



MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



On behalf of the Membership and Executive Committee of GCSAA, please allow me to extend our most heartfelt congratulations on achieving the Tenth Anniversary of THE FLORIDA GREEN.

In the brief span of ten years, THE FLORIDA GREEN has become clearly recognized as an award winning magazine throughout the entire golf community. Its high quality appearance, editorial scope and representation of the golf course superintendent in Florida presents an image of today's golf course managers that can only be described as professional.

Having been the editor of Connecticut Clippings, I am personally aware of how much work it takes to plan and execute a small newsletter. The work that goes into the production of THE FLORIDA GREEN (in four color yet!) is considerably beyond the call of duty for any bunch of volunteers.

Both the staff of the magazine and the members of the Florida GCSA are to be commended. You've set a proud standard for your colleagues throughout the profession.

If your goals and objectives of the next ten years are aimed at matching your progress of the past ten, you have a formidable challenge ahead and the rest of the Association will have to have determination to keep up with the pace.

Once again, congratulations to each of you!

President, GCSAA

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

SOUTH FLORIDA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION HISTORY

Jimmy Blackledge

It All Started In April, 1939

During the winter of 1938-39, Joe Ryan, Superintendent of Rolling Green Golf Club in Media, Pennsylvania and then President of the National Association, was visiting his daughter in Miami. Elwood Poore, the assistant Pro at Indian Creek Country Club, was the assistant Pro at Joe's Club in the summer and a mutual friend. For this reason, Joe spent some time with Elwood and me at Indian Creek. Joe urged me to consider the idea of organizing a local Golf Course Superintendents Association in South Florida, and we discussed this with Mark Mahannah, Superintendent of Miami Biltmore Country Club, and Mike Schuyler, Superintendent of Miami Beach Golf Club.

As a result of these discussions, we held an informal meeting at the Indian Creek Country Club on April 22nd, 1939 to formulate plans for such an organization. Attending this meeting were: R. F. Lawrence, Boca Raton Hotel & Country Club; C. C. Kelly, Florida East Coast Hotel Company; Mark Mahannah, Miami Biltmore Country Club; Stanley Kendust, Miami Shores Country Club; Fred Hoerger, La Gorce and Bayshore Golf Clubs; Hans Schmeisser, Hollywood Country Club; and myself.

This group decided to call an organizational meeting for Saturday, May 13th, 1939 at the Hollywood Country Club. Hans Schmeisser and I drafted and co-signed a letter inviting all the known Golf Course Superintendents in the area to this meeting. Through the courtesy of Mr. Oscar Johnson, then General Manager of the Hollywood Beach Hotel Properties, this letter was mimeographed and mailed on May 6th, 1939.

We failed to record the names of those attending the Hollywood Country Club meeting, however, the following officers were selected: Jimmie Blackledge, President; Clyde Smith (Gulfstream Club), Vice-President; and Mike Schuyler, Secretary-Treasurer. A committee was appointed to draft proposed by-laws for the

organization, and annual dues of \$5 were agreed upon.

On June 12th, 1939, the organization got underway at the Miami Country Club with Bill Barton as host. At this meeting, the by-laws were presented and approved with some minor changes, and Mr. C. C. Shaw of Hector Supply Company was made an Honorary Member in recognition of his help in getting the word around to the Superintendents in the area. Attending this meeting were: Clyde Smith, Mike Schuyler, R. F. Lawrence, B. A. Yoder, Art Gleason, Bill Barton, Ward Wood, Norman Summers, Walter Weeks, Mark Mahannah, Stanley Kendust, C. C. Shaw, and myself.

On July 10th, 1939, we met at the Orange Brook Golf Club with Harry Moore as host. At this meeting, three Directors were elected to serve on the Board of Directors with the three officers. These Directors were: R. F. Lawrence, B. A. Yoder, and Mark Mahannah.

The new Association continued to have regular meetings each month at clubs from Miami to Palm Beach, picking up a few new members. The format of the meetings varied somewhat, but generally the business meeting was followed by a "round table" discussion and then lunch and golf.

