

(Continued from Page 16)

### III. Spruce Creek Golf Club.

Gary Morgan - Superintendent.

- A. 1. Age of greens - 7 years.  
2. Age of tees - 7 years (10 new Pro tees have been built in last year).
- B. Conditions of subsoil.  
1. Greens - all but 5 greens are 80% sand - 20% organic. 5 problem greens are 50% - 50%.  
2. Tees - older tees range from 60% - 40% to 80% 20%. New tees are 95% sand - 5% organic.
- C. What topsoil used & why.  
1. Greens - use 80% sand - 20% peat with charcoal added (@  $\frac{1}{8}$ " thick - equivalent to 3 lb/-1000 charcoal). Topsoil is applied when aerifying and various times of growing season when needed. Charcoal is used to cleanse the soil and to make it warmer for faster head time. Same topdressing was used at overseeding time to help deactivate the kerb, instead of spraying charcoal through sprayer. Results were satisfactory the 1st time tried.  
2. Tees - 80 - 20 mix used where and when needed.
- D. Comments:  
1. Greens - happy with results. The greens where subsoil is 50-50 are to be rebuilt soon.  
2. Tees - satisfied with results.

### IV. Suntree Country Club

Ron Andrews - Superintendent.

- A. 1. Age of greens on new nine holes planted Nov. 1, 1981.  
2. Age of tees on new nine holes planted 2nd week of Nov., 1981.
- B. Conditions of subsoil.  
1. Greens - 85% sand - 15% peat (Mixed off site).  
2. Tees - 80% sand - 20% peat (Mixed off site).
- C. What topsoil used & why.  
1. Greens - straight sand is being used. This is the same sand that was used in the building of the greens.  
2. Tees - 90% sand - 10% peat mix.
- D. Comments:  
1. Greens - topdress 1st 3 times starting 2nd week of January, 1982 with straight sand then aerified with  $\frac{1}{4}$ " tines - 3 times and each time topdressed with sand and rolled to get smoothness of a level surface. Happy with results.  
2. Tees - since 2nd week of January, 1982 they have been aerified and topdressed with 90% sand - 10% peat — 2 times. Satisfied with results.

As you can tell we have quite a few different ideas on what is done on each superintendent's course. It all depends on what's best for you, your course and your budget.

I would personally like to thank, on behalf of the Central Florida Chapter, the superintendents and their professionals who attended the 2nd Pro-Superintendents Meeting and Golf held at East Lake Woodlands Golf Club, Tarpon Springs on May 17. I think we showed each other that we are both professionals in our own right and that we are willing to communicate so that our clubs will be successful. Remember superintendents — The Professional is a close friend to us, lets make him feel the way that we want to feel. See you at the next Pro-Superintendents sometime in the Fall 1982. ■

