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SUMMER 2012



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Horizon
The Edge You Need

The Florida Green

Summer 2012

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ON THE COVER: 17th hole Miami Beach Golf Club. Photo by Joel Jackson.

FOREWORDS

Progress, Presentations and Participation

They say time flies when you're having fun. I also know that time flies when you are busy. That's exactly how my year as president of the FGCSA has been: fun and busy. I set out with a few goals that I wanted to accomplish and I hope that even if those goals are not accomplished by the time my term ends in August, we at least will have a solid plan moving forward to complete them.

One main project we worked on diligently over this past year was the Golf BMP Certification Program. I cannot express my appreciation enough to all of those individuals who played such a vital role in helping to get the program up and running, especially Secretary/Treasurer Kevin Sunderman who prepared the final detailed draft of the program.

It was a long and tedious process to get where we are today, but we made huge progress. At our last FGCSA Board of Directors' Meeting in May, the program was unanimously approved. We will schedule regional seminars throughout the year to provide opportunities for all members and individuals in the industry to become certified in the Golf BMPs. We are working with the FTGA to offer the program at the FTGA Conference and Show in September.

This year I had the privilege of presenting several awards to some outstanding individuals who made significant contributions to our association and industry. Bill Kistler received the Distinguished Service Award for his numerous years of service on the West Coast GCSA, FGCSA BOD including his service as president of the FGCSA.

Dr. Jerry Sartain received the Marie Roberts Lifetime Service Award for his extensive work in the field of soil and water management for turfgrass. Many of the fertilizer recommendations included in the Golf Course BMP Manual were from the work that Dr. Sartain has done during his 37 years as a professor at the University of Florida.

Also receiving the Marie Roberts Lifetime Service Award, much to his surprise, was Joel Jackson. Joel's accomplishments, work ethic, and passion for the FGCSA, golf and turfgrass industries go without speaking. He has been a constant



Mark Kann,
FGCSA President

ambassador for this association for many years and I cannot express the appreciation and admiration that I have for Joel. Congratulations again to all of the recipients of this year's awards.

Starting in January 2013, Joel Jackson will be reducing his role with the FGCSA and will step down as the FGCSA's executive director after 14 years of dedicated service in that position. Joel has indicated his desire to reduce his responsibilities with the association and begin his retirement process. However, he will remain in place as editor of the Florida Green and will contribute to the Green Sheet and Website.

The FGCSA will begin a search for a new executive director and, during that time, we will be relying more heavily on the FGCSA BOD and Jennifer to keep the association moving forward and keep communication flowing. I know that everyone will miss all of Joel's e-mails, but I am confident that he will transition from that aspect of his job slowly! You can never say you were not informed of something happening in our industry. If you weren't aware, then you didn't read your e-mail!

I have been fortunate over the last year as president to work with some extraordinary individuals that have often made my job much easier. In particular, I would like to thank the current officers, directors and staff of the FGCSA for all of their hard work, time, and energy. I have been pleasantly surprised by everyone's involvement in helping us continue to improve as an organization and remain a leader in the golf course industry. We spent a lot of time and energy over this past year looking at the inner workings of our association and we made some good plans moving forward for the future. We need to continue working together to accomplish the goals of the association.



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During the May FGCSA Spring Board Meeting in Naples, President Mark Kann presented Past President Bill Kistler with the 2012 Distinguished Service Award for his outstanding and continuing service to the association. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Chapter Round Up

Statewide spring events focus on member recognition, education and research donations and good fellowship. We begin by remembering a fellow member no longer with us.

In Memoriam

Thomas McCord 59, of Port St Lucie died Monday, April 23 2012 at Martin Hospital South in Stuart. Born in Olean NY, he was a member of the Treasure Coast GCSA for 20 years. Thomas most recently worked for Upstart Products. He was a Golf Course Superintendent for 25 years. He was a member of the Shriners, the Ohio Oil and Gas Association, and NRA.

Survivors include two sisters, Traci Cline of Edgewater. Kathy Grant of Haines City, and two brothers, Jeff McCord of Pacifica, CA, and Scot McCord of Wooster, OH. A memorial service was held at Piper's Landing, Palm City April 27 2012. Contributions in his memory can be made to: Chi Chi Rodriguez Youth Foundation, 3030 North McMullen Booth Rd. Clearwater, FL 33761.



2012 Suncoast Scramble (from left): Darden Nicks, Mark Todd, George Cook, State Senator Nancy Detert, FGCSA Vice President Nancy Miller, Nick Kearns and Zach Lane. Senator Detert and Nancy Miller were guest speakers at the March event at the Heritage Oaks G&CC. The SCGCSA also presented Miller with an FGCSA research fund check for \$2,500. Photo by Lee Crosby.

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Tom Cowan (left) received the North Florida GCSA 2012 Keeper of the Green Award for Lifetime Service from his friend, George Clifton, at the North Florida Memorial Tournament in early April at the Marsh Creek CC in St. Augustine. Photo by Joel Jackson.



FGCSA Executive Director Joel Jackson and his wife Susie pose with the Marie Roberts Award for Lifetime Service presented to Jackson at the 2012 Past Presidents Dinner in Naples this past May. Jackson was standing by to take a photo of another presentation, when President Mark Kann revealed the surprise award.



In recognition of their longtime Diamond Sponsor status of the NFGCSA Memorial Tournament, (from left) NFGCSA President Mike Stevens and host superintendent Andy Maguire CGCS presented Bill Gamble of WescoTurf a painting of a Florida Keys beach house. The NFGCSA also donated \$1,500 to Florida Gateway College and \$500 to the First Tee of St. Johns County. Photo by Joel Jackson.

2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST 24

FGCSA Golf Championship, Southern Dunes G.C., Haines City. This year the competition will include a Vendor Division. Chapters may field more than one team, and other less serious golfing FGCSA members are invited to participate on a space available basis. Look for details on our website.

SEPTEMBER 24 – 27

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OCTOBER 5

(New Event!) North Florida Crash Hall Memorial Tournament. This event will include a 5th major golf-qualifying event for the 2013 FGCSA Golf Team now that the GCSAA Golf Championship has expanded state teams to five members. Check your emails and FGCSA website for more details.

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Champion Sponsor check presentation (from left): Jeff Brown, Golf Ventures; Glenn Oberlander and Jim Shaffer, SRGCSA; Debbie Nipper, Cary Lewis, Mike Swinson and Walt McMahon all with Golf Ventures. Photo by Joel Jackson.



By capturing Low Gross honors at the 2012 Poa Annua Classic, Deron Zandt from the Banyan GC became the first qualifier for the 2013 FGCSA Golf Team to compete in San Diego next February at the GCSAA Golf Championship. Photo by Joel Jackson.



NFGCSA President Bob Coffey, right, presented FGCSA President Mark Kann with a \$5,000 donation to the Florida GCSA's Research Fund during the FGCSA Spring Board Meeting in Naples. Photo by Joel Jackson.



SFGCSA President Marcus Prevatte and Dr. John Cisar co-hosted the 22nd Annual South Florida Turf Expo at the UF/IFAS Ft. Lauderdale Research and Education Center in March. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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the volunteers who make this event a success.*



Miami Beach Golf Club – A Piece of Florida History

By Joel Jackson

During the Florida land boom of the Roaring '20s, some of our historic hotels and golf courses were constructed, including — among many others — the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables and the Miami Beach Golf Club.

