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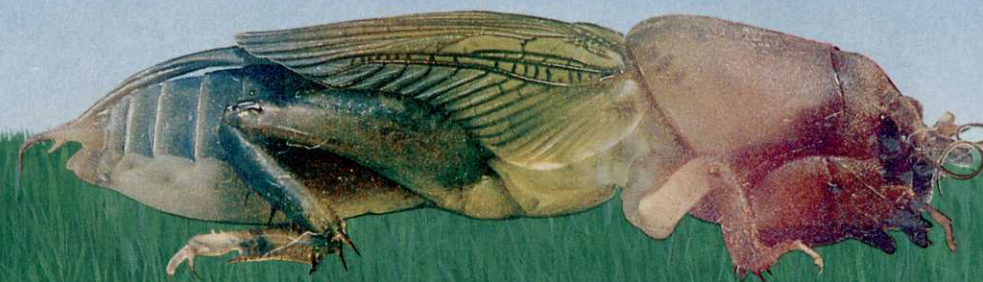
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ABOUT OUR COVER:

The 9th hole at the world renowned Tournament Players Club in Ponte Verde, Florida the golf course superintendent is Bobby Weed.



Daniel Zelazek
 Cover Photography

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NOTICE: All correspondence concerning business matters, circulation, editorial and advertising should be addressed to the Editor, P.O. Box 5958, Lake Worth, Fla. 33466. Opinions expressed by writers in by-lined editorials are not necessarily those of this publication. "The Florida Green" is published quarterly: the 1st of January, April, July, October. Closing date for advertising and copy is 45 days prior to publication. Not copyrighted. Please credit the author and "The Florida Green."

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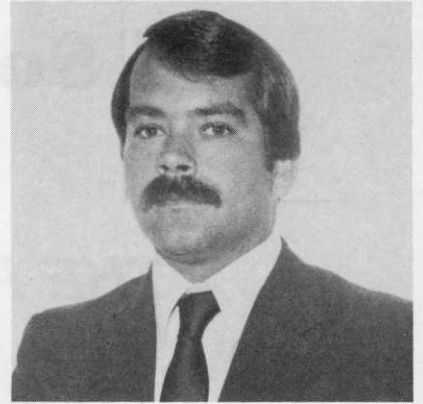
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is a great privilege to receive the confidence of my peers to be elected President of what many people feel is the strongest Superintendent Chapter in the nation.

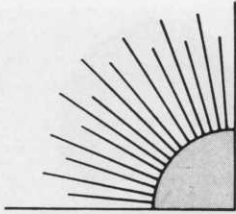
The last five years the FGCSA has accomplished its goals because of aggressive and intelligent leadership along with strong cooperative Chapters. The initial goal was to consolidate the state's 9 local Chapters to become a strong influence nationally in GCSAA. The influence was obtained in becoming the largest voting group in the nation, the election of John Hayden, CGCS, to the GCSAA Board, winning the National Golf Tournament Chapter Championship twice out of the last three years, receiving several key committee assignments within GCSAA along with gaining significant recognition by wearing the brightest blue jackets in GCSAA history.

With the FGCSA original goals accomplished, a new direction was approved at our last Board meeting. The long range planning committee presented the following: A program that consisted of continuing exciting programs and also implementation of an aggressive public relations campaign. The main goal of our new direction will be to promote the professionalism of the golf course Superintendent at his own club and with the golfing community. More information on how this project will be carried out will be forthcoming.

The FGCSA will continue to work closely with F.T.G.A. and I.F.A.S. of the University of Florida with ongoing research projects. The main topic in 1983 creating great concern among many Florida golf course Superintendents had to be "Bermudagrass Decline". Recent research although it has not provided a cause or cure, it has defined its symptoms, established factors affecting its occurrence, usual time of year and a cultural practice that retards the decline. The most important part of your job is to obtain this documented data and make your members and club aware.

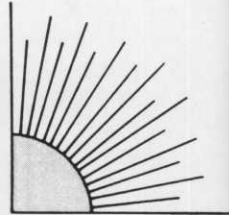
I look forward to serving you during the coming year. Feel free to contact me or your Chapter External Vice President and let your feelings and suggestions be known. Remember, our Board meetings are open to all FGCSA members and I encourage you to attend.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don DeLaney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



South Florida Sunshine

By BRAD G. KOCHER
Inverrary Country Club



THE FINER QUALITIES OF A GOOD SUPERINTENDENT

Pages of detailed information could be written about the vast amounts of technical knowledge a good superintendent must possess to excel in his profession. A superintendent must be a leader, a manager and possess skills in areas such as grasses, soils, plants, trees and flowers. He must be knowledgeable about fertilizers, chemicals, pumping stations, irrigation and irrigation hydraulics. He should understand some elemental chemistry, geometry, algebra, accounting principles and basic math. He should have a basic knowledge of electricity, hydraulics and fluids. He should understand equipment, equipment operation, maintenance and repair.

The list could continue to cover many, many phases of a vast variety of skills, professions and trades. And to be a very good superintendent, one must know a little bit about all of these technical areas — or at least be able to understand, diagnose, evaluate and make common sense decisions based on a lot of variables.

If there are shortcomings in that area, it is a good superintendent who can weigh and analyze mechanical problems that he may know little about. There are usually several options when your mechanic presents you with a problem and says, "Well, what do you want to do?" Equipment can be repaired, replaced, another piece of equipment cannibalized, re-engineered or junked. A good superintendent who asks all the right questions can usually make a good common sense decision even though he may know very little about the technical aspect of a particular piece of machinery.

Another quality a good superintendent should possess is the ability to relate his knowledge of turfgrasses in maintenance to his particular club and its golfers.

One would not necessarily maintain a golf course to the same standards for a membership that has 75% of the golfers under 20 handicap compared to one that has 75% of the members with handicaps over 20.

Different calibers of golfers want different conditions. Golfers above 25 handicap would generally find conditions that the touring professionals play

under practically impossible. Golfers of higher handicaps are not used to "pinching" the ball off a tightly mowed fairway nor would they find desirable greens that roll ten feet on a stimpmeter.

A good superintendent knows his golfers and their desires. Granted there are some agronomic practices that are necessary that some golfers find unpleasant, but as a rule, conditions should exist that are fair and receptive to the golfing talent of one's membership.

Most of the variables concern height of cut of fairways, roughs and greens. Low handicap golfers generally want short fairways and long rough and the higher handicappers want longer fairways and shorter rough. It is very difficult at times to strike a balance between these two factions but this is where the knowledge, talent, tactfulness and salesmanship of a particular superintendent comes to bear.

A good example is the speed of the greens. I happen to prefer a faster putting speed on greens because it is a fairer test of putting skill. So it is easy for me to justify to a higher handicap golfer who may prefer slower greens why faster greens are better. This usually appeals to both the low and high handicapper. I can usually sell a lighter weight putter and putting lessons along with the rationale.

The one other area that can separate the men from the boys in superintendent excellence is the manner in which a superintendent conveys his practices, beliefs and desires to his greens chairman, committee, owner or manager. A superintendent's ability to "sell" his ideas can make life pleasant or miserable.

Good salesmanship can initiate programs to upgrade present course conditioning. Most owners are quick to recognize a wise investment, especially if it is properly presented. Most golfers would like to see course conditions improve and a good superintendent can recognize shortcomings whether it be equipment, turf renovations or irrigation system changes. If desired course changes are thoroughly researched and presented in a manner that is logical and comprehensible to those who hold the purse strings, those ideas have a far better chance of being approved.

(Continued on page 11)