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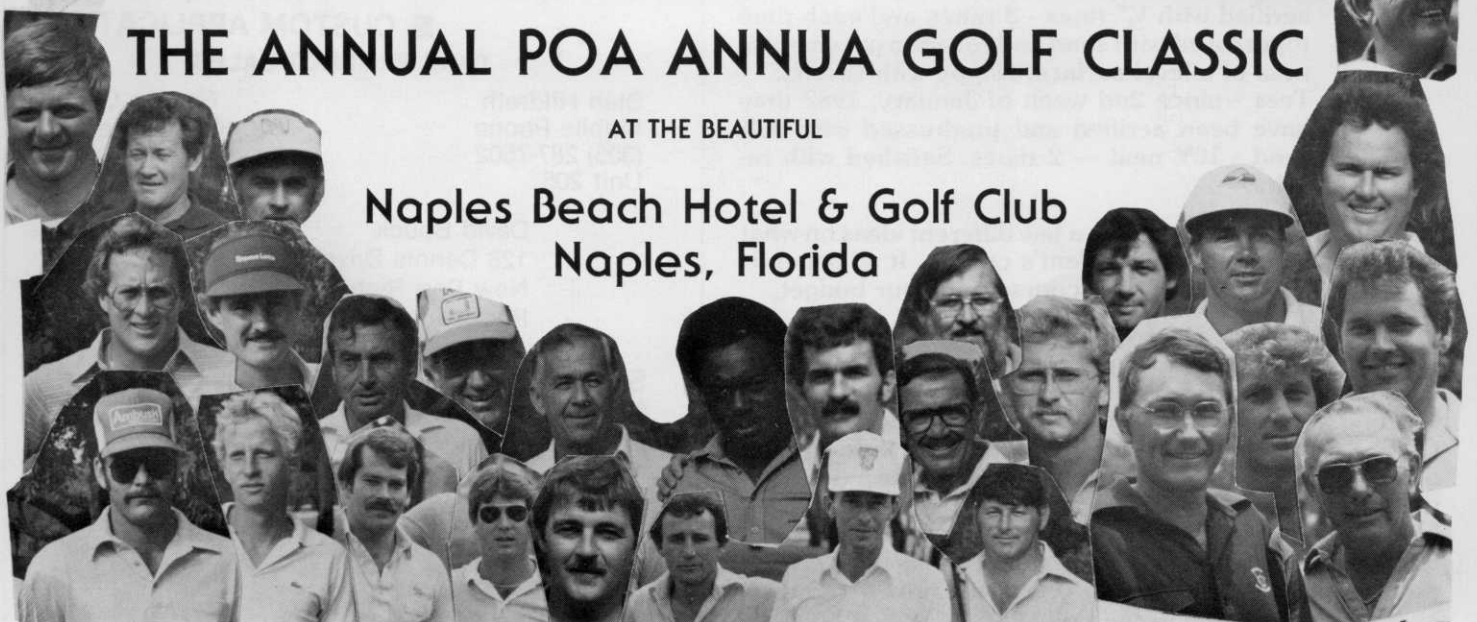




# THE ANNUAL POA ANNUA GOLF CLASSIC

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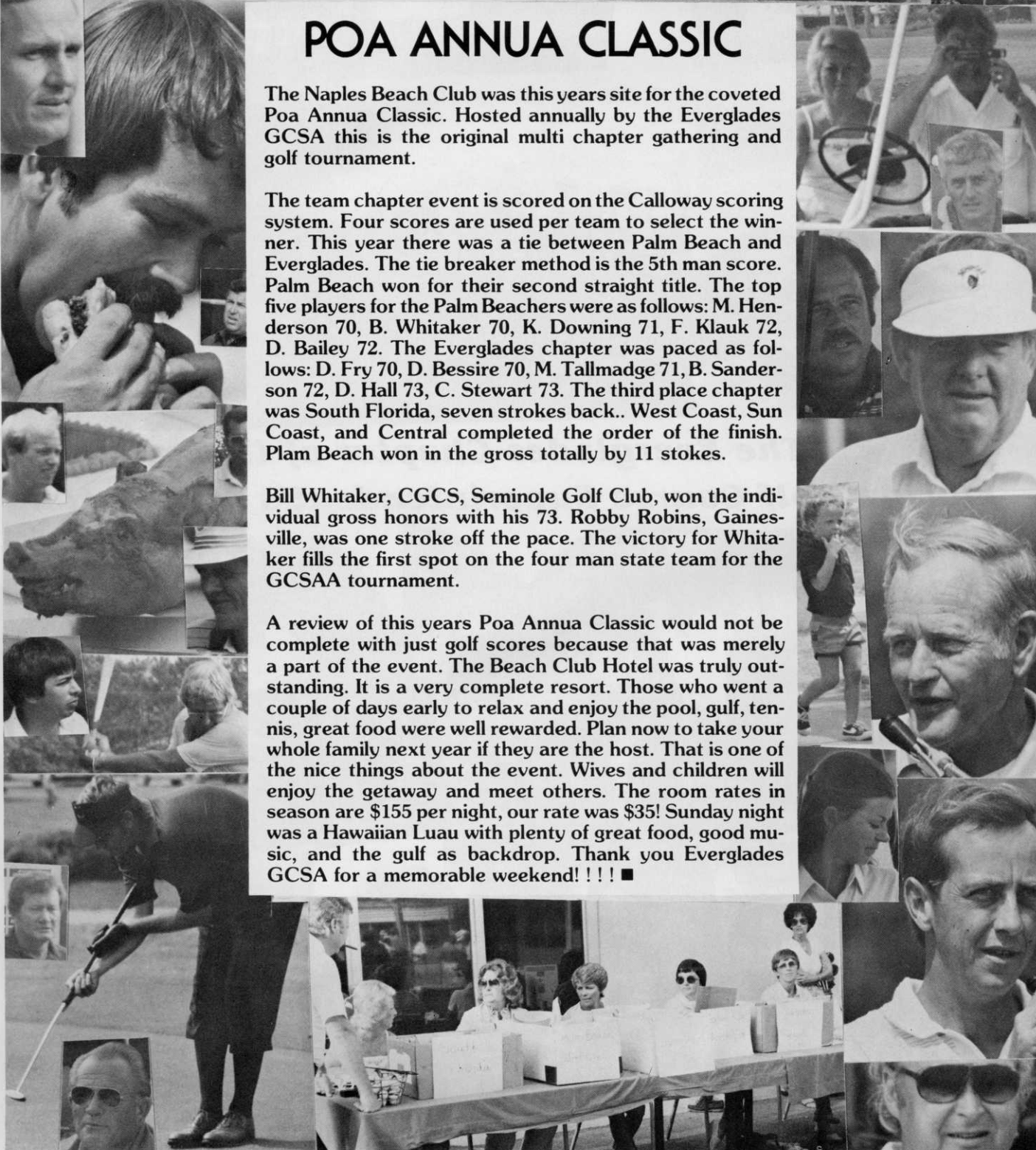
## POA ANNUA CLASSIC

