course has enabled me to do just that.

Twenty Six Reasons to join the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program

By Tim Hiers, Senior Agronomist, The Old Collier Golf Club

There are a myriad reasons to join Audubon International’s Cooperative Sanctuary Program and the bullet points below will illuminate some. Personal satisfaction and professional benefits are key factors for participating in the sanctuary network.

When work is more satisfying it is usually more productive, and this can contribute to job security. The reduced risk of liability exposure, lost time due to accidents, negative financial consequences, and bad media coverage are benefits not easily demonstrated on paper until they happen.

Participating in the ACSP adds another positive dimension to my job and gives me credibility when discussing environmental issues with activists groups, members, or government agencies; not necessarily because I am in the ACSP program, but because I have learned the language and I know how to integrate these applications (actions) into everyday golf maintenance procedures. Understanding carrying capacity, mesic plants, interspersions, etc. are part of my daily routine, which in turn helps me manage our watershed, wildlife, and native plants to their highest value. And now the 26 bullet points:

- Makes the job more interesting by expanding your horizons
- Can enhance your resume and increase your chances of being hired at a particular club
- Can reduce liability exposure to your operation (BMP’s can reduce fertilizer and pesticide applications, and improve storage and handling)
- Will make the golf course more interesting (contrast native to turf, additional wildlife, wildflowers, etc.) for golfers and your staff
- Members may gain a new appreciation for what you do
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- Have access to all the experience acquired over the years

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from Audubon International staff and all the golf courses that are a part of the program

- Increase the carrying capacity of the wildlife on the golf course and surrounds
- Improve the image with the public in general
- Improve relationships with the media, environmental groups, and government agencies
- Attract new wildlife species
- Reduce equipment inventory by increased efficiencies and reduced areas of irrigated and maintained turf
- Reduce the chance of job burn out by adding another dimension of interest to your job
- Provide an opportunity to mentor the next generation of golf course superintendents to be stewards of the land
- Provide an opportunity to meet interesting people (ornithologists, botanists, etc.) and to gain some of their experience and knowledge
- May help to ensure more practical regulations on golf courses, as various groups (agencies, etc.) learn the true benefits that golf courses have for the environment and local watershed
- Can improve the overall golf experience, environment, and your job satisfaction
- May actually help to reduce stress by drawing more of your attention to God's beautiful creation

CONCLUSION

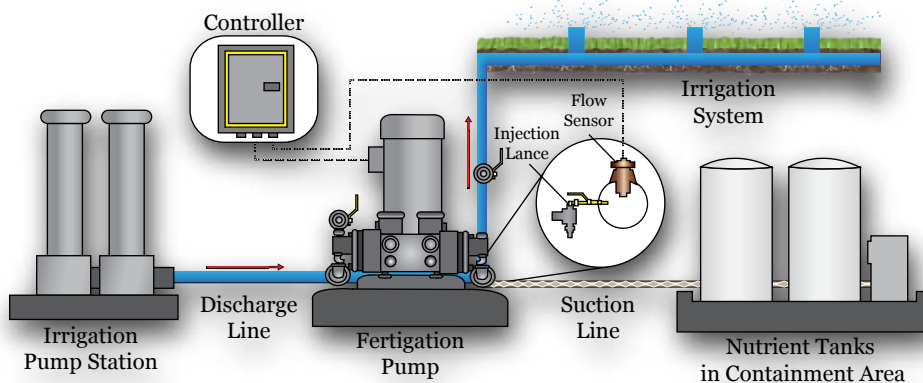
Florida golf course superintendents are fortunate to have so much statewide support of the program from the FGCSA, the Florida Green and our golf courses enrolled in the program, the 100-plus golf courses now Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries, and various environmental organizations, as well as state agencies.

Over the last 20 years, the USGA has supported the ACSP both financially as well as through staff support.

“This is a very valuable program for both golf and the environment and I am proud of all AI has been able to accomplish,” said Jim Snow, National Director, USGA Green Section. In Florida, all of our Green Section staff is available to help you successfully implement this program on your golf course.