Our cover story course began its existence in 1923 as the Bayshore Golf Course built by developer Carl Fisher as part of his Alton Beach subdivision designed to attract wealthy winter residents from up North. It was still the Bayshore Golf Course in 1965, when I was a young commissioned officer in the U.S. Coast Guard stationed at Base Miami Beach on Terminal Island just off the main ship channel into the Port of Miami.

My wife and I lived just a couple of miles south of the golf course on Jefferson Avenue in an efficiency apartment during the first two years of my Coast Guard service. Back then an efficiency apartment on South Beach was going for \$85 a month, but on a \$295 monthly salary, I guess it all balances out. So, while serving as base administrative officer for six months and a year and half as the operations officer on the Coast Guard Cutter Hollyhock stationed at Miami Beach, I played quite a few rounds of golf on the old Bayshore course; so this

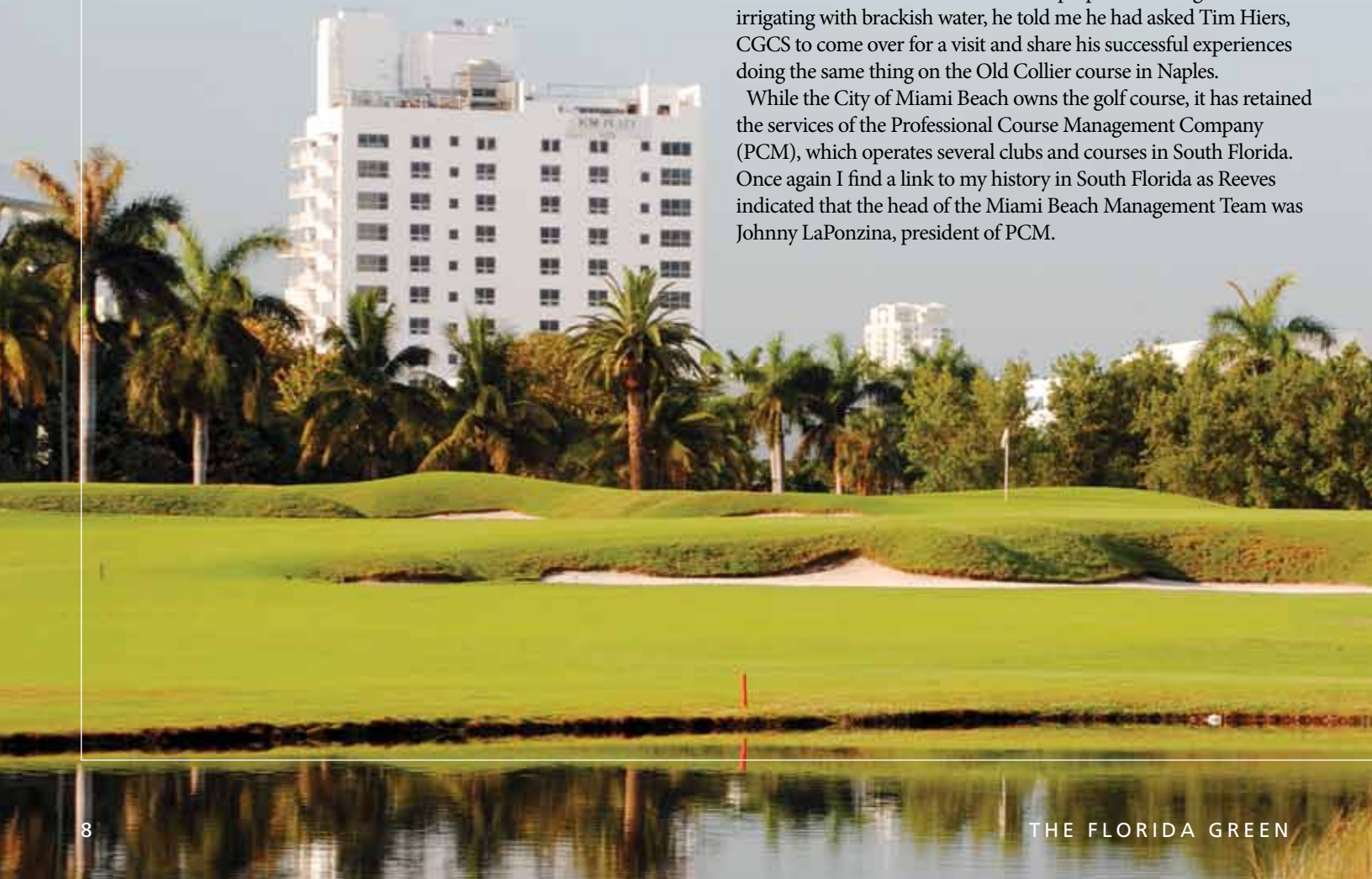
assignment was a bit of a homecoming.

Going back to the early 1940s, the old Bayshore course was rented by the U.S. Army for \$1 a year as a training ground and armed soldiers executed maneuvers amid smoke screens from grenades. Things haven't changed much as our host superintendent, Ricky Reeves, related a story about a golfing couple he observed one day "hitting the deck" and heard screeching tires as shots rang out during the filming of an episode of the TV show, "Burn Notice."

In 1944, after a failed attempt by some Chicago investors to convert the land to 650 upscale home sites, the city condemned the land and took over the golf course. In 2001 the whole golf course was stripped of grass and most trees, mounds were flattened and lakes were drained. Even the old clubhouse was razed and everything was redesigned and rebuilt from the ground up by Arthur Hills and Steve Forrest. The new Miami Beach Golf Club opened for play in 2002.

In 2005 Reeves, the current superintendent, came on board to maintain the 120-acre property and oversaw the recent conversion from hybrid bermudagrass to seashore paspalum. The Salam variety is used on the greens and the rest of the course is planted in SeaIsle 1. As Reeves learns the ins and outs of paspalum management while irrigating with brackish water, he told me he had asked Tim Hiers, CGCS to come over for a visit and share his successful experiences doing the same thing on the Old Collier course in Naples.

While the City of Miami Beach owns the golf course, it has retained the services of the Professional Course Management Company (PCM), which operates several clubs and courses in South Florida. Once again I find a link to my history in South Florida as Reeves indicated that the head of the Miami Beach Management Team was Johnny LaPonzina, president of PCM.



SUPERINTENDENT FACTS



**RICKY REEVES, Class A,
Golf Course Superintendent.**

Photo by Joel Jackson.

Originally from: Born and raised in Plantation.

Family: Wife Pam, daughters Chelsea and Taylor.

Education: AA degree in business in 1983 with heavy elective horticulture course load.

Employment history: 2005– Present, Superintendent Miami Beach GC;

1996–2005 Superintendent Normandy Shores GC;

1993–96 Assistant Supt. Lago Mar CC.

1988–93 Landscape supervisor Lago Mar CC.

Professional affiliations: SFGCSA all aspects of the Board currently VP. Will become President in July 2012. FGCSA Board 2010 – Present. GCSAA member for 12 yrs.