The Naples Beach Club was this years site for the coveted Poa Annuia Classic. Hosted annually by the Everglades GCSA this is the original multi chapter gathering and golf tournament.

The team chapter event is scored on the Calloway scoring system. Four scores are used per team to select the winner. This year there was a tie between Palm Beach and Everglades. The tie breaker method is the 5th man score. Palm Beach won for their second straight title. The top five players for the Palm Beachers were as follows: M. Henderson 70, B. Whitaker 70, K. Downing 71, F. Klauk 72, D. Bailey 72. The Everglades chapter was paced as follows: D. Fry 70, D. Bessire 70, M. Tallmadge 71, B. Sanderson 72, D. Hall 73, C. Stewart 73. The third place chapter was South Florida, seven strokes back.. West Coast, Sun Coast, and Central completed the order of the finish. Plam Beach won in the gross totally by 11 stokes.

Bill Whitaker, CGCS, Seminole Golf Club, won the individual gross honors with his 73. Robby Robins, Gainesville, was one stroke off the pace. The victory for Whitaker fills the first spot on the four man state team for the GCSAA tournament.

A review of this years Poa Annuia Classic would not be complete with just golf scores because that was merely a part of the event. The Beach Club Hotel was truly outstanding. It is a very complete resort. Those who went a couple of days early to relax and enjoy the pool, gulf, tennis, great food were well rewarded. Plan now to take your whole family next year if they are the host. That is one of the nice things about the event. Wives and children will enjoy the getaway and meet others. The room rates in season are \$155 per night, our rate was \$35! Sunday night was a Hawaiian Luau with plenty of great food, good music, and the gulf as backdrop. Thank you Everglades GCSA for a memorable weekend!!!! ■



# COMPENSATION

## A View From The Other Side

by: Melvin Weinstein

The issue of compensation for superintendents has surfaced big over the last 10 years. We see coming on the scene, a highly skilled individual with schooling, and solid golf course apprenticeship. These facts have made the superintendent's position one that is highly skilled and knowledgeable. Is management paying for this expertise?

We have superintendents caring for properties that would cost millions to replace. Their annual salary cost is minimal considering the cost of fatal mistakes and mismanagement of these properties.

Like everyone else, the superintendent must prove his worth. He must be able to give the club the finest course available for whatever budget management approves, then he must remain within this budget. This is critical, since poor financial management will sour the whole picture. Management must also be aware of what kind of course the budget will allow and not make "pie in the sky" promises. The superintendent must follow through on any commitment he makes. Don't tell management something is going to be done and then forget about it for several weeks. Results not promises gets the job done. Management must be made aware of why goals can not be met. Honesty is the best policy.

