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President's Message



I hope 1979 was a good year for everyone. It was definitely a year of change for the South Florida Superintendent. We saw our association divide its territory and the price of gasoline reach \$1.00 per gallon. At the F.T.G.A. Conference our former President Leroy Phillips was elected Director and Bob Sanderson received the "Wreath of Grass Award". Congratulations to both of these men. Two successful tournaments were held, the "Poa Annua Classic" and the "Crowfoot Open".

As we face 1980 our winter visitors are returning to our area. Our talents and knowledge will be put to a true test . . . with heavy play and slower growing conditions we are expected to keep the courses in top condition. Those who could not afford to oversee (or chose not to) are hoping for a mild winter. This is the time of year for many of us to prepare our budgets. This will be harder than growing grass since so much of our materials we use are derived from petroleum.

A few comments about the Florida State Golf Course Superintendent Association. In October officers were elected and By-Laws approved. Our initial goal of unifying the Superintendents in the State of Florida has been accomplished. It is our hope that the National Association will recognize this State Association. The next meeting of FSGCSA will be held during February in St. Louis at the national conference. The Florida State Golf Course Superintendents Association, through contributions from the local associations will have a suite at convention headquarters for all Florida superintendents and their friends to meet.

Hope to see you in St. Louis

Alan Weitzel

The South Florida Green

The Official Bulletin of the South Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association

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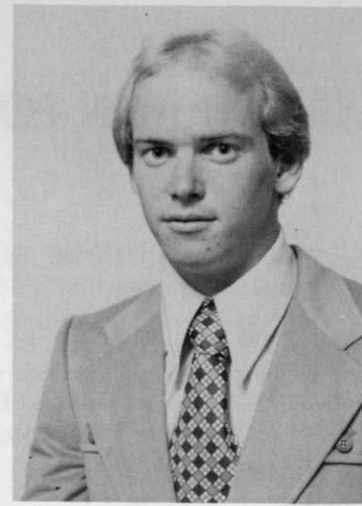
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HOW I SPENT MY SUMMER VACATION

By WALTER J. McMAHON



Being an on the Job Training Student from Lake City Community College, I feel very fortunate that I was sent to Country Club Aventura for my summer's OJT. It is a quality golf course, run by quality people. My summer OJT experience started on April 23, with my becoming familiar with the course and my job duties. I was hired primarily as spray technician. My main objective was to eradicate goosegrass from fairways and roughs. I was introduced to a product new to me for this task, Sencor, a relatively untested chemical. This product had not been used at Aventura and my first applications were to be experimental.

Mike Perham, Assistant Superintendent, told me we would be going at a rate of 1/2 lb./A, Sencor being 50w. This rate is 1/4 lb./A active ingredient. Along with the Sencor we used MSMA @ 2 lb./A. This rate discolored the Bermuda grass and showed up within 30 hours after spraying. First applications were made May 3, Hi T° for the day was 84°, Lo 74°. On May 4, every place I had turned the booms of my spray rig on showed up as a yellowed square of turf. I spent the next few days wondering how severe or permanent this discoloration would be. I covered the back nine of the north course fairways and roughs May 3 and 4. Monday, May 7, was rainy and we did not spray.

Superintendent, Dan Jones, after observing the effects of the first applications, changed the rate of the Sencor to 1/4 lb/A which is 1/8 lb/A active ingredient. This is the rate we used for all further applications. This rate discolored the Bermuda grass less and seemed to have the same effect on the goosegrass as the stronger rate. Everyone who attended the July 10 meeting of the South Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association is familiar with Sencor. I can not relay any formal data in the manner Dr. Johnson did. I have no percentage of injury, or damage, no plots measured. I can only relate my observations as an applicator. I covered 36 holes with two applications. In 17 days of spraying, from May 3 to June 5, the average Hi T° for that period was 86.8°, Lo 75.9°. We did not spray any days it rained. One day, May 9, we got a shower right after I had sprayed. The rain had no effect on the action of the chemical. The discoloration of the Bermuda still occurred as did damage to leaf tips and leaf margins of goosegrass plants. These applications did an outstanding job on the goosegrass population and also eradicated many broadleaf weeds, some in just one application.

The only weed not controlled by Sencor/MSMA was Nutsedge. Mike Perham told me that last summer they had to have two people spraying well into September to reach the point of control we had by mid June. They used MSMA & 2,4-D last summer. I know from past experience using MSMA & 2,4-D, the traditional herbicide combination in this area for weed control, that Sencor can save a lot of money for a superintendent. Why spray five or six times with MSMA & 2,4-D when you can achieve better results in two applications of Sencor & MSMA? Care must be taken not to spray any areas under stress from heat or lack of moisture. If your irrigation does not come on one night after a day of spraying Sencor, you will become aware of this fact very soon. You have to get water on that Bermuda grass after it has been sprayed, not immediately — just don't miss any normal irrigation or you run the risk of damaging the turf.