Goals/Accomplishments: Continuously try to get better at what I do. There is always room for improvement.

Personal philosophy of work: Work smart, Be honest and communicate with those around you.

Personal memorable moments: Three moving and monumental dates to remember. On the good side, there's the birth of my kids. On the regret side, the untimely death of my lifelong friend in 2010. It is a reminder to me that you never know your life might end, so live it to the fullest the best that you can.

Hobbies, interests, involvement: Fishing, camping, golf and ping-pong. *(Ed Note: Reeves says he thought he was a pretty good self-taught table tennis player until he joined a local club and found out he was really still a rank amateur.)*



View from behind the 15th hole, a long dogleg par 5.

At left: 13th hole Miami Beach Golf Club. Photos by Joel Jackson.

LaPonzina became the first head golf professional at the Pembroke Pines Golf Club in the early 70s when I first got into the golf maintenance business. I helped finish construction on the course and stayed on the maintenance crew after it opened, eventually becoming a foreman before moving to Orlando and beginning my career at Disney World in 1974.

Meanwhile LaPonzina went on to found PCM in 1971 and built the portfolio of courses that included over 20 well-known public, semi-private, municipal and resort golf properties in South Florida. His goal was and is to make golf more affordable and enjoyable for the average golfer and help golf properties achieve their business goals. Recently LaPonzina was inducted into the South Florida PGA's Hall of Fame to recognize his business savvy, ideas, marketing strategies and influence in the South Florida Golf industry.

Reeves began his golf maintenance career literally at the grass roots level. He earned his AA degree in business from Broward State College, but had taken many horticulture classes along the way. After school he was working for a nursery that by agreement would use out-of-the-way areas on golf courses as tree nurseries. One day in 1988 while harvesting and moving trees for sale to a client, the superintendent of the Lago Mar CC said to Reeves, "I need a landscape supervisor for the course!"

In 1993 he moved up to assistant superintendent at Lago Mar and then took the superintendent position at nearby Normandy Shores GC in 1996, and in 2005 he came to the Miami Beach GC.

Reeves credits his parents with teaching him a good work ethic and Lago Mar superintendent Russ Jaynes and his assistant, Jeff Dodd, for lighting the fire in him that still burns today for working in the golf maintenance industry.



View of the 8th hole from one of many native areas on the course. Photo by Joel Jackson.

A couple of challenges Reeves faces with the conversion to paspalum is bermudagrass encroachment and maintaining healthy turf on the high side bunker edges. The bermuda encroachment in the far roughs is not much of a concern but some areas that are more in play have to be dealt with. Says Reeves, "Since we try to use as much brackish irrigation water as pos-

sible to keep costs down, some bermuda patches can't stand the salt build up and we have run some fresh water cycles in those zones to keep it green and playable. We are on a constant program to spray out and replace the bermuda when and where we can."

Reeves says that the bunker edge problem only kicks in when the higher-cut

turf on the bunker faces reaches close to 4 inches in length. They lose their vigor due to spotty irrigation coverage on the steep faces and so they have installed irrigation mist head systems on over 99 percent of the bunkers so far. This seems to help overcome the stress in those locations.

Since paspalum is an aggressive grower, Reeves maintains good ball roll on the greens by utilizing a combination of aggressive warm-season aerifying, verticutting and topdressing and a slightly more moderate version of the same during the cooler months. In conjunction with those activities, he spikes and or needle-tines biweekly year around, and triplex rolls five to six times per week as well. He applies 10 ounces of Primo per acre weekly except after aerifications until the holes are covered over.

The tees and fairways are also aggressively groomed and sliced as often as possible to keep the thatch under control and provide a good playing surface. Reeves primarily utilizes a foliar spray and fertigation program to apply the bulk of the nutrients for the whole course.

As for insect problems Reeves said, "We

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to Superintendent Andrew Bell and
the Heritage Oaks Golf and Country Club
for hosting this event.

have mapped out areas that we annually treat for grubs with Allectus. Mole crickets, sod web worms and aphids are spot-treated as needed. We use Acephate® for those pests, and baits are also used for the mole crickets.”

Even though the golf course is in the middle of a dense, urban environment on a narrow, coastal barrier island, Reeves says they have lots of wildlife, including red-shouldered hawks, ospreys, iguanas, mallard ducks, coots, moor

hens and sea gulls. I also spied a lone Egyptian goose. These geese have now been mentioned in the last three cover stories. They must have found a niche along the east coast.

A couple of other rare sightings, according to Reeves, include Matt Damon and Toby Keith. Damon reportedly has a home on Miami Beach and has played several times over the past few years and Keith can be seen teeing it up if the Oklahoma Sooners are in town for the

Orange Bowl or playing the Miami Hurricanes during the season.

The down-to-earth Reeves is a dedicated, hard-working superintendent who is also serving as a director of the Florida GCSA and an officer of the FGCSA's oldest chapter, the South Florida GCSA, which was founded in 1939 back in the heyday of Miami Beach and the Bayshore Golf Club. Now Reeves is also part of the long and rich history of the Miami Beach Golf Club.



Not quite a double green, but holes #1 (background) and #10 (foreground) do share the same water hazard. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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REEVES FUN FACTS



Ricky Reeves holds up dead python he and his buddies found while camping at Big Cypress in the Everglades.

Vehicle: 2008 GMC Canyon

The last good movie I saw: "Bourne Supremacy" starring Matt Damon

I stay home to watch: Little League World Series, Major golf events, Miami Dolphins

What I've been reading: *Golf Maintenance* magazines

Favorite meal: BBQ ribs and collard greens.

Favorite performer(s): Hank Williams Jr.

Prized possessions: Family

Personal heroes: Mom & Dad

Nobody knows that I: Have 5 grills that I cook on. Not all at the same time unless I have to.

I'm better than anyone else when it comes to: Grilling

If I could do it over: Try to play better golf.

I'd give anything to meet: Hank Jr.

My fantasy is: Travel and fish the Amazon River.

The one thing I can't stand: People not using a turn signal.

If I could change one thing about myself: Keep the weight off.

My most irrational act: Hanging out in the water with alligators in the Big Cypress National Preserve, but not in too deep.

Most humbling experience: Birth of my kids

The words that best describe me: Dedicated, honest, thankful.

My dream foursome would be: Matt Damon, George Lopez, Toby Keith and me.

My best fish story: First sailfish I caught on a drift boat out of Miami Beach marina.

My most memorable golf shot: Eagle on a par-4, dogleg left hole on the Spring Tree GC, now known as Seven Bridges GC. The ball came to rest 2 feet from the hole. I made the putt.