With budgets escalating, clubs expect more and more for their dollars. If the superintendent is producing, management will be happy. Whether they translate this happiness into salary is the issue. The superintendent however can not sit back and wait. He must make management aware of his desires so management will know where they both stand. Overpushiness or threats will get him nowhere. Controlled discussion and communication at the right time will produce results. If promises are broken or rewards not forth-coming, then it is time to look for greener pastures.

Superintendents are no different that other managers, with one big exception — that is, he performs his work for the most part under no direct supervision from his management. He might receive some general objectives from his owner or chairman, but the performance is totally his own. He must discipline himself to stay within his own goals, and he must see that these goals ultimately align with the goals of management. I've seen superintendents hanging around their offices day in and day out, having only a vague idea of what is going on out in the field. Self discipline is a very important factor in this profession, and most importantly, pay your dues as an apprentice.

Summary: Get the training. Don't take a job that you're not qualified to do. Do the job right. Tell management how you and they stand, then stand up for your right. Come in on budget at all costs. If management doesn't recognize your worth, then you both have a problem. ■

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## WET SOIL AND CARTS

With all of the wet weather this winter, someone called to discuss effects of cart traffic on fairways. The superintendent had made a decision to close the course to all cart traffic. Rain twice a week for several weeks and the night before had saturated the soil. The members called two area clubs and found their carts running, then confronted the superintendent with this information. The superintendent realized the two area clubs had paved cart paths from tee to green. This club did not. Next question: It isn't raining now. Why can't we take the carts now? Answer: Water-saturated soil is much more easy to compact than damp or dry soil. The water acts as a lubricant between soil particles. Weight from above, forces soil particles into empty spaces. The soil particles move easily, forcing out free water and any air in the spaces. Granular structure of a good soil is ruined. Pore space for air and water is taken by soil particles, making the soil more compact and dense. Reduced pore space means less room for roots to enter the soil. Result: poor grass growth. A day of running carts on saturated soil could require several years of cultural practices, such as slicing, core aeration and tilling, to correct the soil for good grass growth.

*Landon's Turf Tips*

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# GOLF COURSE GREENERY

by Vince Smith

It's one of those bright and brilliant days you go out to play your favorite golf course.

The tee-box grass is unscarred and trimmed to perfection. The fairways are lush and verdant where the ball sits up stoutly. The greens are soft and smooth and velvety; they're putting like a dream.

And all's right with the world. These are ideal conditions most golfers not only expect at their favorite golf course, they generally take them for granted.

But all this immaculate greensward did not just come about by accident. The ultra-fine shape your layout has been honed into has been brought about by a dedicated, highly trained technician who is probably the most invisible, most unrecognizable member of your club staff — the golf course superintendent.

In the old days these knowledgeable turf management specialists were known as "greenskeepers." Today, as more educational skills have furnished a higher level of turf management technicians, the golf course superintendent has become one of the most vital cogs in the present-day golf club operation machinery.

Today's superintendent's in many instances, are college-trained turf experts who have engaged in considerable "on-the-job-training" before reaching the prestigious level which now marks their profession.

Mark Hampton, golf superintendent at Wyndmere Country Club in Naples, is an excellent example of the breed of turf technicians who have supplanted the old greenskeepers of years gone by.

Wyndmere is a comparatively new 27-hole private complex, designed by Golf Architect Arthur Hills, which is part of a large residential development owned by Canadian industrialist and sportsman Gerry Livingston.

From Jacksonville he moved on to LaGorce Country Club at Miami Beach as a maintenance worker then procured the job as assistant superintendent at Valley Country Club in Denver, Colorado. After a year in the cool Colorado mountain air, Hampton decided to go back to school.

"At the time I was going to the University of South Florida in Tampa and received an AA Degree in speech pathology," he said. But while he had been in Colorado, Hampton became interested in pursuing his schooling in turf management and ended up at Lake City (Florida) Community College, one of the finest turf specialty schools in the nation.

The Lake City turf management course at that time was two years...it has now been expanded to three years. Hampton finished his schooling, which included an on-the-job training program at Countryside Golf Club in Clearwater.

Hampton then decided he wanted to come to Southwest Florida and so he took the position of golf superintendent at Cypress Lake Country Club in south Fort Myers. He stayed there a year and a half.