We were fortunate not to have killed anything. Those first few days of discoloration keep you wondering though. Recovery time is about 10 days. Some areas took longer to recover than others, but the fact remains all areas sprayed recovered; areas around sand traps took longer to recover and discolored greater than others. This could be related to soil texture; the relative proportions of sand silt and clay in a soil — sandy soils exhibit good aeration and infiltration of water. These characteristics of sand would put the Sencor to the root zone of the plant quicker around sand traps than other areas of the course that have a finer textured soil. Care must be taken spraying turf on sandy soils with Sencor. Around traps were areas I was particularly selective in spraying. Also, I stayed away from greens and trees, only fairways and roughs were sprayed.

I had a great learning experience at Aventura this summer. The use of Sencor is the most significant thing I have seen and to be the person to apply it gave me a knowledge of the chemical and its potential to kill goosegrass and broadleaf weeds, also its potential to injure Bermuda Grass. In conclusion, I would say that Sencor has a place in South Florida and I am sure more and more superintendents will be using it once they try it and gain confidence in the material. It is an excellent herbicide for controlling goosegrass. I will try to implement its use wherever I go to work next summer and hopefully will have as good results as achieved at Aventura.

NEW ASSOCIATION FORMED

FLORIDA MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE ASSOCIATION has been officially formed. At a meeting held on June 28, 1979, at North Palm Beach Country Club, the association adopted its by-laws and elected its officers for the first year of operation. Those elected to serve as officers for the year are: President, Dick Medford of Cocoa Beach; Vice-President, Steve Baeumel of Pompano; Secretary-Treasurer, Bill Haycock of Orlando.

Dues have been established at \$30.00 a year for municipalities and \$60.00 for associate members, which are considered to be any person or organization having an interest in public golf courses.

The purpose of the association is to foster a general relationship, an exchange of ideas, procedures and operations to benefit municipality operating golf courses.

A comparative study of municipal golf courses has been taken and copies of the survey will be available to all members of the association who have paid their dues.

For the purpose of definition, municipalities are towns, cities, villages, counties, states or federal government which own or operate a public golf course. We would like to urge all municipalities in this state to become members of the association.

If you are interested, please contact:

Bill Haycock
Dubsdread Golf Facility
City of Orlando
549 West Par Street
Orlando, Florida 32804

Municipal Golf Course Operation

By William W. Kriegel

We read many articles on the quality of turf found on our southern golf courses and the programs that the Superintendents use to achieve the high quality demanded by the membership. There is, however, one area of golf courses that has been greatly overlooked in this perspective of golf, the area of the municipal golf course.

Typical of southern courses, we are open every day of the year with no surcease in the number of rounds played each day. Being a course open to the public at all times, we, by virtue of this, have acquired an exceedingly large membership, often too large for the golf facilities to handle. During the season, we average approximately 360 players each

day. In the off season this figure will drop to about 200 a day. It does not take any great mental capacity to realize that the number of rounds played each year can totally defeat most maintenance programs needed to improve course quality.

From this maintenance stand point, all work has to be done around the players on the course. Work that is normally done in four hours can often take two days to accomplish and can only be accomplished at the inconvenience of the golfers and the maintenance personnel. Due to this hazard of work, there are two basic cries cited by the golfers: (1) "How come you are always tearing up the course when we want to paly", and (2) "We want the course to be like Augusta National but don't do any work while we are playing".

The superintendent on the municipal course, therefore, has a major problem in his maintenance program. If he does the work necessary to improve the course, he is damned because he interferes with play. If he tires to accomodate his members by doing just the minimum of maintenance, he is damned because he is letting the course deteriorate beyond the point of recovery.

In defense of the municipal golf course superintendent, I must say he probably has one of the hardest jobs of any superintendent on any golf course. Everything seems to work against him in his efforts to do his job. Excessive play constantly works against his efforts to relieve compaction on the course. It also beats his turf to death and in many instances creates bare spots where no grass can grow. He also has a very limited budget to operate with which does not allow him the luxury of having the supplies necessary to improve the course quality, but merely be able to hold the status quo. This area will get much worse in the next few years as there is a "tax payers revolt" to reduce the already inadequate monies necessary to meet the needs of rising inflation. Many of the courses are forty to fifty years old and are nothing more than a hodge-podge of grass, each requiring different maintenance practice. There is no uniformity of turf that exists with the mordern turf grasses and generally no capital improvement account to convert to the modern varieties.

I feel that any superintendent who achieves success in maintaining a municipal course at better than average standards should be given all the credit he can be. With a low budget, low pay, and excessive play, the municipal superintendent is in a class by himself as to devotion to his job and his desire to do the best possible with his existing conditions. Maybe all superintendents should have at least one year's experience on a public course before moving on to the better, private clubs.