At the meeting on December 11th, 1939 at the Palm Beach Country Club with Ward Wood as host the idea of extending the scope of the Association to a state wide organization was discussed. Details of how this might be accomplished was a matter of considerable concern at several subsequent meetings. The objectives of this effort were to spread the benefits we felt such an organization could provide, to others in the field of golf course maintenance and to develop sufficient numerical strength to influence the establishment of some badly needed research in Turf at the University of Florida Experiment Station System which at that time was heavily, farm oriented.

In February 1940 a letter was sent to all the known Golf Clubs in the state with the proposal that a meeting be held in Orlando sometime in June

for the purpose of establishing a state wide Golf Course Superintendents Association. The response to this letter was too meager to justify continuing the plans.

At our meeting of April 22nd, 1940 at Indian Creek Country Club with Jimmie Blackledge as host, the failure of this approach was discussed and it was decided to have a few of our members visit the Tampa and Orlando areas, contacting Superintendents to promote the state organization concept. Mr. Yoder, Bill Barton and C. C. Shaw were selected to make this trip.

There was also some discussion about the possibility of our organization becoming affiliated with the Florida State Florist's Association. This organization had become a forum for all ornamental horticultural interests in the state. It consisted of the Florists, Nurserymen, Fern Growers, Bulb Growers, and Gardners Associations, each group retaining their identity with separate business and educational sessions, but with combined social activities and legislative efforts. We met at the Orange Brook Golf Club on May 20th with Harry Moore as host. At this meeting I was authorized to make application for affiliation with the Florida State Florist's Association at their annual meeting being held in Gainesville the following week. This was accomplished successfully and reported at our meeting of June 17th, 1940 at the West Palm Beach Golf & Country Club with Clyde Usina, Sr. as host. At this meeting C. C. Shaw reported that he had found little interest in organization in the Orlando area, however, there was some interest in the Tampa-St. Petersburg area in establishing a local organization such as ours. It was decided to invite those interested to our meeting at Miami Shores Country Club on July 8th to be of any assistance possible in the establishment of such an association.

Election of officers was held at our meeting of July 8th, 1940 at the Miami Shores Country Club with Stanley Kendust as host. Elected were:

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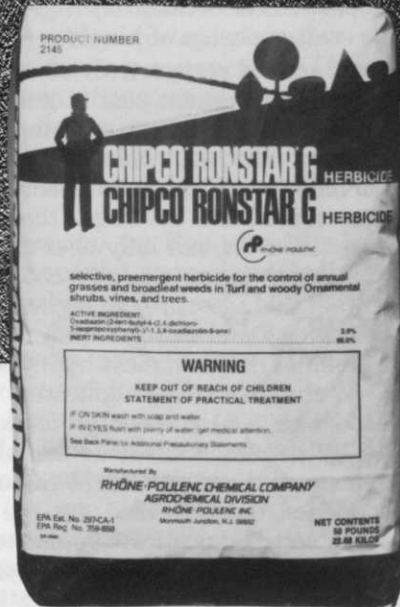
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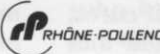
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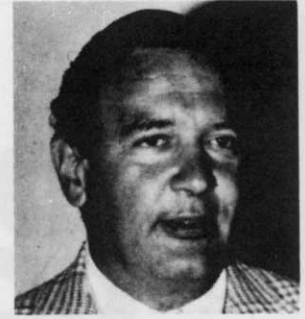
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RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE

By PAUL R. MacDONALD



Just as in the movies, golf too, has its stars, its glamorous figures. But it also has its anti-heros as well. Who are these enigmatic characters? They are the men too busy for public relations! Instead of polishing the apple in the public eye, they are tending the apple and its blossoms. The golf course superintendent is finally emerging from the bushes. Today's golf course superintendent must literally be a man for all seasons — Botanist, chemist, engineer, accountant — these are but a few of his roles. At some courses he is also owner, manager, and professional and all that that entails. By the way, don't be surprised if the superintendent turns out to be a female.

