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(Continued from Page 10)

Wednesday was the only day we were not able to play because of rain. What makes this a true disaster is that we were at my alltime favorite golf course, Pine Valley. Always rated in the top 10, Pine Valley is located in the Philadelphia suburbs of New Jersey. Craig Reinhardt was our host and gave us an all day tour in the rain. Eb Steiniger, C.G.C.S., is now retired and was not there the day of our visit. Having been to Pine Valley before, I knew what to expect. Pine Valley stories are many and can only be told and appreciated when you have been there. I always ask people what is the greatest golf course and when they do not mention Pine Valley I immediately know one thing: they never been there! There is no club that is as pure golf as Pine Valley.



Bill Black, CGCS, at Congressional C.C. wears a tie at all times.

Thursday our host was Sherwood Moore, C.G.C.S., at Winged Foot Golf Club. This top 10 course will host the 1984 U.S. Open for the fourth time. This is the club of the Wall Street tycoons, located 30 miles north of Manhattan. The 36-hole club is also highlighted by its splendid formal clubhouse, definitely a blue blood club. Our host took great pride in both courses, its quality turfgrass, and especially its specimen trees. He also arranged a visit for us to the nearby Westchester Country Club, site of a PGA Tour event. Our host was Ted Horton, C.G.C.S. This was the hilly terrain we had yet to see. Ted Horton told of his water shortage problems this past year. The course was shut off from its city water supply for four days. Why four days? It took that long to get through successfully to city hall. The day we were there pumps were being installed for future use from existing lakes on the course.

Friday we went out to the tip of Long Island to Shinnecock Hills Golf Club. This top 20 club hosted the 1896 U.S. Open. That date is not a misprint. The club claims to be the oldest in the nation, 1891, but the course was changed 50 years ago so that leaves the issue open for discussion. The 1986 U.S. Open will be held there. Seldom is this great course in the limelight but the Open exposure will change that. This is the summer home of many Palm Beach club members from Seminole and the Everglades Golf Clubs. Our host was Pete Smith, the only superintendent that played golf with us. He is a great story in his own right. Some history is in order. The Shinnecock Indians once

controlled the land and still have a large population in the area. Smith is a Shinnecock Indian. The maintenance staff are all Shinnecock Indians. Pete is an Ivy League graduate of Dartmouth. He was not in the turf business. His grandfather had worked the course, his father was the superintendent for 35 years. When Pete's father became ill the club asked if he would like to continue the family tradition and work with his father. Pete accepted the offer, leaving a government position in Indian affairs. Several months later his father died of a heart attack. The club sends Pete to Rutgers University in the winter to advance his turfgrass education.

Now back to the course. Ten years from now this is the one course I will remember most from the trip. This is more like a true Scottish links golf course than any in the nation. The fairway rough color contrast is the most distinct I have ever seen. The two foot fescue rough placed a premium on a good tee shot. When the wind blows off the bay and ocean, scores will skyrocket. This very private club is a real hidden jewel. Several years from now when this course becomes rated in the top 10 remember where you first heard about its greatness.

There are many reflections on such a trip. Number one, without question, is the warm reception we received from each host. To say they rolled out the red carpet is not enough. I knew we were in for a good week when the entrance guard at the Country Club of North Carolina said, "Mr. Bailey we are expecting you." At each club we were treated like royalty and that was because we were the guests of the most respected person at the club, their golf course superintendent. Members of their crew knew we were fellow superintendents and always spoke to us. It was the most educational golf week of my life. I learned more about different turfgrass, management, chemicals, crew conditions, etc. than in 10 years of seminars. I realize how we over manicure courses in our state, especially the big



Richard Valentine, CGCS, (center) discusses the 1981 U.S. Open with his assistant and guest.

money clubs along the southeast coast. Our roughs are cleaner of weeds than northern courses fairways. We edge cart paths and they do not even have them. One famous course had not edged traps in 10 years, two others never, but bermuda is entirely different. Equipment conditions are very different. I saw tees being mowed by machines we would have worn out seven years ago. The long winters give

(Continued on Page 16)