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MIAMI BEACH GOLF CLUB



Photo by Joel Jackson

Location: Miami Beach
 No. of Holes: 18; Yardage: 6,813; Par: 72 ;
Slope & Rating: 73.1 / 131
Ownership: City owned. Managed by Professional Golf Management, Inc. (PCM)
Playing Policy: Resort. Daily fee.
Average rounds per year: 47,000.
Designed by: Original 1923 designer unknown. 2001 Redesign: Arthur Hills & Steve Forest. Opened: 2001
Management Team: PCM President Johnny Laponzina; Club Manager Steve Farrell; Head Golf Professional Mike Booch; General Manager Alberto Pozzi; Food & Beverage Manager Jim Norse; Superintendent Ricky Reeves.
Ongoing projects: Re-sodding bunker faces and managing bermudagrass encroachment.
Total property acres: 120. Acreage under maintenance: 100
Greens: Turf Type: Salam Paspalum. Average size (sq.ft): 6,500. Acres: 3

Height of Cut: .090 - .100 (.075 - .080 for annual tournament)
Overseeding: none. Green speed goals: 9-10' summer, 10' plus for winter
Tees: SeaIsle 1 paspalum. Acres: 6. HOC: .350 in. Overseeding: none
Fairways: SeaIsle 1 Paspalum. Total acres: 25. HOC: .500; Overseeding: none
Roughs: SeaIsle 1 Paspalum Total acres: 35. HOC: 1.25; Overseeding: none
Bunkers: 59. Sand type: G- Angle; Hand and machine raking? John Deere 1200 Hydro Rake
Waste or Native areas/beds: 15 acres Materials (sand, crushed rock, mulch/straw, native plants and ground covers/ plant material
 How maintained? Trimmed and sprayed seasonally or when needed.
Waterways/Lakes/Ponds: 13 - 9 large and 4 small; 17 acres; maintained by Lake Masters
Irrigation: Brackish water with potable city water back up.

Pumping System: 3 brackish pumps, 2 city, 1 jockey.
Heads: 1,600/ 65-ft spacing
Fertigation: Applying N-Control, Phairway & other liquid fertilizer blends.
Watering restrictions: Common areas 2 times per week. Golf Course - follow CUP permit and any SFWMD water-shortage restrictions that are in effect.
Water Management/Conservation practices: Daily monitoring and computer weather station data with a digital rain gauge that works.
Staff: Total including superintendent: 18. Schedule: 40 hrs. straight time with OT as needed.
Key Staff: 1st Assistant David Pitkins; 2nd Assistant & Pest Control Tommy Knight; Equipment Technician: Steve Jackson; we all do irrigation.
Meetings/ Communications: Morning crew and monthly safety meetings. Bimonthly department head meetings.



These Egyptian geese are getting to quite common on south Florida courses.

Wet and Wild

on the Miami Beach Golf Club

Photos by Joel Jackson



A six-foot iguana strolls across the 13th tee.



Just hanging out in Iguanaville looking for my lost shaker of salt.



A mother Muscovy duck protects her babies from the nosy photographer.

Mist heads on bunker faces helps keep the new Seashore paspalum turf healthy.

July 23rd, 2007

Embark 2S at 1pt/ac
Treated July 9th
Last mowed July 13

Growth Regulator Programs and Products

Floritam St. Augustine

Untreated
Mowed July 21

Embark® can be used to control St. Augustinegrass growth. Photo supplied by Andy Jorgensen, CGCS.

Welcome to another Hands On Q & A session. In this issue we will be exploring one of the newer trends in golf course maintenance: the popular use of growth regulators to reduce clippings yield, improve turf density and manage green speeds.

Old Florida Golf Club, Naples

Andrew Polzin, Assistant Superintendent

At Olde Florida Golf Club (OFGC), a very beneficial maintenance practice is the use of plant growth regulators. Primo® is our product of choice for all applications. In order to manage desired green speeds at OFGC, we apply Primo® on a weekly schedule.

We apply Primo® at rates between 1 and 6 oz/A on the greens, depending on the time of year. Many factors are taken into consideration before applying Primo®. These include weather pattern, overall plant health, plant growth, and the current green speed. The PelzMeter® is used to measure green speeds daily at OFGC. We test two greens a day on a rotation, which allows us to determine if any changes should be made. In conjunction with applying Primo®, we also lightly vertical mow and topdress greens during the golfing season, allowing us to provide optimal putting surfaces. At OFGC we like to keep our green speeds in the range of 11.0 to 13.0 feet, which is the green speed preferred by the membership. During October through February, our Primo® rates stay in the range of 1oz/A to 3oz/A, in combination with the use of nutrients

and wetting agents. This allows us to provide the turf with proper nutrients that may be needed during this time of year.

As the weather breaks in the spring, we start to increase our rates of Primo®. For example, in March we applied Primo® at a rate of 4oz/A on Monday, as the week continued we recorded green speeds in the range of 12.5 to 13.0 feet. A week of excellent weather optimal for growing warm-season turfgrass, with temperatures in the 60s at night and 80s during the day created those speeds. During the weekend, we noticed the green speeds were dropping into the 11.0 – 11.5-foot range. We knew by looking at the upcoming weather pattern and the dip in green speeds it may be time to increase our rate of Primo® for the next application. Measuring green speeds is a major factor in determining what we do with our Primo® applications.

During the spring and fall, applications of Primo® may also be made to tees, fairways and approaches. With OFGC having a wide variety of bermudagrasses spread throughout the golf course, Primo® assists in providing a more consistent turf stand. Some of the grass types can grow slightly faster than others, giving an uneven

appearance. Primo® has helped when managing this issue. The fairway, tee and approach rates will range from 3oz/A to 6oz/A., starting with the lower rate and slowly increasing if appropriate.

In general, we know we need to apply Primo® at least once a week to the greens. We know if we skip a week we may notice a boost in growth, potentially prohibiting us from providing desired green speeds. When applying Primo® to tees, fairways, approaches and rough, it is on an as-needed basis. Given all the imperfections Mother Nature can provide for us, we also know that it is important not to follow a schedule. The most important thing we can do is make all the right observations before making our applications. Plant growth regulators can be a great resource if used to your advantage.

Copperleaf Golf Club, Naples

David Dore-Smith, Director of Golf Course and Grounds Maintenance

What is your program in general?

Copperleaf utilizes a growth regulator (Primo®) program year round on all greens.

On fairways, tees and approaches, Primo® is applied once the grass clippings begin to be an issue; typically



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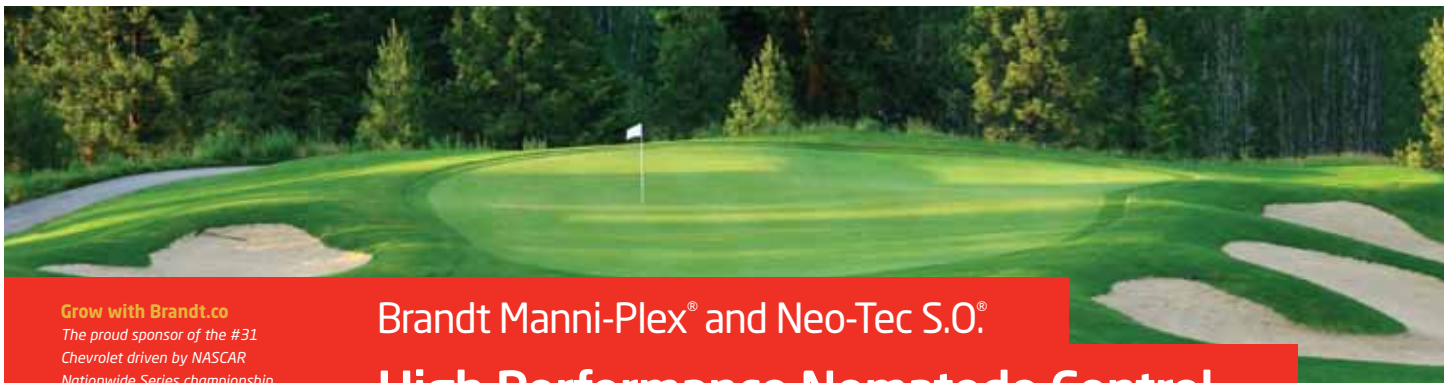
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in late April or May, and continue through to the end of September.