Twenty years is a nice track record for any program. It is time to join. There is strength in numbers, and with your participation we are gathering valuable information we can relay both inside and outside our industry on golf's environmental sustainability. Help us celebrate 20 years of success with the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program by going on line at (www.auduboninternational.org) and joining the program today!

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Natural Areas Are Not Maintenance-Free

*Todd Lowe,
USGA Senior Agronomist*

Most golf courses are a blend of manicured turf areas amongst areas trees, shrubs, and other landscape plants. Naturalized areas are important golf course features, as they not only benefit wildlife, but improve the overall golfing experience. They provide habitat and food for a variety of birds and animals, which also provides golfers with a more fulfilling experience than simply chasing a white ball around 18 holes of turf. It is not uncommon to see many different types of birds, mammals and even reptiles during an average round of golf in our region.

It is thought by some well meaning golfers and even superintendents that naturalized areas can be installed to reduce maintenance costs. While these areas can reduce many routine inputs like mowing irrigation, fertilizers and pesticides once established, they are not maintenance-free.

Naturalized areas that are not periodically weeded, pruned, or edged can take on an unkempt appearance that is unacceptable to most golfers. Out of play natural areas require less maintenance, but areas that are adjacent to golf coursetees, fairways, and roughs are generally maintained to a higher level of aesthetic quality.

Otherwise, succession occurs, where these areas can be overtaken by other plant species (weeds) and become overgrown over time. Maintenance practices like weed control, pruning, edging, and even mulching should be considered when certain plants are selected and naturalized areas are installed on the golf course. Maintenance practices in natural areas do not occur as frequently as those in manicured turf areas but they can be intensive.

Natural areas are important for both the environment and the game of golf and should be encouraged; but don't be confused – these areas are not totally maintenance free.

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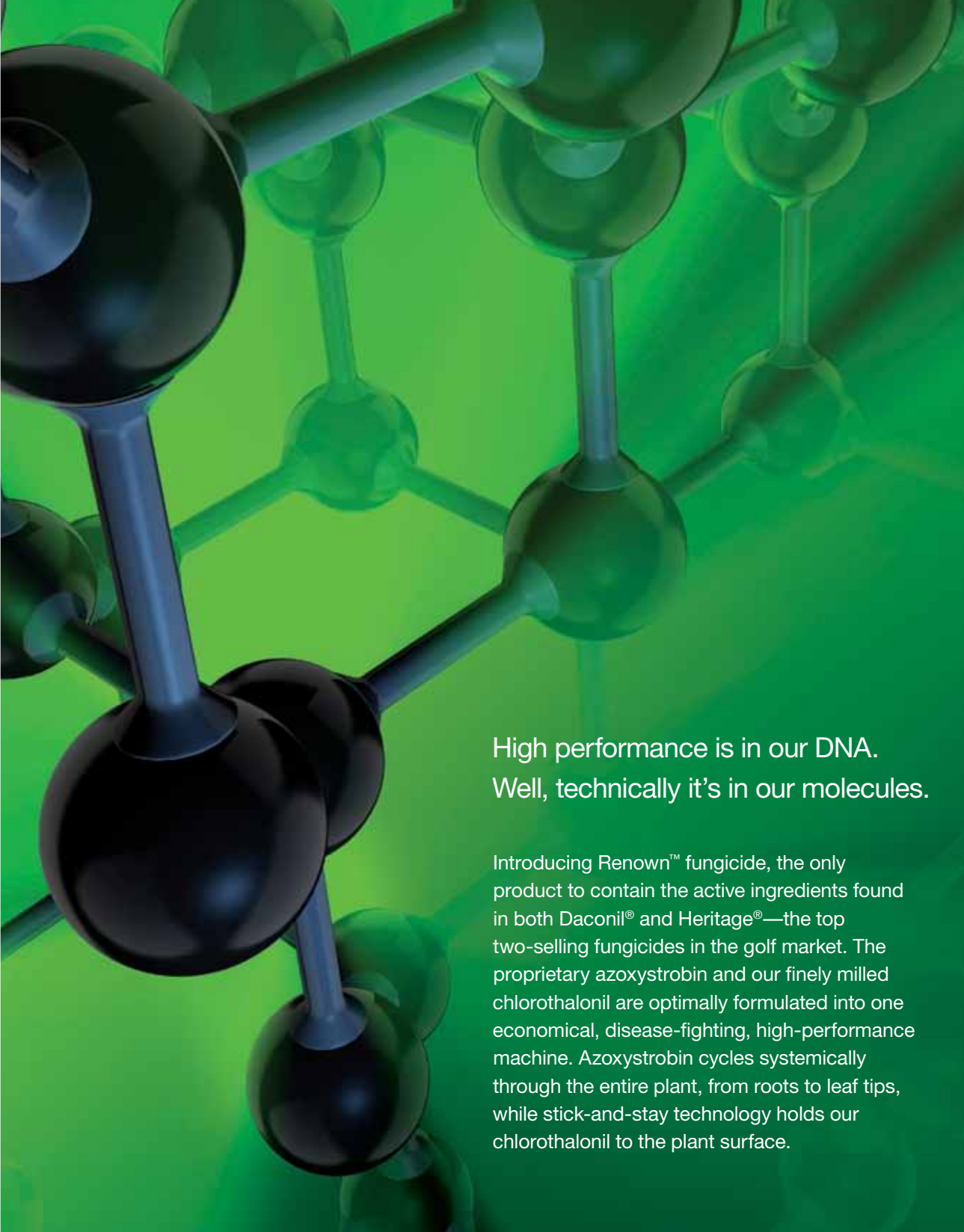
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Thanks for the Memories