The golf course superintendent must also be a man of disappearances. In a sense he ghost writes the entire course. He may arrive at daybreak or long after midnight for watering or some unforeseen crisis. He is on call with his patient twenty-four hours a day. Tour professionals are the egoists of the game; superintendents tend to remain invisible. Their rewards are not trophies or prize monies but rather the satisfaction of controlling the major asset of a golf club - the golf course itself. He is the linchpin between the appreciation of the members and the dreams of the green committee. His joy is in the craftsmanship of his art.

Viewed from a financial perspective, we notice that the maintenance and turf equipment side of golf annually expends more than **one billion dollars** as compared to other market expenditures: golf balls - ninety million; golf clubs - two hundred ten million; golf clothes and shoes - three hundred million; or even food and beverages that reaches nine hundred-seventy million. So, not only does the superintendent manage the major asset, the golf course itself, but revenues to maintain this asset are the highest in the game.

In this age of scarcity and of regulation the golf course superintendent qualifies as golf's most highly educated person. Over fifty percent are college educated, while many have advanced degrees. As in other professions, he may become certified by passing a six-hour examination after becoming a member of the Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America, but he is also required to be licensed by his state as a certified pesticide applicator. Amongst other things, he must understand turfgrasses, chemicals that control turfgrasses, machinery, fertilization and new sophisticated irrigation systems as well. Despite such proficiency and scientific knowledge, and technical training notwithstanding, it may be many golfing seasons before the custodial image that has stereotyped the superintendent in golf can hold par with the concept of the professional.

How ironic then that the golf course superintendent's most awesome opponent eludes all of this scientific knowledge, i.e. the forces of nature herself. As far as landscaping, his insight must encompass knowledge of different grasses, trees, shrubs, soils, soil compositions, plant diseases such as nematodes and dollar spot and their cures; when it comes to wind patterns, humidity, rainfall and snowfalls, the golf course superintendent must be more alchemist than chemist.

How would you program maintenance chores at the world's highest championship golf course — The Ranch at Keystone, Colorado — over 9,000 feet high in the Rockies? Lou Haines, the new Director of Grounds, has this problem and hopefully the solutions. His father, Jim Haines, Superintendent for many years at Denver Country Club is noted for his invention of a tree root cutter and a leaf raker. Haines Sr., incidentally, was one of the first superintendents to be the recipient of the USGA Green Section Award.

Malcolm R. McLaren, a GCSAA Past President, developed a turf slicer at his club, Canterbury, in Cleveland in preparation for the 1946 USGA Open. This was one of the first attempts at aeration and no mean accomplishment.

Green committee chairmen, eager to leave their imprint on their golf courses, may also be called anti-heros, but many get a good education in the process. They seldom appreciate the value of the superintendent. David C. Holler, Superintendent of the prestigious Gulph Mills Golf Club in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, has aptly expressed a superintendent's lament: "... a green chairman is proficient in his own field, but he seldom has experience in agronomy; yet he assumes responsibility to club members for the condition of the golf course. The golf superintendent knows his business - he is a professional - so let him run it, just as you allow a department manager to run his operation."

This is not to say, however, that superintendents represent an amorphous mass of nameless men. The name Joe Valentine, may someday be as popular as Arnold Palmer's for his contribution to the game in his discovery of Merion bluegrass. Without a public relations firm or press corps to accelerate his fame, the Valentine accomplishment has meaning for every golfer and will be looked upon as one of the major achievements of this era.

Incidentally, do you know or would you recognize the superintendent of your golf club? It is more than likely that you are acquainted with your club professional, having had lessons or bought equipment and you may even know your board-of-directors, and, of course, your favorite caddy. Yet, your golf course superintendent is probably known to you only through his artistry. The next time someone mentions the word professional you might consider asking which professional.