What parts of the course do you treat and what rates do you apply to each? What is your application frequency schedule?

Typically on greens during the non-growing months, a rate of 1 to 2 oz/A is used weekly at a 50 GPA rate. During the summer months, rates range from 2 to 4 oz/A weekly at a 50 GPA application rate.

Fairways, tees and approaches receive 4 to 6 oz/A at a 35 GPA application rate and are treated every 4 weeks or adjusted according to golfing events aerification schedules.

What benefits have you seen since implementing a regular growth regulator program in terms of turf density, clippings yield, ball-roll, and playability and irrigation management?

The biggest gain received from applying Primo® at Copperleaf is reduced clippings, ultimately improving consistency throughout the day. This is obviously critical on the putting greens with regard

to green speed from the morning to the afternoon. The turf density has always been rated extremely well at Copperleaf during the summer months. A weekly program of circle-cutting all tees, fairways and approaches begins in June, which also helps greatly in producing 'tight' turf.

We know Primo® is the primary product of choice these days, but do you use any other products that you can share with us?

One of the biggest advances in recent times is the use of additives that compliment the Primo® program. Two years ago I was using rates as high as 16 ounces of Primo® per acre and the effects of the application lasting 3 weeks. After researching various products, I began using Raider® from Floratine at a rate of 22 oz/A. The addition of the Raider® has reduced my rate of Primo® down to 4 to 6 oz/A and I am extending the interval of applications an additional week. Raider® allows for the Primo®, or any foliar product, to enter the plant more effectively. The cost savings in both labor and products are significant.

Also, after discussions with Kevin Wasilewski, from Syngenta, he recommended the application rate of 35 GPA, which has also helped to provide a more concentrated solution being applied to the leaf blade.

Overall, I am very satisfied with the use of Primo®, and any type of growth-regulating product, on and around the course. It is a great tool to have in controlling growth habits and providing quality conditions year round.

Candler Hills Golf Club, Ocala

By Andrew Jorgensen, CGCS

Program in general: Applying Primo Maxx® beginning around June 1 to all tees, fairways and approaches. First application is at 10 oz/A, and we increase to 12 oz/A and 14 oz/A with subsequent applications. We apply roughly every 28-30 days during the season. All applications are applied using a full minor nutrient package consisting of Iron (Fe), Manganese (Mn) and Magnesium (Mg) along with some Nitrogen and Potassium from a controlled release liquid source. Depending on

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weather, we may or may not include a wetting agent in the mix.

On putting greens we begin Primo Maxx® once we feel comfortable that the overseeding has begun to slow down. We start with low rates, 1 oz/A per week and will slowly increase rates to 4 oz/A per week in foliar fertilizer sprays.

Where and when do we use growth regulators: Along with the typical Primo® applications to Bermudagrass playing areas, we have also had good success with applying growth regulator products to out-of-play areas of the golf course.

Glyphosate Pro™ 41% (active ingredient) applied at a rate of 5 oz/A to bahiagrass areas located on the golf course will provide significant growth control and some minor weed eradication. The bahiagrass will go slightly off color and will have a stunted seedhead, but will also reduce the amount of time needed for mowing or excess clippings removal. We have found that applications starting in mid-June will last roughly one month and

provide a bi-weekly mowing schedule.

Embark 2S® applied at a rate of 1 pint/A to Floratam St. Augustinegrass will provide great growth regulation for a period of about 28 days. This application will reduce the time needed for mowing and excess clipping removal and allow a bi-weekly mowing schedule to be performed. Due to the slow-down in growth though, other stresses (i.e. chinch bugs) will need to be taken care of, as damage recovery will be slowed during this time. *See photo on page 16.*

We typically begin these applications once the summer rains have set in and hindered the amount of available time to keep up with mowing the turf. We will continue these applications until we are caught back up or the turf growth has slowed with drier weather.

Vanderbilt C.C., Naples

Stuart Bothe, Superintendent

Where do you use growth regulators?

Greens: Primo® year round at 2-8 oz/A per week. Tees, fairways and approaches:

Primo® from April - October at 4-7 oz/A mixed with Raider® at 20 oz. /A, and roughs: June-September at 6 oz/A mixed with Raider®.

What is your application frequency schedule?

Greens are treated weekly. Fairways, tees and approaches treated at five-week intervals. Roughs treated at six-week intervals.

What benefits have you seen since implementing a regular growth regulator program?

Greens- definitely increased ball roll and grain control, clipping yield reduction; leaf blades are much finer texture.

We know Primo® is the primary product of choice these days, but do you use any other products that you can share with us?

Raider® works very well when combined with Primo®. It makes the Primo® last 2 weeks longer and the rates per acre of Primo® can be reduced by approximately one half and still get the same effect. ■



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Former pro golfer Chi Chi Rodriguez believes in taking children with a lack of interest in academics and placing them in programs where they will receive individual attention to help them become productive citizens. Photo courtesy of the Chi Chi Rodriguez Academy.

The Mission of the Chi Chi Rodriguez Academy & Golf Club

By Garth A. Boline, Superintendent

When I left Feather Sound Country Club in 1989 for another new grow-in adventure, little did I know how many other things were in store for me out of the norm of a superintendent's daily job duties! As it turned out, I would become the superintendent of The Chi Chi Rodriguez Golf Club.

It is the first public golf course with a school on the grounds and the first and only golf course in the country with a publicly funded partnership school located on a golf course. The golf course is a part of the Chi Chi Rodriguez Youth Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)3 tax-exempt foundation that operates on private donations and public greens fees. The Foundation began on a small, par-3, city-run golf course called Glen Oaks in 1975, which the City of Clear-

water leased to the Foundation for a dollar a year.

Young kids from the nearby schools were transported by Foundation vans to Glen Oaks after school for golf lessons, mentoring and tutoring. The after-school program followed its founder Chi Chi Rodriguez's motto: "Arm kids with clubs instead of arming them with guns and knives."

The program grew and the need for a larger course became evident. In 1989, the Chi Chi Rodriguez Golf Club opened on North McMullen Booth Road in the Countryside area of Clearwater. The course averages 45,000 to 55,000 rounds a year. In 1993, growth was again necessary. The public partnership school, The Chi Chi Rodriguez Academy was born.

The Foundation, in partnership with the Pinellas County School Board and the City of Clearwater, opened the facility with 36 students consisting of one 4th- and one 5th-grade class of at-risk students. In 2007, the Academy expanded to serve even more at-risk students and today it serves 95 students in grades 4 through 8.

