



West Coast Buccaneers



By MALVIN HALLFORD
Seven Springs Country Club

Communication is Important to All Golf Course Superintendents

One of the many tasks of the golf course Superintendent is good communication between himself and the people he works for and with. The task may be a difficult one because each individual he works for has their own opinion of how each job affects their golf game. On the other hand each person he works with has their opinions of how each job affects them.

The most important terms in good communication are *when*, *where* and *why* jobs are being done. These should always be used because it helps tell the members and staff everything that is needed so that they can, if necessary, make other plans that will not interrupt the jobs.

Each superintendent has their own way of communicating to their members - some good, some fair and others don't. The *don'ts* will soon catch up with that superintendent.

At our club, we have a newsletter called The Country Clubber that each member gets monthly. In this letter, all departments inform the members of future plans. The articles do not go into great detail but do tell when, where, and why.

Communication between the staff members is also needed. This is achieved at our club through monthly

staff meetings. The Superintendent, Golf Pro, Club House Manager, and office Manager meet and discuss each departments plans so each knows what the other is doing. Communication can also be achieved through Broad Meetings, Committee Meetings and Department Meetings. These meetings are required to run an efficient Golf Club.


Communication, if handled correctly, saves time, money, misunderstandings, and jobs. ■

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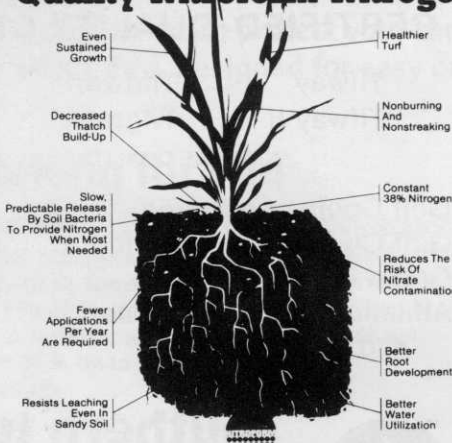
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Standard Golf Acquires Shur-way Ball Mark Repair Device

Further information on the Standard Golf Shur-Way Ball Mark Repair Tool is available from Standard Golf Distributors - or write: Standard Golf Company, 220 East Fourth Street, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613. Phone: 319/266-2638. ■

Standard Golf Company, Cedar Falls, Iowa, has secured the exclusive right to market the Shur-Way tool for repairing ball marks on golf course greens according to an announcement by John Kelly, Marketing Director for Standard Golf.