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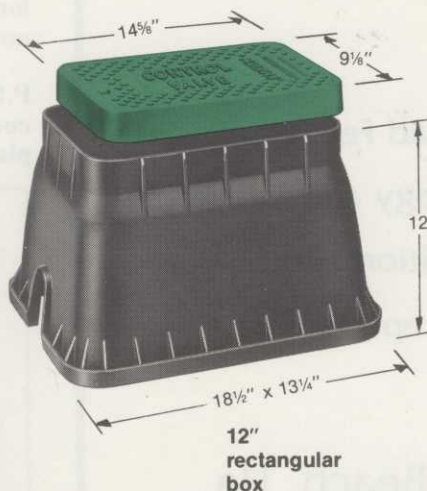
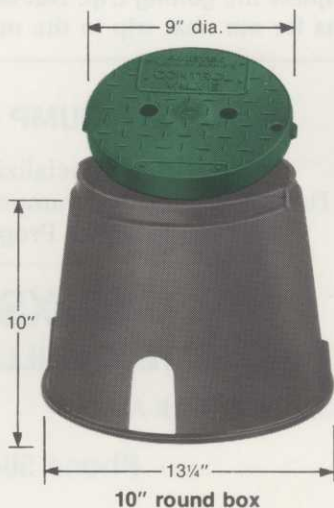
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(Continued from Page 13)

them an opportunity to rebuild everything. Only one superintendent even thought a hydraulic fairway unit was worth looking at. Two clubs aerify fairways with Ryan greensaires. No northern course ever verticuts a fairway. Almost everywhere the main fertilizer was Milorganite. Rates of two or three pounds of N per year were common, less than we apply in January alone. Budgets vary from 40-75% of what we spend. There are more contour breaks in putts than we are accustomed to playing.

The texture of bent grass and its density makes bermuda greens putt like wire brushes.



At Merion G.C. no flags are used. Wicker baskets are placed atop the pole. They are handmade by the staff.

Golf courses are such a common item in Florida we forget to put things in a proper perspective. We build communities around our courses. In the metropolitan areas of the industrial east, courses are a real oasis from everyday reality. A drive through the concrete jungle of downtown New York City will make you appreciate your job and where you live.

Never mentioned in this article are any golf scores and, after all, this was a golfing trip. Well one thing was learned for sure. The great golf courses are truly great and we did nothing to lower their rating.

P.S. I must thank my wife for giving me a week to myself to complete my golfing trip. But do not tell her we are making plans for our next trip to the midwest. ■

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NORTH FLORIDA

DIVOTS

By EDDIE SNIPES
Assistant Superintendent
San Jose Country Club



Did you know that when Ole Man Winter blows his breath on North Florida that the superintendents do not go into dormancy like their bermuda, but start preparing for temperatures that in recent winters have set record lows?

With heavy frost occurring in North Florida and temperatures that have remained below freezing for 10 to 15 hours, preventive cold weather maintenance should not be taken lightly. Monitoring weather forecasts closely enables one to cover those certain plants around the clubhouse or grounds that need protection from heavy frost or severe cold temperatures. Replacing burned out light bulbs in irrigation controller boxes helps keep hydraulic tubing lines from freezing. Some superintendents have proposed the idea of heat lamps in pump houses to prevent freezing damage to pipes and valves. The practice of wrapping exposed pipes or even clay valves with some form of insulation has also been suggested and used by superintendents in the North Florida area. These ideas may seem drastic to some people but better safe than sorry!

During these cold snaps, good rapport with the golf pro can be beneficial. Keeping players off the course until the temperature rises above freezing or when the sun has burned off heavy frost or until one has syringed frost off the greens and tees will prevent damage to the turf.

Equipment maintenance during cold weather requires a little common sense. Adding anti-freeze to radiators is a good common sense practice. Keeping as much of your equipment under shelters in cold or any weather conditions

will prolong equipment life. Switching to 30 weight engine oil in cold weather is a practice area mechanics advise. Since engines run in cooler winter temperatures, 10W-40 weight oil is not needed so this can be a savings cost practice. Allowing engines on equipment to warm up during cold weather before putting them in full operation is also a good cold weather practice. This will allow hydraulic seals to come back into shape and prevent leaks.