By Daniel Zelazek

Now that my final cover in the history books, I would like to say it has indeed been a pleasure and an honor working with the editors and the superintendents of the FGCSA these nearly 30 years.

Funny to think I nearly didn't take this job. I had quit playing golf at the time and I was approached by my old buddy David Bailey about replacing as principal photographer when Harry McCartha retired. In fact, I had given my irons away but Dave was persistent and Dan Jones thought my big camera might be ideally suited to the needs of the Florida Green.

So in the spring of 1981, Associate Editor Dave Bailey and I set off for Bay Hill. Tim Hiers was there on that first photo shoot and gave us a lesson on how the game is really played and we photographed Jimmy Ellis putting on 18 along the railroad ties...yep, 18 had railroad ties for a wall in those days. I had a bit of a problem with a reflection of a light and Mr. Bailey handled it quite capably by hiding in the trees and holding up a trash bag to block the light.

Right from the start I didn't like the vertical format, too restrictive for my style, so with Dave and Dan working the problem and a bit of behind the scenes help from Phil Gardner and Keith Longshore, the Lesco Company bought ad space and our fold-out covers were born in the fall of 1983 and for the next 25 years our covers set us apart from virtually every golf publication in the country!

It certainly wasn't all fun and games. Sometimes great sacrifices had to be made.

Take Black Diamond Ranch. I had wanted to incorporate the quarry holes and I had my buddy Paul pose on holes 14 with 15 and 16 in the distance. His outfit just wasn't the right colour so I pulled the dark slide on my old Deardorff camera, cocked the shutter and walked down to the green and had Paul trip the shutter, putting myself on the cover. That's the kind of sacrifice I'm talking about!

Over the last 30 years the superinten-



Daniel Zelazek. Photo by Joel Jackson

dents have been awesome. They were always willing to reset a flag to the proper position, move a trap rake, build a lift or keep the staff off a particular hole to avoid tracks in the early morning dew.

However, there is one aspect where a good many of you failed miserably...and that is in regards to the weather I requested. Chris Neff and Mark Kann, wipe those smiles off your faces. I'm talking about you! Torrential rain and dense fog are not ideally suited to large format photography.

When I was visiting Joe Pantaleo at Indian Creek the wind was so violent it nearly blew my tripod and camera over. At Greg Norman's stunning Medalist Club, I had to return seven times due to vast amounts of rain in 1995. Fortunately, I lived just down the road in West Palm Beach.

At the Fountains with Mike Perham, we had finished the afternoon views and had lined up a great image for sunrise, even marking our position on the tee with tees in the ground. We arrived well before sunrise and were in position and as the sun rose and so did a bank of clouds, which stayed even with the rising sun for an hour and a half.