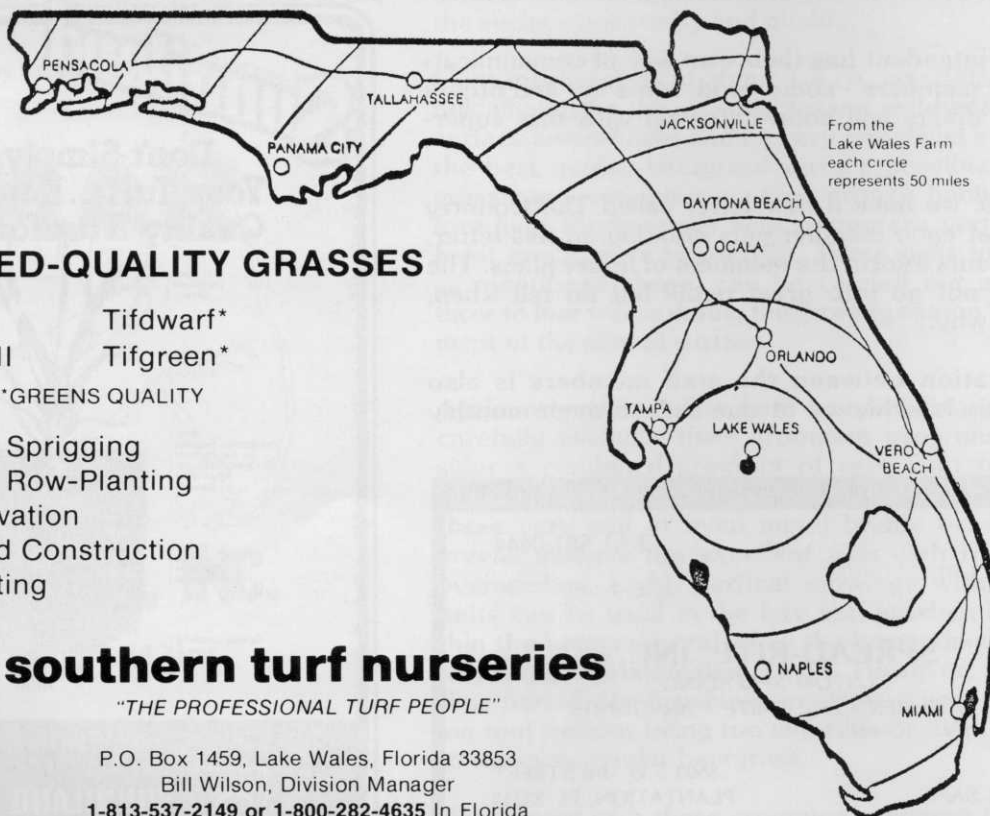
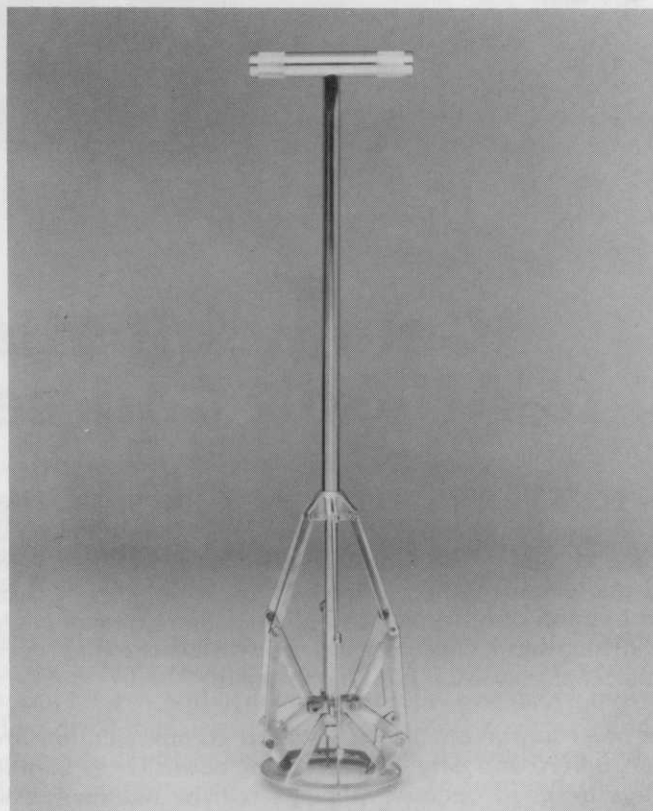
The agreement was made with the Shur-Way Development Co., Inc., Altoona, Iowa, which has manufactured and marketed Shur-Way for a number of years.

Kelly stated, "Through the years, the Shur-Way Ball Mark Repair Tool has proven itself to the golf course superintendent as an outstanding unit to repair ball marks on greens and represents an excellent addition to the Standard Golf line of quality golf course accessories and maintenance equipment."

The Standard Golf/Shur-Way, instead of just raising the sunken area of the ball mark, utilizes 6 narrow aerification knives to force the grass and roots from around the injured area into the center of the area of the ball mark.

Shur-Way, according to Kelly, is extra easy to operate and permits the user to repair up to 12 ball marks per minute.

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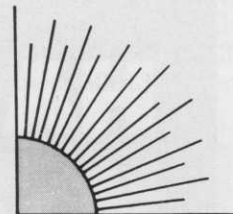
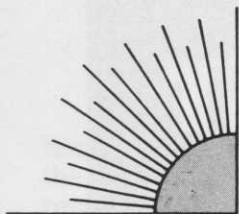
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A Day in the Life of a Superintendent

By: Rich Roth

Someday when I become a Superintendent I hope to use the techniques and experiences that I have encountered while working in the Golf Course business with the Superintendents I have worked under. Some of the experiences are something no school can teach you. I hope that I never have the kind of experience that I am about to describe to you.

First let's take a day in the life of a Superintendent: as you arrive to work in the morning there is an applicant waiting for an interview. You are impressed as you talk to him, but a glance down his application shows that he has been employed at one course for 6 months, another course for 2 years, and the last course for only 1 year. In addition to his poor work record, you also note that he has had no education to speak of. At this point you say to yourself, he has no education and he doesn't stay in one place too long, I'm not at all sure about hiring him. Let me take a few lines to comment about this: "Why do you care as long as he does the job and is willing to learn during the time he works for you"? As far as education, who are you looking for Albert Einstein? On the job experience of working on the golf course is education. And maybe from his experience on the other courses he will give you some new ideas. That is if you will take the time to listen. Okay you think when the interview is over, he will start Monday morning.