"Cypress Lake was the most enjoyable for me, getting to know Herb Graffis and doing a couple of things for Patty Berg, whether it was her Christmas show or whatever," Hampton said. "So the time there was very enjoyable because of those two people, along with the members that were there also."

(Herb Graffis is a World Hall of Fame member from Fort Myers Beach who is HOME & CONDO'S award-winning columnist. Patty Berg is a women's golf immortal who is a member of Cypress Lake.)

The young superintendent was given the post of golf

*(Continued on Page 38)*



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*(Continued from Page 37)*

course superintendent at Wyndemere where he started work February 1, 1980. "When I started here they had not even knocked a tree down," he recalls. "Evidently, Mr. Livingston likes to have his people in on the ground floor because I know it is kind of unusual to have a superintendent in on the job that early in the game. But to me, a lot of money was probably saved by having an expert on the job. And I would like to hope that will follow suit in a lot of other operations."

Livingston receives high marks from Hampton. "He knew the quality of operation he wanted to run," the superintendent says. "And, believe me, the freedom and the confidence that he's given us in our area has been tremendous."

Of his pre-development start at Wyndemere, Hampton says, "I think we're starting to see more of that now in many of them, (new development golf courses) because there's no question that the people that are there as far as the development part, they do not understand the golf course. And with the investment that you have on a golf course...to be run by layman, it does not hold true anymore."

"The architect in the past, I think, had been responsible for it (the golf course). But to come in on an every-two-week basis or a monthly basis to check progress is just not adequate enough. Somebody had to be the watchdog, or the eyes, for the owner and preferable, trained eyes."

Hampton agrees that his profession has come a long, long way since the bygone era of the greenskeepers. "Probably the biggest advances we've made is just in the equipment we use. And we are starting to use now the modern technology that is finally entering our business," he said. "When I first started on the golf course it was nothing more than a shovel and a handle."

"If you went out and were able to mow three greens and three tees in a day's time, and rake the traps, that was a day's work," he noted. "And we've progressed to doing that now just in a matter of a couple of hours."

The maintenance equipment inventory alone at Wyndemere today stands in excess of \$400,000, Hampton says. "And the knowledge you need to have on that — and that's not just doing the mechanics' work, that's just really understanding what a lot of the principles are in that area."

Personnel-management, too, is an integral portion of the superintendent's position. Hampton has a force of more than 20 maintenance workers at Wyndemere. "Probably in the older times, if you had three or four people, or up to six, you were very fortunate," he says. "Also, the type of people we have working on the golf course are different. We have retired people here now who are an excellent source of personnel. And, also we're getting more college type people. I have two men working for me now who will be off to Lake City in the fall."

"So, the more trained employee is what we're starting to get now. My assistant, Greg Dent, is also a graduate of Lake City."

Going back to the applying of pesticides, Hampton ob-

serves, "In the past the superintendent was probably the one that had all the knowledge as far as pesticides went. And in an operation of this size, for me personally, or for my assistant, this is just not possible. We do schedule what needs to be applied but we have five people on our staff that do have their commercial pesticide licenses."

Hampton has broken down the different areas of maintenance. "Whether it's the shop, with the mechanic and his assistant, our spray technicians, landscape technician or whatever it might be, they all have their own particular area of responsibility. And the ones that are in those areas are very well trained," he says.

Southwest Florida's maintenance overseers have blended their talents into one cohesive organization, The Everglades Golf Course Superintendents Association, one of nine groups within the Florida Golf Course Superintendent's Association.

Regular monthly meetings of the local chapter are held at various golf clubs throughout the area where a wide variety of issues are discussed in detail and a large amount of input is thrust into each gathering. The Everglades Chapter is made up of about 125 members.

Reviews of current problems facing all superintendents are delved into in great detail by the Chapter at these monthly meetings. One vital issue facing the maintenance technicians would appear to be the ever-increasing water shortages in Southwest Florida.

"We've gone through different periods — it's just part of our business," Hampton explains. "I think a lot of us have thick skins because of the problems we encounter; whether it's been environmental problems where we've been trying to convince the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) that what we're doing is positive and that we are watching what we're doing, whether it's the chemicals we're using that they are constantly taking off the market, and of course right now, the water situation is just another one that's on the horizon."