SEE YOU IN ST. LOUIS

BEHIND THE SCENES . . .

AN INTERVIEW WITH AL FRANK

By HARRY McCARTHA

As this writer has been involved with the construction industry for more than 30 years I have been intrigued with the work at P.G.A. National.

The big job at hand is to construct a complex for man to enjoy and not spoil the natural tropical setting nature offered. Every effort is being made to protect the natural environment and add to the botanical beauty.

For some of the facts we talked to Al Frank . . . a man that has been involved with engineering projects the world over. He has been here since the beginning and seems to love every square inch of the beautiful property. Al is continually on the move in his four-wheel drive vehicle, quietly and efficiently overseeing all the contractors and their work.

The earth moving and site development is under contract to Rubin Construction Co. of West Palm Beach. One-half million yards of fill will be moved building the first course alone. 145 men using 60 pieces of major equipment are hard at it . . . Large pans (24 yard capacity) scurry constantly to meet the construction schedule.

Our readers would marvel at the scope of the work. Imagine building a 26 acre lake in "wetlands" and satisfying all the concerned agencies. Building lakes requires "rim-ditching" on the outer perimeters with drag-lines. These, of course, are deeper than the lakes and are kept dry with giant pumps. Dewatering in this manner allows the giant pans to move the fill needed to create the elevated fill areas.

One lake now being created will require the removal of 248,000 cubic yards of earth.

In one 10 acre area near the club house the elevation is being raised 18 feet. This area will afford comfortable viewing for thousands of spectators during golf events. Several golf holes are being built with elevations more than 28 feet above sea level, quite an engineering accomplishment and costly indeed.

Final contouring and shaping is being done by forces and equipment of the Golf Course Architect, George Fazio. The work is under the direction of his nephew, Jim Fazio.

Al Frank has sincere words of praise for the workman-like manner the Fazio people are doing to complete the course.

Potable water supply, sanitary and storm drain work is being done by Belvedere Construction of West Palm Beach.

Al is proud of the cooperative spirit that prevails by all workers on the job. Lost motion is at a minimum and that's rare these days.

Design of the project (excluding golf courses) has been professionally monitored by Mock-Roos and Searcy, Consulting engineers.

This is a tremendous project being executed by "pros" in the finest fashion. Congratulations Mr. Ecclestone — We wish you the very best in the days and years ahead.

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New PGA Complex Adds Impact To South Florida Golf

By EARL COLLINGS
Director of Communications, P.G.A. of America

The administrative headquarters of the PGA of America have been in South Florida for many years. For the past seven years the offices have been in an office building in Lake Park. Several warehouses hold a building store of golf reference material and memorabilia.

Now that the new PGA National Complex is launched and ground broken for the new administrative building, the 625 acres located at the quadrant of PGA Boulevard and the Florida Turnpike intersection in Palm Beach Gardens will fast become the national and international focus of golf.

Construction plans for the new 36,000 square foot administrative building are moving at full speed. Completion is scheduled for early next Fall. In this building the burgeoning interests of the nation's 8,400 PGA professionals and 4,000 apprentices will be nurtured and promoted. The educational and tournament programs, membership and apprentice records and services, two national publications and a host of hundreds of pieces of literature, will be generated and administered from the modern new PGA headquarters.

The long awaited PGA Hall of Fame, Museum and Library will soon be located on a five-acre tract near the entrance of the complex. When completed it will offer visitors to the Palm Beach area the largest golf library in the world and a history-laden Hall of Fame featuring memorabilia and artifacts of the 48 members of the shrine. Expanded educational facilities for Association members and apprentices will be constructed also.

As you read this, the first of three Fazio-designed golf courses nears completion. The first rounds will be played

there in January. The Championship course is scheduled for completion in early Fall, and a third course will be ready in December.

The first competitive event will be held at PGA National in March when one of the popular PGA Club Professional Tournament Series 36-hole events is played there.

The first national championship to be contested there will be the PGA National Junior Championship in August. Thousands of juniors from all over the nation enter, and the finalists will include a boy and girl champion from each of the PGA's 40 Sections, plus winners of other major junior events.

Then in October, PGA National will host the world's largest all-professional championship, the 13th annual PGA Club Professional Championship. International competition will be coming to South Florida also. PGA National will host the 1983 Ryder Cup Matches.

At final completion there will be 6,800 housing units, including 1,400 single family residences. The first town house units went on sale recently with PGA members from all over the United States on hand for the initial sales. And when 200 of the units were offered to the public, they were "sold out" in less than three hours.

The final product of the PGA Complex will be an international Showcase for Promoting Golf in America — for 15,000 future residents, for golf-related conventions, for tourists, golf related industries, for national and international competition and for anyone fascinated by the lore of the game.