Special maintenance practices occur in relation to the coming of Ole Man Winter. These practices are the removal of pine straw, pine cones, and dead leaves from over the course. This can become a headache and at the same time a useful natural resource. Pine straw can be used to create cart paths that are both pleasing to the eye and functional. An extra large pine cone dipped in varnish or lacquer with a nail in the bottom with the head removed makes a very attractive and inexpensive tee marker.

During this time, Kerb treatment for Poa Annua comes into play and some preemergent weed controls.

Other special projects are good for this time of year such as removal of dead trees, general clearing of rough areas, and special irrigation projects can take place without worrying about interfering with heavy course play.

With cold weather preventive maintenance activities and special winter projects, North Florida superintendents do not have a chance to hibernate as it would seem, but face a professional challenge extended to them by a change of season. ■

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Treasure Coast "Tide"ings

By JAMES P. CALLAGHAN
Riomar Country Club

After the headaches of the past summer, superintendents along the Treasure Coast are welcoming the cooler weather with open arms. Many supers are going to execute measures to insure that their courses will pull through the upcoming cool season.

At Riomar Country Club, greens are not overseeded. Because of our proximity to the Atlantic (you can't get any closer) and average daily play of only 130 rounds during the season, the 328 greens at Riomar survive fairly well during the winter months. Cost vs. benefit really doesn't justify overseeding. If our greens were Tidwarf, there would be no question that overseeding would be a necessity.

In order to keep the bermudagrass greens in peak and appealing condition during cool weather, I carry out the following maintenance procedures that have worked with excellent results in the past:

1. Avoid excess verticutting after September. If you let your greens go into the winter with just a little thatch layer, that layer will act as a blanket resulting in a slightly higher soil temperature needed for roots to continue their functions.
 2. Make sure that potassium levels are adequate in the soil. This will help to provide for a healthy root system.
 3. Use nitrogen sources such as IBDU, Ammonium Sulfate, etc.. that fix nitrogen in the soil at low temperatures.
 4. Keep soil moisture adequate. Moist soil will not cool as rapidly as dry soil.
 5. Use of chelated iron and micronutrients will aid in retention of green color during cool periods.
6. If frost is in the forecast, spray greens with a wetting agent. This will prevent dew formation that subsequently freezes on the turf blade. When the air temperature remains above freezing, this procedure will prevent frost damage to the grassplant. (Remember, the cooling effect of dew evaporation even when the air temperature is slightly above 32°F will lower the temperature at the ground, resulting in frost.)
 7. Light topdressing every second or third week will encourage the bermudagrass as well as mask (cover) any cold damage prevailing in the crown area.

At the John's Island Club, Lee Van Valkenburg, reports that foliar applications of fertilizers in the winter months have aided in keeping the bermuda vigorous. He said that whenever colder weather is on the horizon, Ferrous Ammonium Sulfate or Potassium Nitrate is sprayed on greens, green/slopes, trap banks, and tees. He continued, "when soil temperatures become low (under 55°F) foliar application of fertilizer provides an effective means of nutrient absorption by the grassplant."

Lonnie Stubbs, superintendent of the Sandpiper Bay Resort, is well known for his unique way of sprucing up the golf course during the cool months. This winter, Lonnie will spend almost \$5,000.00 on annual flowering plants such as chrysanthimums and marigolds to catch the eye of the golfer. "If a cold snap zaps your bermuda, scattered flowering landscaping will move the eye away from the brown grass," stated Lonnie.

Further to the south, Joe Snook reports that at Riverbend, much time is spent in the winter sprucing up the entrance area and the natural undergrowth scattered throughout the golf course. He commented, "If we can provide an entrance area that's in tip-top shape, we've made a good first impression." Out on the golf course, Joe goes as far as "grooming the palmettoes" to make everything look appealing.

The Treasure Coast Chapter Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association takes this opportunity to wish everyone a joyous holiday season and a healthy, prosperous New Year!■