"We've known about the water situation for about five years but it's just now coming to the attention of the public," Hampton said. "Superintendents have been aware of this problem for quite some time."

Golf course superintendents are constantly faced with perplexities involving everything from weather conditions to outbreaks of turf disease and control of mole crickets.

"We were told at school, believe it or not, that the easiest thing we would have to do is grow grass. That sounds unbelievable because that's supposed to be our business. But there are so many things that enter into it," he said. "Whether it's the environmental people or whether it's the water management or the personnel problems, they all add up."

To compound the vexation, Hampton says, "When you're dealing with a variable like Mother Nature, she is constantly throwing you curves." But, he adds, this is a vari-

*(Continued on Page 42)*





# Palm Beach Trade Winds



By MICHAEL BAILEY  
Boca Greens Country Club

With the subject of topsoil and topdressing you immediately think of the old jokes in school about soil and just dirt. I distinctly remember my first day in the class of soil principles. The entire class session was spent drilling into our minds the difference between soil and dirt! For two words to be so synonymous, they are absolute antonyms to the agronomist.

First of all, we as professionals must call the media always soil and not just dirt. I think of soil by definition as being the aggregates of the earth's crust, possessing mineralogical values in a relationship to microbiological activity and available air and water pore space to support a biological function for the plant growth. Wow, I guess that's what I mean. However, I think of dirt as simply being a useless accumulation of the earth's crust with virtually no nutritional values, poor structure and density that otherwise can not support plant life. Commonly being the dirt one vacuums from the carpet.

There are times when we easily become discouraged with the soil media that we are often forced to grow turf upon. Perhaps there are even times when we feel the soils make-up of our greens is . . . just dirt. Our seemingly number one major problem of Florida appears to be the morphology of our soils. Professors show us the typical charts of the sand/silt/clay triangle, however, the superintendents are the ones who must work with the lower left hand corner which reveals "mostly sand or pure sand". Research and actual use of sandy soil greens prove that if given enough available moisture and budget to support high fertility levels, one can maintain excellent greens on sandy soils.

Superintendents often produce superlative turf on sandy soils, however, we try to come in and modify the soil with what we feel is a better soil media. This quite often is not the case, for we will pay the bill later through accumulated thatch buildup and the inability of the soil to percolate.

Since our basic media is sand, how can we go about helping ourselves from the very beginning. Fortunately for myself, I was hired at Boca Greens during early rough grade construction. This allowed me to work with golf course architect Joseph Lee, as he employed the ideal choice of construction. Native topsoil was of excellent cultivated farmland. A more expensive and tedious procedure of stripping the farm land, stockpiling, then digging and hauling from tentative lake beds, resulted in the best needs of the contours. Then the native soil was topdressed at layers of at least 12 inches for the final coating of most all land elevations. It was at these stages of construction that Joe Lee and myself examined the native soils

and tested for the best soil media for the greens. Even though we complain about the sand, yes, we can achieve excellent drainage. This should be one of our primary goals during greens construction. U.S.G.A. specifications of tile and drain pipe along with gravel, seldom are needed in Florida, however testing should be performed of the soil. I had an infiltration test performed, that revealed percolation in excess of eight inches per hour. Yes, this seems ideal, however improper topdressing can destroy such data in a matter of a few years, if soil particle sizes are not matched to the native soil.

One does not necessarily have to be a soil science major in order to achieve proper drainage. There are several laboratories in our industry that are readily available to assist us. Laboratory and field technician, Lynn Griffith, of A & L Laboratories explains an infiltration test. "Taking a part of your existing field and placing it under laboratory conditions to simulate rainfall, thereby measuring the amount of infiltration over a given period of time." The procedure can best be described as taking probes of the upper 4 inches of the soil. Then mix with sodium aexamephosphate to keep the soil particles from adhering to each other. The soil is then placed within a cylinder of 2 inches in diameter by 12 inches of length. The soil is gently settled to near field conditions. Distilled water is then allowed to infiltrate through this column of soil for ½ hour, to form a homogeneous mixture of soil without air pore space. After this period of time, the testing actually begins. This contraption of hoses, tubes, buckets and graduated cylinders looks much like a downhome distillery, however the device technically allows water to percolate over a prescribed amount of time to quite graphically reveal the amount of water infiltration per hour. It is with this test, I can set the standard for which the greens should percolate. Your topdressing **MUST** be purchased with this in mind.