Like other professions, women are becoming interested in this challenging field. The Golf Course Superintendents Association lists four who are superintendent members - up one-hundred percent from the previous year. A relatively new trend emerging too, is the addition of ladies to maintenance crews at some golf courses. It is not uncom-

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Nature's Showplace— Banyan Golf Club

By TIM HIERS

Imagine being aroused from a deep sleep and finding yourself in the middle of a dense, lush, tropical forest. Abundant trees and vegetation spring out around you. The limbs and leaves rustle as if to exclaim your presence to the native inhabitants. You begin to walk. As your eyes focus you realize that there is an absence of any other humans. A variety of wildlife; exotic birds, alligators, rabbits, raccoons and squirrels peer at you with relentless curiosity. Finally you realize that you are holding an object in your hand. Maybe it is a weapon for defense. Now you are fully awake because your ill-fated golf shot has disappeared into the ominous woods. You had plotted your strategy on the tee, but unfortunately your strategy and execution didn't see eye to eye and as a result of that less than perfect golf shot suddenly you are brought close to nature.

Normally this would upset the average golfer but you are playing Banyan, a Joe Lee designed golf course. It's a work of art, located west of the turnpike near West Palm Beach, Banyan is a unique and fascinating private golf club. The only things surrounding this golf course are trees, water and myriad number of lost golf balls. This, according to world famous golf course architect Joe Lee, is one of the unique qualities of Banyan. But there are others. Banyan began construction in 1970 and opened for play in 1972. The course was created from 200 acres of uninhabited property, 120 of these acres were comprised of dense natural Florida vegetation. The other 80 acres were owned and operated by a shell pit mining company. Through coordinated efforts the mining lakes were designed to fit the needs of the golf course, beautiful cypress trees were preserved and finally the 80 acres were obtained by the club. The new purchase was deficient in tree numbers as compared to the original 120 acres but Banyan had the solution. Clearing for construction of I-95 was in process at this time and Banyan was quick to recognize the opportunity. A variety of trees including Ficus, Mahogany, Sabal Palms and fruit trees were planted in numbers exceeding 2,000. Most of these were obtained from the I-95 right of way.

The golf course veneration of architects would be described as a "String of Pearls" design. Very few holes are parallel or even close to each other. As Joe Lee explains it, "each hole is its own entity and has its own character." Because of the lush vegetation and "The String of Pearls" you see other golfers infrequently, even if there is considerable play on the course. Ask Joe Lee and he will proudly tell you that Banyan is among his favorite masterpieces. He will also tell you that



Gerry Marlatt (Manager), Bill Simmons (Golf Pro) and Dan Jones (Superintendent) meet daily to discuss golf operations.

playing the golf course is like a stroll in the country, the peaceful kind of native Florida terrain that years ago people could easily find. This terrain is a rarity today. Another rarity is the design of the driving range tees. The main section is divided into three separate tee surfaces and screened by dense trees. This in effect produces three very secluded and private practice tees. On the other end of the driving range is another open tee.

The topography at Banyan is also unusual in light of the elevated tees, especially one par three with an elevation of 36 feet. The design of the golf course was beautifully blended with the indigenous plants and terrain. The total property itself was divided into three main drainage areas, each with its own pump to maintain the desired water levels. The pumps have a float device to shut them on and off automatically according to the water level. they also have P.T.O. capabilities in case of power failure.

From a pro's standpoint head golf professional Bill Simmons can't say enough good things about Banyan. Using superlatives such as great, unique, beautiful, favorite, etc. you get the feeling Bill is a campaign manager and the course is running for president. His favorite attraction at Banyan is its beautiful and strategically placed sand traps. "they really bring out the beauty of the golf course," he echoes much of what Joe Lee had said about each hole having its own character. Bill has been employed at Banyan for ten years and has seen everything from monsoons to one member who has made five aces in six years (playing only six months per year). He will also explain the good working relationship with Golf Course Superin-

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tendent Dan Jones and Club Manager Gerry Marlatt. At least one day every week during the season they meet early in the morning for coffee and communication. Bill is a dedicated and loyal professional who loves his club and is proud to show it.

The men's course record at Banyan is 69 from the blue tees. The course has a rating of 72.7 and 73.0 from the whites. The average green size at Banyan is six thousand square feet. They consist of TifDwarf Bermudagrass. Due to contamination in the original greens all 18 greens were replanted the last two years. Tees, fairways and rough are comprised of TifWay 419 Bermudagrass. One hundred of Banyan's total 200 acres are maintained as fine turf and another 34 acres are deep sparkling lakes.