Dave Bailey went with me to Jacksonville's Marsh Landing for a shoot, and after the afternoon images were complete, we thought about getting a morning photo

from the roof of the club house. The dormant bermuda and the over-seeded greens and fairways with the striping just perfect would have been spectacular.

However, a front moved through over night and the temperature plummeted to 27 degrees. The following morning the entire roof of the club house was covered with ice. You couldn't climb on it much less set up a camera tripod. So we headed out to #3 which eventually was the cover image and as we stood around freezing with our winter coats on, a group of players from New York came to the tee with shorts on. "Hey guys, you know it's freezing out?" "Nah, this is a lot warmer than where we just came from," they said. "Ok, well, hit 'em straight!"

But the most amazing effort on my behalf was done by Shane Bass, yes that very same past president, who was considerably younger in those days. I had left West Palm for Tallahassee at 5:30 am for the six hour drive to the state capitol. At about 6 am, superintendent Gerri Bucheit called my wife to have me cancel. Too late. It was long before cell phone days. Seems a sudden storm had dropped 5 inches of rain on Tallahassee and the course was literally under water.

Next morning, assistant superintendent Shane Bass had the crew out in the dark repairing washouts that resembled that canyon in Arizona. Sweepers were getting rid of debris left from the receding waters and by noon we made our first exposures. Thanks again Shane it was a monumental effort and it's still appreciated all these years later.

Special thanks to Dan Jones for believing in me and also to Paul Crawford and the Bailey brothers (Dave and Mike) and especially to Joel Jackson, my partner for the last 20 years or so.

And I can't forget Dan Hall. After nearly 30 years I have yet to decide who has the best back yard barbecue, Dan or my old buddies the Klauk brothers (Fred and Glen), but that is a story in itself.

To one and all. Thanks for the memories.
Daniel Zelazek, The Florida Green.

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**GREEN SIDE UP
BY JOEL JACKSON**

This issue of The Florida Green ushers in new year filled with changes, challenges and choices.

The changes closest to home begin with the Florida Green staff duties. Larry Kieffer, our long time Publications Manager, would like to reduce his overall responsibilities with the production of the magazine. We would like for Larry

to remain associated with the magazine because he has a wealth of writing, publishing and most importantly for us editing skills and knowledge.

He has helped make The Florida Green a highly respected association publication for over three decades, so he has earned our thanks and the right to slow down to a pace that is more comfortable and still productive. This change brings Tim Lancaster on board to head up the graphics and layout responsibilities of the magazine. Tim lives in Temple Terrace near Tampa and is a free lance graphics designer and heads his own company, Lancaster Design.

Tim did the layout of the Fall issue while learning Larry's production program for keeping track of the editorial content, advertisements and layout template. As Larry's chief role shifts to editing the copy and getting it to fit into future layouts, Tim will be exploring new design looks to help us keep the magazine

fresh and appealing.

In the Fall issue we said "Hail and Farewell" to Daniel Zelazek, who spent 29 years photographing the covers for the magazine. That job now falls to me and it has been a real revelation of just how much work can go into finding just the right photos to capture the cover story courses. The number one factor of course is the weather and lighting conditions. Daniel has certainly set the bar high, and I will do my best to follow in his footsteps.

Another change upon us is a new website, and kudos go to Jennifer as she stays in constant contact with Cyber-Golf, our new web provider to develop our enhanced www.floridagcsa.com site. She is determined to get us all on board with a universal "members only" data base where members and chapter administrators can input and share information updates instantly and seamlessly. We are continually inputting more content into the various

sections. An effective website is always changing, so bear with us as we fill the pages with information for your use.

The new year will bring challenges to individuals for job security and to the golf and turf industries in general with continued regulatory pressure on the use of water, chemicals and fertilizer. It's one thing to challenge industry on their stewardship, but it's quite another when those raising questions don't listen to or act on the practical scientific solutions.

And that brings us to the choices facing us in 2011. We can choose to sit by and let activists run our businesses into the ground or we can choose to act. I suggest the latter choice is the only path to survival for golf as an industry, sport, recreation and social networking activity. There are enough people and facts to carry the day, but only if people will get engaged and participate.



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