(Continued on Page 43)

# Treasure Coast "Tide"ings

By JAMES P. CALLAGHAN  
Riomar Country Club

Topdressing greens along the Treasure Coast has become the most important aspect of golf management that insures a true smooth putting surface and suitable soil characteristics. With the exception of more emphasis on using the correct material for a specific circumstance, the art and science of topdressing hasn't changed drastically over the years.

Many area superintendents have initiated a sand only topdressing program to balance the high percentage of organic material found in their greens. Chuck Calhoun of John's Island, Clarence Fleming of Dodgertown, Bill Mangold of Crane Creek, and Dave Bertholf of Miles Grant have all reported of using sand only for topdressing greens coupled with frequent aeration to alleviate drainage problems in the greens found at their courses. Bill Mangold commented that the greens at Crane Creek were built with 100% muck and grew more algae than grass during periods of wet weather. After three years of topdressing with sand, Bill has noticed great improvement in the overall condition of his greens.

For the supers who have adequate percolation (3"-6"/hr.), a prepared topdressing with a high percentage (70%-90%) of sand is used. The balance of the blend is of organic material, usually peat or muck. Most superintendents agree that a small amount of organic material is essential for water retention. After last year's drought, only problem greens along the Treasure Coast are receiving 100% sand as a topdressing medium.

One of the easiest ways of topdressing greens seems to have been almost abandoned in our area. The practice of verticutting cores and then dragging the soil back over

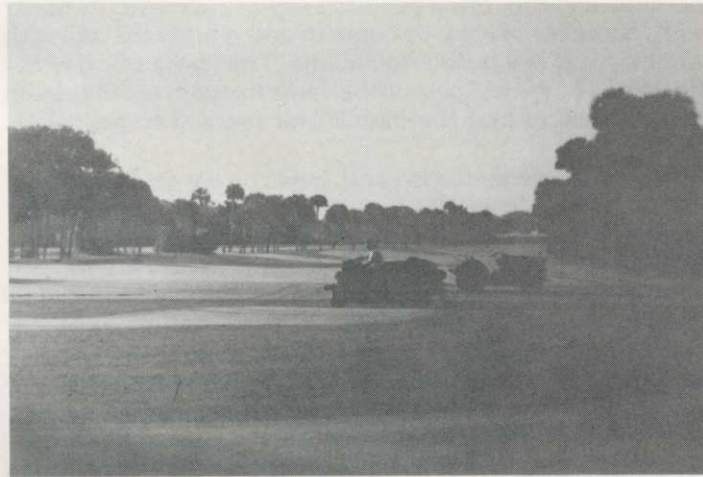
the putting surface is believed by some to have an adverse effect when working with hybrid bermudagrass. Although this practice as advantageous as far as using similar soil material for topdressing, it is in fact transplanting any mutation or contaminant grasses that may be present in the green. Under the high intensity of maintenance, chances are that a mutant sprig from a shredded core replanted in another aerifier hole WILL SURVIVE. The time saved in topdressing is not worth the future headaches when one continues to move undesirable grasses around on his greens.

A trend towards frequent topdressing during the year has become evident in the three county area. Adam Yurigan, Jr. of the John's Island Club in Vero Beach stated that he rarely goes more than eight weeks without topdressing. And during the winter months, overseeded greens are topdressed every four weeks. Ross Saylor, Golf Course Superintendent of Stuart Yacht and Country Club, reported that his greens are topdressed EVERY WEEK. Ross stated that this practice ensures quality putting conditions and eliminates undesirable thatch build-up.

Topdressing has proven to be a useful tool in correcting undesirable soil characteristics, reducing thatch build-up, rejuvenating sparse turf, and providing a billiard table surface on putting greens. Treasure Coast supers have carefully selected the topdressing program suited to their individual circumstance and plan to stick with it. For they realize that changing materials creates layers that impede air, water and roots. Layers may cost one his turf and also his job. ■



Getting an early morning start on topdressing greens at Riomar Country Club, Vero Beach.



Modern equipment has greatly reduced time required to topdress greens.