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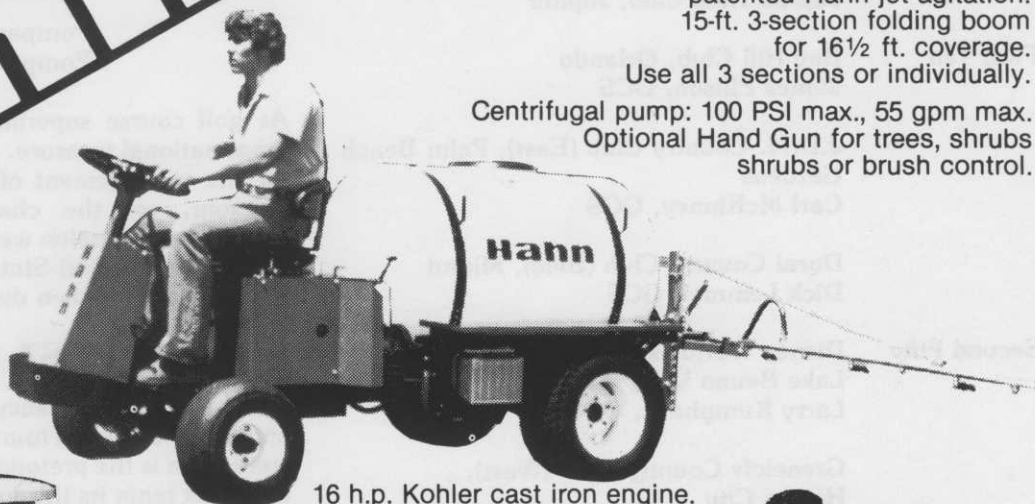
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FLORIDA LEADS 100 GREATEST GOLF COURSE RATING

America's 100 greatest golf courses as ranked by *Golf Digest* for 1981 include 11 Florida courses. The total makes the state the leader ahead of California with nine. New York, Ohio, Illinois and Pennsylvania all had eight courses rated.

- First Ten** Seminole Golf Club, North Palm Beach
Bill Whitaker, CGCS
- Third Ten** Pine Tree Golf Club, Boynton Beach
Fred Klauk, GCS
- Jupiter Hills Club, Jupiter
- Fifth Ten** Bay Hill Club, Orlando
James Ellison, GCS
- J.D.M. Country Club (East), Palm Beach Gardens
Carl McKinney, GCS
- Doral Country Club (Blue), Miami
Dick Lemmel, GCS
- Second Fifty** Disney World Golf Club (Palm),
Lake Beuna Vista
Larry Kamphaus, GCS
- Grenelefe Country Club (West),
Haines City
Paul Hickman, GCS
- Mayacoo Lakes Country Club,
West Palm Beach
Mark Henderson, GCS
- Sawgrass Golf Club, Ponte Vedra Beach
James Shine, GCS
- Innisbrook Country Club (Copperhead),
Tarpon Springs
Arlin Grant, CGCS

Golf Digest also recently rated the top 50 public golf courses. Florida had four courses in this listing.

- First Ten** West Palm Beach Country Club,
West Palm Beach
Hal Porcher, GCS
- Other Forty** Mangrove Bay Golf Course,
St. Petersburg
George Pickel, GCS
- Perdido Bay Country Club, Pensacola
- Pompano Beach Golf Course,
Pompano Beach

As golf course superintendents we are entrusted with a great national treasure. We are responsible on a daily basis for the management of these great courses. The task is awesome, yet the challenge makes our position the rewarding profession we enjoy. As of January 1, 1981 there were 12,849 United States golf courses. To be listed above in either ranking is a distinct honor. ■

Florida GCSA Defends National Title

This month Walt Disney World Golf Courses will host the annual GCSAA golf tournament. Our outstanding four man state team is the pretournament favorite. A victory will give a Florida team its third straight title. The team will consist of the following:

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Tampa.
Winner: 1980 GCSAA Team Championship
1981 GCSAA Team Championship
1980 GCSAA Individual Champion
1981 GCSAA Individual Champion
- Bill Whitaker, CGCS, Seminole Golf Club, North Palm Beach.
Winner: 1981 Poa Annuia Classic
1981 Palm Beach County Senior
Former National Lefthand Champion
- Fred Klauk, Pine Tree Golf Club, Boynton Beach.
Winner: 1981 FTGA
1981 GCSAA Team Championship
1980 Crowfoot Open
Runnerup: 1981 Poa Annuia Classic
- Ron Hill, CGCS, Amelia Island Plantation, Amelia Island.
Winner: 1980 Poa Annuia Classic
Runnerup: 1980 Crowfoot Open
1981 Crowfoot Open



GO TEAM! GO TEAM! GO TEAM! GO TEAM! ■