Kids have always been a part of what goes on here. Twice a week, during the school day in a program we call "shadowing," students are assigned to "shadow" an employee to learn how a facet of the business operates. Students can be found working in the pro shop, administration office, snack bar, and cart barn or golf operations. Students also have the opportunity to "shadow" a department head and receive adult sup-

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The 1st Tee Program at Chi Chi's Golf Club helps school youngsters embrace the nine core values of character and good citizenship. Photo courtesy of the Chi Chi Rodriguez Academy.

port and mentoring in the process. Supporting the children is at the core of everything we do at Chi Chi's. To be a student at our school, their zoned or home school must refer the child. Specific guidelines are used to identify students who are in danger of becoming high-school dropouts. Chi Chi is all about taking children with a lack of interest in academics or who have negative home situations which make it difficult to adjust to classes and inserting them into a program where they receive more individual attention, positive adult interaction and guidance in making positive life choices or, as we call it, "Preparing Students for the Game of Life." Incorporating a sense of community and pride through working with plants and vegetable gardens is an ongoing concept that we instill in our students. Two years ago, the Foundation took over a run-down driving range across the street from the golf club. We have upgraded the range with three new greens; two shade-covered hitting stations, and improved turf management overall. Every day, the children are intro-

"We are working to create citizens who are tax payers not tax burdens." – Chi Chi Rodriguez

duced to the game of golf with its core values as set forth by the First Tee Program. We introduce kids to the game and have a regular golf instruction session during the day taught by our golf professional. We recently held a summer camp for children of all ages. It was highly successful and we had a waiting list. We are now host to the First Tee Program of Clearwater, which serves many more area children and opens the door to the great game of golf. The Chi Chi Rodriguez

Golf Club has been a working member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for golf courses since 1998 and became fully certified in 2001. Our students, working with teachers and volunteers, put in a lot of hard work planting wetlands, littoral shelves and erecting wooden birdhouses on the course. In addition, students are involved in a bird inventory each year as well as maintaining an accurate wildlife inventory of all the different animals that call the golf course home. We are fortunate to have three Master Gardeners help out each week. Working with me and students in



The Chi Chi Rodriguez School is also a member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. Here students help create a sustainable butterfly garden on campus. Photo courtesy of the Chi Chi Rodriguez Academy.

each class, they have planted vegetables, woody plants and made a rain barrel to capture rainwater for irrigation. They also helped us attain Audubon re-certification by assisting in creating a sustainable butterfly garden for the school courtyard areas.

At the Chi Chi Rodriguez Academy and Golf Club we strive to build character in our youth or, as Chi Chi himself has often said, “We are working to create citizens who are tax payers not tax burdens.”

By learning the great principles of golf, they grow in strength by learning to handle the ups and downs of golf and life. We see all our students as capable of learning and guide them every day to make them part of the next generations of golfers and responsible citizens.

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Shell Point Facility Tour



The first stop on the tour was the maintenance facility to show how important and complex golf operations are. Photo by Shelly Foy.

Shelly Foy, USGA Green Section, Florida Region

Mark Jacobs, golf course superintendent at Shell Point Golf Club in Fort Myers, looked anxious with anticipation when we met at the maintenance facility Feb. 20. He was waiting for the bus to drop off a group of Shell Point's residents and golf members for a maintenance facility and golf course tour. It had been several years since he had hosted a similar tour at a previous course.

Mark was well prepared and, as it turned out, he had nothing to be nervous about. The members were enthusiastic and curious and asked questions that put Mark at ease because he was talking about something he knows very well, golf course maintenance and the surrounding environment.

The tour started at the maintenance facility with Mark and crew leader John Sutton discussing the fully contained recycle equipment wash system and fuel island, soil bins, blow-off station and fertilizer storage. Next, mechanic Greg Cramp discussed the equipment repair shop and how it was designed and managed with safety and efficiency of equipment care in mind. While touring the maintenance facility, members had the opportunity to view before-and-after photos of improve-

ments to the equipment storage area. Signs also displayed the cost of individual pieces of equipment. Mark made a point that I am sure stuck in everyone's mind when he equated one hour of equipment use on the golf course to 100 miles on a personal car.

Mark then took everyone into the break room where he had a table set up with items like EC and moisture meters. Members were particularly interested in the automated irrigation system and soil moisture sensors and asked a lot of questions about water use. Mark and his members had a great conversation about how important water conservation is to Shell Point and the golf course staff.

Next, everyone loaded up in golf carts for the course tour. Mark first took everyone to an area where they are working on naturalizing an out-of-play area by removing turf and planting native plants. He took the opportunity to talk not only about the benefits to wildlife from such projects, but also how naturalizing areas can help reduce inputs of water, fertilizers and chemicals. He also took the opportunity to reiterate the benefits of turf and how it can be an excellent bio-filter. On holes No. 3



Posters showed the cost of equipment and the investment a club must make in course maintenance. Photo by Shelly Foy.

and No. 4, he talked about a staff project of propagating (or recycling) existing aquatic plants and how they not only enhance lake edges, but also create habitat for wildlife and help filter and improve water quality.

We then had fun on No. 8 exploring a gopher tortoise den. The members were surprised to hear that the dens are dug to a depth that maintains a constant 72 degrees and are often shared with other animals like snakes.

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Mark Jacobs discusses the gopher tortoise habitat and how tortoise dens house a variety of species including snakes. Photo by Shelly Foy.

The last stop was close to the maintenance facility where the staff has worked to create an aquatic haven for all kinds of wildlife, which were very much in abundance during the tour. This area was a great example of what a healthy aquatic system looks like. There was lively discussion from the members about how much they enjoyed this area during their rounds. Mark extended an invitation for anyone interested in working on environmental projects to join their environmental team. One member is very knowledgeable about native plants and offered to get involved in creating a plant inventory.

Mike Mongoven, director of golf at Shell Point, was also on hand throughout the tour and thought the event was very beneficial. Hosting course tours is a great way to garner support, both for environmental projects as well as general golf course mainte-

nance efforts. Mark did this the right way, by planning ahead and making sure the information he presented was well thought out and interesting. After the two-hour tour, he now has some very supportive members, and I suspect that with members talking to members, there will be many more who will be lining up to take part in the next tour.

Editor's note: What a great "How To" article that can be used by anyone interested in conducting a tour. In this era of prolific local ordinances, tours like this can help members spread the word to other friends in the community and support our calls for science in the ordinances. Better still, take some county commissioners or regulators on a tour.



This aquatic haven created by the maintenance employees with its abundant wildlife was the hit of the tour. Photo by Shelly Foy.

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Regulator Reality Check

Twelve years ago, the Florida GCSA joined the allied group of agriculture and green industries in sponsoring a Spring Regulator Tour that brought EPA regulators from Washington and Atlanta, and Florida regulators from the Florida Depts. of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Water Management Districts, Mosquito Control Districts and some local county officials.

The annual event takes place each March as the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association coordinates the tour which includes golf, nursery, sod, citrus, row crop, sugar cane, dairy and beef cattle operations. The regulators meet in Ft. Myers and, after an afternoon tour of the Old Collier Golf Club in Naples, they head east on SR 80 for a weeklong visit to facilities related to all those commodities mentioned above.

The FGCSA rents multi-passenger, golf-cart-powered trams for the golf course tour and host Tim Hiers CGCS takes advantage of that rental to also conduct an eco-tour for 5th graders from a nearby elementary school.