The soil profile consists mainly of sugar sand and huge deposits of clay. With all its intrinsic beauty Banyan does have a few problems. The lush tropical overgrowth that provides so much landscape also excludes much needed sunlight. To combat this problem Golf Course Superintendent Dan Jones has a program of trimming where necessary and even replacing plant species if trimming is not effective. Poor drainage and excessive rain don't exactly compliment each other so drainage is an ongoing project. Rain is one thing that Dan cannot control. To date Banyan has spent over \$20,000 on drainage and plans to do much more. The results have been of significant benefit to the club. In addition to improving turf quality of poorly drained areas there has been a reduction in the number of days the course was closed due to wet conditions.

Dan Jones has been employed at Banyan since March 25, 1980. Prior to that he was Golf Course Superintendent at Turnberry Isle Country Club, Miami, Florida for five years. At Turnberry he introduced the use of the White Amur for weed control in lakes. He spent another five years at The Dorado Beach Hotel in Puerto Rico before going to Turnberry. In 1965 Dan was a hotel engineer at Estate Good Hope Hotel and Fountain Valley Golf Course on St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. The golf club on St. Croix had gone through three Golf Course Superintendents and as a result of this ask Dan if he would be interested in assuming the responsibility. Dan's first thought was "I don't even know a golf ball from a cue ball." Through encouragement from consultant Dr. Max Brown like, "Desire is the greatest factor," Dan accepted his first Golf Course Superintendent's position. And now most of you probably know the rest of the story, Dan has become one of the most popular, innovative and successful Superintendents in America. He is respected by his peers and employers alike. Through his efforts with others The Florida Green has become the standout magazine in its class across the nation. The condition of his golf course? Superb!

Mr. David Fermon, is Club President. He is a man who appreciates the condition of his golf



Greens Chairman Bobby Jacobsen and Dan Jones inspect the Golf Course.

course and the capabilities of his staff. Mr. Fermon informed me that Banyan members are proud of their beautiful club. During our conversation he closely paralleled much of what Joe Lee had said about the course's character. In closing Mr. Fermon's thoughts and objectives were very clear. He emphasized that Banyan was a golf course you could enjoy playing every day and Mr. Fermon is dedicated to preserving its top condition.

And so . . . another day comes to a close at Banyan. As daylight gives way to darkness "Banyan Golf Club" becomes "Banyan Nature's Playground." Owls, rabbits and raccoons act out their daily lives in harmony with man and nature. The wind and the crickets join together to serenade sleepy squirrels to bed. And, if you should be aroused from a deep sleep with a club in your hand, Well . . . be nice to the animals.

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE

(Continued from Page 14)

mon to see a comely ms. in a T-shirt, riding down the fairway or weeding a flower bed.

George W. Cleaver, the new President of the Golf Course Superintendent's Association and himself superintendent at Chestnut Ridge Country Club, Lutherville, Maryland - a suburb of Baltimore - for more than eighteen years, said recently ". . . being a golf course superintendent is a tricky, tough business. It is not something that can be standardized as is a certified public accountant or a certified life underwriter. There are just too many variables, and many of the major factors, such as weather, budgets, golfers' desires are out of the individual superintendent's hands. Golf courses are like living things and no two courses are alike."

Besides keeping the grass green and mowed, superintendents must conform to many new stipulations and regulations that have evolved from recent environmental studies. While custodial images are hard to eradicate, the sophistication of the golf course superintendent's role is gradually bringing him not only the position, but the recognition he deserves. Perhaps that bumper sticker that reads "Have you hugged your dog lately" should have as its corollary, "Have you hugged your superintendent lately"?

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Paul R. MacDonald is marketing manager, AG-TURF Department, Johns-Manville Sales Corp., Fresno, Calif. Mr. MacDonald is Past President of the National Golf Foundation and Past President of the Golf Ball Manufacturers Association.