This is classic outreach and education. It is something we need to do more of on some scale at more golf courses throughout the state. Building working relationships and sharing information with regulators at all levels local, state and federal will reap benefits when it comes to discussing issues that crop up. We can also help our cause by educating the public and we can easily start with maintenance and eco-tours with our golfing customers, members, neighborhood school kids and bird watching groups.

Over the years I have watched the reaction of these regulators on the tour of Old Collier. When the facts of actual acreage under maintenance and the amounts of pesticides applied, the light begins to come on. And there is nothing better than the wildlife sightings as we ride the course. Given that mid-afternoon is not the best time for sightings, we still manage to find gopher tortoises, gators,



The tour group stops to watch a family of bald eagles soaring over the Old Collier course. Photo by Joel Jackson. Eagle photo by Kyle Sweet.



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songbirds, wading birds and best of all ospreys and bald eagles in mid-air battles over a fish the osprey has captured.

Course design, irrigation management and the use of brackish water with seashore paspalum are also discussed. Finally, a putting contest and a tour of the maintenance facility followed by a barbecue dinner and Q&A session in the break room wrap up the day.

There are always other superintendents and speakers to share information and answer questions one on one. This year thanks to tight travel budgets there were only 20 regulators. My estimate is that 19 of them learned something new, while one remained adamant that water quality had to be compromised during the summer rainy season.

Helping Tim this year with tour hosting duties were Old Collier Superintendent Ricardo Uriarte, Sanctuary GC superintendent Kyle Sweet and his IPM Manager Jason Craft, local ornithologist George McBride and myself. Thanks also to Dan



Regulators get a little “hands on” time by participating in a putting contest on the practice green. Earlier they witnessed hand mowing, aerifying and spray hawk demonstrations on the green. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Botts and Mike Aerts of the FFVA for organizing these tours.

The FFVA has been doing a version of regulator tours for a long time. Every local superintendent chapter and/or course needs to do the same thing as regulators and politicians change all the time. The

late Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-NY) summed it all up when he said, “You are entitled to your own opinion, but you are not entitled to your own facts!”

If we openly share the facts with the public, maybe they will view those negative media stories with more skepticism. ■

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FGCSA Best Management Practices for Golf

By Kevin Sunderman,
Secretary/Treasurer Florida GCSA

After a lot of hard work, the Florida GCSA is prepared to roll out its Certification Program for the Best Management Practices for Golf. This program, designed to build upon the BMP manual published in 2007, is intended to educate superintendents, golf course employees and vendors on the best ways to manage golf course agronomics while minimizing any negative environmental impacts.

University professors and industry professionals will teach the program. The program will be delivered as a six-hour seminar immediately followed by an exam. Passing the exam will certify an individual for four years with recertification simply requiring attendance of another FGCSA BMP Seminar to learn the latest changes and updates to the BMPs. In addition to certification, the program will count toward CEUs for your state pesticide

license and GCSAA PDI/CGCS points. This program does not currently replace any local Green Industry BMP (GIBMP) class requirements.

While current law does not require this program, it is a valuable tool for education and awareness of superintendents and affiliated golf industry personnel on the most current BMPs for golf course maintenance.

It is important that Florida superintendents demonstrate their dedication toward understanding and following the Golf BMPs. By developing a successful and well-participated program, the superintendents around the state can strengthen their credibility and science-based position when faced with fertilizer, chemical and water restrictions.

The program will send a strong message to lawmakers and the public showing that the state's golf courses

are committed to doing what is in the best interest of the environment while maintaining their facilities, which are small businesses, using the best resources available.

Without your participation, the program falls short in its intent to better educate turf professionals and show lawmakers and regulators the industry's dedication to preserving the environment. Please be on the lookout for more information to come on the regional scheduling of the BMP Programs.

Editor's Note: The FGCSA Board and the BMP Committee are finalizing dates and locations to hold a series of statewide regional BMP programs. Speakers and venues have to be arranged. More information on registration and testing and any required re-testing procedures will be announced when the schedule is set. ■

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FIELD OBSERVATIONS



By *Ralph K. Dain Jr.*,
GCSAA Regional Representative Florida

How many of you know which organization fosters sustainability through research, awareness, education, programs and scholarships for the benefit of golf course management professionals, golf facilities and the game? If you thought to yourself, "Self, I believe that is the EIFG!" Treat yourself to a hot fudge sundae or banana split after work. If you can identify what the acronym EIFG stands for, go ahead and take the rest of the day off and enjoy that ice cream treat now!!

EIFG is the Environmental Institute for Golf, the philanthropic organization of GCSAA. A number of programs which ultimately come back as benefits to you, our members, as well as golfers in general, are funded by money raised by the EIFG. When you donate to the EIFG, your tax-deductible donation joins others in:

- Fueling innovation through research
- Expanding knowledge of golf course management professionals through education
- Telling golf's story through advocacy and outreach
- Helping bright minds pursue their dreams through scholarships

In recent years, we have seen GCSAA member support of EIFG slip to only 10-12 percent of our total membership. EIFG is undergoing a re-branding effort

that was initially unveiled at this past year's GCSAA Conference and Show in Las Vegas.

We were also thrilled to receive a donation of \$1 million from The Kendrick B. Melrose Family Foundation which is supported by Ken Melrose, former CEO and chairman of the Toro Co.

With this donation, the Melrose Leadership Academy will be developed. Through an application and selection process, 20 individuals will be selected to participate, beginning in 2013. The program will take into account financial need, geography, facility size, requirements necessary to achieve GCSAA Class A status and other factors. While attending the GCSAA Conference and Golf Industry Show, participants will also be provided opportunities to network with GCSAA and other industry leaders.

The academy will offer education specific to risk management (health, safety, environmental compliance, operational efficiency, business and environmental stewardship.

While a donation of this magnitude infuses EIFG with, specific for education, it is imperative that these types of donors see that we have support from our members greater than 10 percent. Many of the chapters with whom I and other Field Staff have visited are hearing about our significant drive to reach a level of 51% member support by 2014. I know this sounds lofty, but the importance of the work being continued on your behalf in research, education, and advocacy cannot be stressed enough. We are not asking for \$1 million contributions (unless of course you feel so inclined!). We ask that you show your support at whatever level you feel comfortable, but please support to some extent.

I want to personally thank the Everglades GCSA for its continued annual support as well as acknowledge the Florida GCSA for its recent contribution commitment. In the coming months, I hope to add more

Florida Chapters and individual members to the recognition list.

We have also recently announced that the successful Rounds 4 Research program developed by Tim Kreger and the Carolinas GCSA will now be offered as a national campaign overseen by EIFG. We are excited about continuing the success already achieved at the regional level. We believe this provides us a great opportunity to assist local chapters around the country raise funds that can be utilized as research or advocacy and outreach efforts. For this program to find the same success, it will be important to have the local associations work with GCSAA and EIFG to secure rounds (foursomes) from golf facilities in the region that will ultimately be auctioned off to raise funds.