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SOLUBLE POTASH (K ₂ O)	8.00%
Chlorine, not more than	2.00%
Derived from sludge, sulphate of ammonia, isobutylidene diurea, and sulphate of potash-magnesia.	
STATEMENT OF SECONDARY NUTRIENTS:	
Total Magnesium (Mg)	4.00%
Water Soluble Magnesium (Mg)	4.00%
Sulphur (combined) (S)	10.00%
Iron (Fe)	0.40%
Manganese (Mn)	0.38%
Derived from sludge, sulphate of ammonia, sulphate of potash-magnesia, fritted iron, and fritted manganese.	

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0.0% Ammoniacal Nitrogen	
0.7% Water Soluble Organic Nitrogen	
6.3% Water Insoluble Nitrogen	
AVAILABLE PHOSPHORIC ACID (P ₂ O ₅)	1.00%
SOLUBLE POTASH (K ₂ O)	8.00%
Chlorine, not more than	2.00%
Derived from sludge, sulphate of ammonia, isobutylidene diurea, and sulphate of potash-magnesia.	
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Iron (Fe)	0.40%
Manganese (Mn)	0.38%
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2.5% Water Soluble Organic Nitrogen	
10.5% Water Insoluble Nitrogen	
AVAILABLE PHOSPHORIC ACID (P ₂ O ₅)	1.00%
SOLUBLE POTASH (K ₂ O)	10.00%
Chlorine, not more than	2.00%
Derived from activated sludge, sulphate of ammonia, isobutylidene diurea, potassium nitrate, and sulphate of potash-magnesia.	
SECONDARY PLANT NUTRIENTS:	
Total and Water Soluble Magnesium (Mg)	1.00%
Manganese (Mn)	0.50%
Copper (Cu)	0.07%
Zinc (Zn)	0.06%
Boron (B)	0.02%
Iron (Fe)	0.03%
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Jimmie Blackledge, President, B. A. Yoder, Vice-President, Mark Mahannah, Secretary-Treasurer. Gus Thomas of St. Petersburg attended this meeting and reported that a number of Clubs in the Tampa-St. Petersburg area had indicated interest in forming a West Coast Association and progress was being made in this direction.

Our Association continued to hold meetings each month with nothing spectacular happening. We had trouble getting a quorum in attendance particularly at some of the winter meetings, however, we still managed to have informal discussions of our mutual problems.

On May 12th, 1941 we held our first annual tournament at the Miami Country Club with Bill Barton as host. C. C. Shaw and R. F. Lawrence won top honors and Ward Wood carried off the prize for high gross. A short business meeting followed the tournament and then fourteen of our members and their wives enjoyed a Dinner Dance in the Club Ballroom. Everybody had a "ball" and all agreed that this should be an annual affair.

Later in the month of May about ten of our members went to Jacksonville to attend the first meeting with the Florida State Florist's Association. Attendance at this meeting from other parts of the state was limited to Pat Deavy and Charley Zaun of the Jacksonville area.

On July 14th, 1941 our regular meeting and election of officers was held at the Miami Shores Country Club with Stanley Kendust as host. Elected were: Jimmie Blackledge, President, Mike Schuyler, Vice-President, Mark Mahannah, Secretary-Treasurer, B. A. Yoder and R. F. Lawrence, Directors. Luther Voltz, Golf Editor for the Miami Herald attended this meeting giving us a start on establishing some publicity.

At our meeting on October 13th, 1941 at the Gulfstream Club, Frank Swanson of the Florida East Coast Hotel Company made a rather elaborate presentation to the President of a "Trouble Club Gavel" - this gavel was designed and contributed to the Association by Red Lawrence of the Boca Raton Hotel & Country Club.

For the rest of 1941 and into early 1942 our meetings continued with somewhat better attendance and during the winter months we had a number of out of state visitors at these meetings. There was a growing concern

expressed about the effect of the war in Europe on our activities and the future of the Association.

On May 11th, 1942 we had a re-run of our annual Tournament and Dinner Dance at the Miami Country Club. However, we were on an economy kick and no prizes were purchased for the Tournament and a "juke box" was used for the Dinner Dance instead of an orchestra. In spite of this everyone seemed to have a big time.

On May 17, 18 and 19, 1942 a number of our members attended our second meeting with the Florida State Florist's Association in Orlando. At this meeting Dr. O. J. Noer conducted a short course on soils and soil management. Three men from the Corps of Engineers attended this meeting—Ed Cale, Norman Johnson and Jack Bellows. At the combined meeting of the Florida State Florist's Association the decision was made to suspend further meetings for the duration of the War.

At our meeting on July 27th, 1942 at the Fort Lauderdale Country Club with Walter Weeks as host it was announced that our Secretary-Treasurer, Mark Mahannah, was leaving the Miami Biltmore Country Club to work with the Army Engineers as Supervisor of Grounds Maintenance for the Air Force installations in the St. Peters-

burg area and that I was leaving the Indian Creek Country Club to become part of the Erosion Control Section for the Army Engineers at the Fourth Service Command Headquarters in Atlanta. It was decided to elect new officers with the understanding that they would serve for the "duration". Elected were: R. F. Lawrence, President, B. A. Yoder, Vice-President, Mike Schuyler, Secretary-Treasurer, and Harry Moore and Ward Wood, Directors.

Under Red Lawrence's guidance the Association held together very well thru the War years. Meetings were not held on a regular monthly schedule but several meetings were held each year and those members still on the golf courses in the area were able to get together and discuss their mutual problems so the Association survived.

In July 1945, a meeting was held at the Orange Brook Golf Club with Harry Moore as host—new officers were elected and dues were re-instated. Elected were: Fred Heoger, President, Harry Moore, Vice-President, and Walter Weeks, Secretary-Treasurer. From this point on the Association has made a steady growth over the years with many changes in the structure of the organization and the membership.



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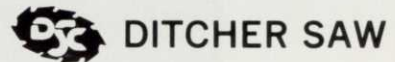
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Golf Course Landscaping

By GUY WILLIAMSON

Woodmont Country Club

Does the presence of magnificent trees, flowering shrubs, groundcovers and bulbs have a place on a golf course? Absolutely, together with turfgrass, they can present an effect of light and shade, color and shape, that is so striking that even the most absorbed player becomes aware of it. But don't they require a tremendous amount of hand labor? No, these areas can exist with minimal maintenance if these principles are followed:

- 1) Lay out shrub beds so corners are round rather than square. This will cut mowing time by eliminating unnecessary maneuvering of mowers.
- 2) Paved roads should be level with the lawn to eliminate hand trimming or scalped areas.
- 3) Construct mowing strips next to all structures and around all shrub and flower beds. These can be composed of stone, bark or bare earth and maintained with non-selective herbicide.
- 4) Use ground covers or shrubs in high maintenance areas such as steep slopes; areas where grass is difficult to grow or excessive hand mowing is required.
- 5) Mulch all beds with bark, hay, pine needles, etc. to preserve moisture and control weeds. The use of non-selective herbicides can almost eliminate hand weeding in conjunction with mulch.
- 6) Try to plant large masses of the same varieties for

easier care. A small bed with too many varieties looks busy or hodge podge. Also try to personalize your design and avoid using straight lines unless necessary. Trees or shrubs in stiff rows serve a purpose only when they are planted for privacy.

- 7) It is best to select plants that require very little pruning. If a variety is desired because of a flower but the shrub is a rampant grower leave it in the container and plant the container in the ground. The restricted root system will keep the shoot growth in check.
- 8) Do not try to grow plants where they are not adapted such as acid vs. alkaline soils, sun vs. shade, or wet vs. dry. Check requirements in plant manuals or with the County Agent before planting.
- 9) Plant only in good soil, or amend poor soils to improve fertility or structure. Otherwise, plants will look sickly, grow erratically, or fail to flower.
- 10) Always try to rely on power to cut labor costs, so construct beds so that power equipment can be used in and around the beds.
- 11) Do not buy plants unless they are hardy in your climate and only buy quality stock. If bargain stock is purchased, make sure it is guaranteed quality stock. Always know precisely what species you are getting and what the height and spread will be at maturity so as not to end up with a maintenance "headache" or small jungle.
- 12) Most important is to draw up a plan. Poor planning or failure to draw a plan usually results in poor utilization of plants and property.

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