As it is being presented, 80 percent of the funds raised will be directed back to the local chapters. 20 % of the funds will help defray the cost of overseeing the program. It will also be critical to work with our friends at the CMAA and PGA and get complete industry support. I am confident our members and chapters in Florida will be positively impacted by this effort and look forward to working with all of you on this initiative.

I invite you to attend your upcoming chapter functions where I plan to provide greater details on this exciting development. I encourage you to visit the EIFG website at <http://www.eifg.org/> where you can learn more about all the programs we are working on as well as provide your support.

As I travel the region, I will be asking the questions I started this article with, and if you get the answers right, it will be like playing Little League baseball all over again. Let's all hit a home run and support EIFG and head to the Dairy Queen for an ice cream treat!!

For any questions or information contact me at: Phone 785.424.4306 or Email rdain@gcsaa.org



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**BITS AND
PIECES**



**GREEN SIDE UP
BY JOEL JACKSON**

As the editor and principal cover-story writer of the *Florida Green*, I have been privileged to travel the state from Pensacola to Key Largo over the years, telling the story of our members, their golf courses and their programs and representing our association. We shared those challenges and successes in managing the golf courses in one of the most ecologically diverse states in the country thanks to the many articles and photos contributed by your fellow members.

In the past, the state was divided into similar, compact, geographical regions to facilitate photographer Daniel Zelazek's travel to minimize expenses as he shot at least two courses per trip. That resulted in chapters in only one region being highlighted each year. Since I am centrally located in Orlando, my suggestion to the Publications Committee going forward will be to cover the North, Central, Southeast and Southwest regions each year and rotate the chapters so that they are covered in Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall in different years.

As more of us rely on the web, smart phones and social media to search of information and keep in touch, the FGCSA will be striving to keep improving our Web site to make it a hub-and-spoke operation and one-stop place to go to for getting all FGCSA and Chapter information, paying dues, and keeping up with events so you can plan your busy schedules to balance family life and professional participation. Networking is so vital in today's rapidly

changing world.

Speaking of networking, congratulations to my longtime Ridge Runner friend and former superintendent, Bobby Ellis, who is the newest member of the Golf Agronomics team. Bobby will be serving GASH customers in the Central Florida area. GASH and other legendary suppliers have played a major role in supporting FGCSA and Chapter events and publications. In 2013, as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the *Florida Green*, we will begin profiling the companies that have been with the magazine since it began in 1973 as the *South Florida Green*.

Speaking of being with the magazine for a long time, I began my editorship back in 1990. It has been a labor of love and I can't tell you how much I enjoy serving all of you in that capacity. I also want to thank the FGCSA Board for awarding me the Marie Roberts Lifetime Service Award in May. It means a lot to me to be honored in the name of the first FGCSA staffer who gave so much of

herself to all of us. We didn't lose a beat when Jennifer Bryan came on board as the Association Manager. Her ideas and energy give us the boost to keep getting better.

Coming off two recent business trips this spring, the educational and networking sessions again drove home the lesson that we need to keep reaching out to our peers to join our local chapters and the FGCSA. I made new contacts that hopefully will help our association by improving my knowledge and making me aware of new possibilities for improving our services. The same is true for local chapter members.

Our world today doesn't reward people for staying in a rut which, like sitting in the middle of the room, might seem safe and uncomplicated. The only way to grow and thrive is to move toward the edge to see what's out there. There are brother and sister superintendents out there to catch you if you will just take a leap of faith and try something new like getting more involved with your chapter.

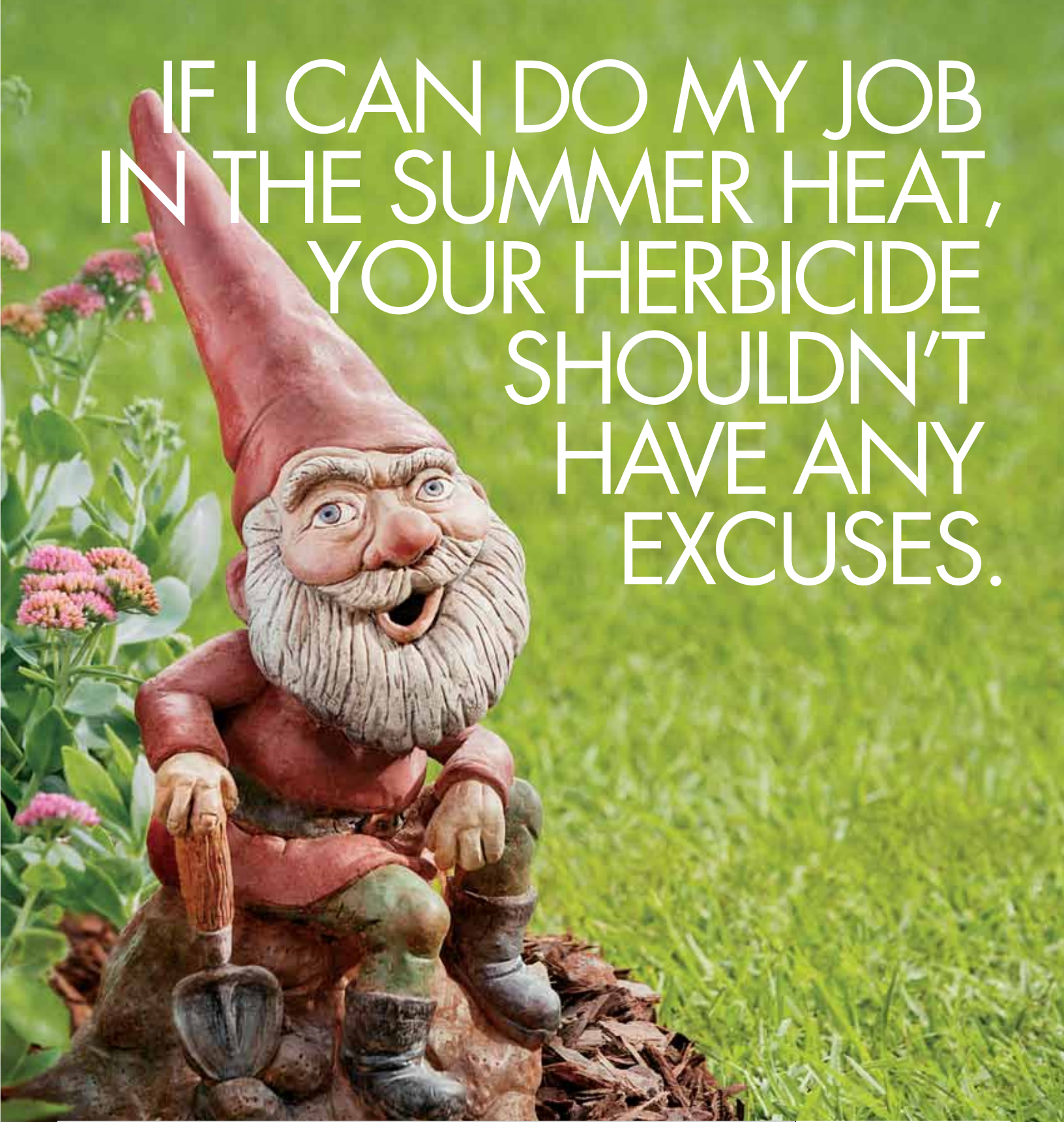


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