Now you go out to check your crew, yes your crew. But do you as the Superintendent take the necessary time to train your crew on all the equipment? If you don't, what will happen if Donna doesn't make it in and she's the only one who knows how to run the fairway unit? Well you guessed it, you or your assistant will be mowing, and lets face it, you have better things do to! But still you say to yourself, I don't trust anyone else to do that job. To that I would say, why do you hire people you don't trust? You've got to trust people even though he or she may not do it exactly like you would. Remember we are all individuals, not clones.

Now it's time to communicate today's activities. As a Superintendent how well do you communicate with your crew members? Do they understand what you want done? Charlie says, "sure boss I understand", and

he just might, in his own way, but his interpretation of what you stated at 6:30 a.m. may be completely different from what you actually had in mind. Anyway, today you are going to topdress greens, which is always fun (and I'm sure your ability to deal with problems will be tested). You've got two walking meter-matics, a front-end loader, a dump truck and pick-up, plus the necessary crew members for this operation. Correction, you thought you had the necessary crew members but one of the only two men who know how to run the topdressers didn't make it in this morning.

You think back to the new employee who is starting Monday and remember he stated that he knows how to run the topdressers. You say to yourself I knew that I should have had him start today and you prepare to run the other topdresser, (your assistant can't because he is spraying). Things are going good and four of the greens are done and then BANG a topdresser engine blows, the one that the mechanic just rebuilt. Now your temperature is rising! You take the topdresser back to the shop and keep the crew going with just the one topdresser. You and the mechanic check out engine, and you decide to run out and get the parts to fix it, while the mechanic dismantles the topdresser.

Meanwhile the drivers of the trucks hauling the top-dressing come back to the maintenance building for more material but wait, neither of them knows how to run the front-end loader! So the mechanic has to drop what he is doing to load the trucks. The two crew members who are waiting for the refills grab a cup of coffee and say to each other, "I know I could run the loader if given the chance, but I'm not trusted". When you arrive back to the shop with the new parts you see the mechanic loading the trucks and your two crew members standing around drinking coffee, and the topdresser is laying there half dismantled. THAT'S IT!, you explode and tear into the crew members and smash your radio to get the point across. Looking up to the sky you ask yourself why, why me? As you are thinking about it, starting skyward, the rain starts, seemingly out of nowhere. The two crew members say to each other, "I don't know why he got mad at us, we didn't do anything wrong. We couldn't have, we didn't know how to run the loader". In disgust they shake their heads feeling

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(continued from page 24)

no respect and actually find the whole thing amusing because you are still standing in the rain with your radio in pieces at your feet.

Sure you're mad, but at yourself more than at the poor guys you just took it out on. Well it's not quite noon and the day is a wash out. The topdressed greens look like a mud wrestling ring and the spraying your assistant was doing for weed control is washed away. You are now sitting at your desk and you're trying to work on your budget, might as well add a radio to your want list! Not being able to concentrate and disgusted you get up and turn out the lights, as you go out the door you console yourself with the fact that tomorrow is another day.

I guess the point I am trying to get across is that no matter what techniques, experiences and education you have, there will be good days and there will be bad days. You've got to learn how to shrug off those bad ones, and you've also got to learn how to roll with the punches. ■

NEMACUR 3 (Liquid Formulation) Approved for Golf Course Use

Mobay Chemical Corporation has announced a new registration: Nematicur 3 Turf Nematicide is approved for use on golf course turfgrasses for control of the major genera of turf nematodes, at 9 to 12 fluid oz/1000 sq ft or 3 to 4 gal/acre; the product is a liquid that contains 3 lb a.i./gal, so these rates are equivalent to 9 to 12 lb. a.i./acre, as opposed to the somewhat higher rates of 10 to 20 lb a.i./acre for which the granular formulation, Nematicur 10G, is registered.

The new registration directs: "Apply specified dosage in sufficient volume of water to provide uniform distribution. Irrigate immediately after treatment using a minimum of 1/2 inch of water. Do not treat newly seeded areas until the plants have developed good root systems. Do not apply more than twice per year. Do not use on residential lawns or public recreational areas other than golf courses." Nematicur 3 is very toxic, and a RESTRICTED USE PESTICIDE.

In 1985 field experiments (still in progress at this writing), we have obtained reasonably good responses of fairway bermudagrasses to application of 3 gal/acre by chisel injection 1.5 inches deep, with chisels spaced 5 inches apart. Further evaluation of this and other application systems are needed, but the rates at which Nematicur 3 is registered should prove more economical per unit of area and result in application of less active ingredient per unit area than the granular product, a saving to both the superintendent's budget and the pesticide load on the environment.

-Nematology, Entomology, Pathology News
Volume 11, Number 5
September, October 1985

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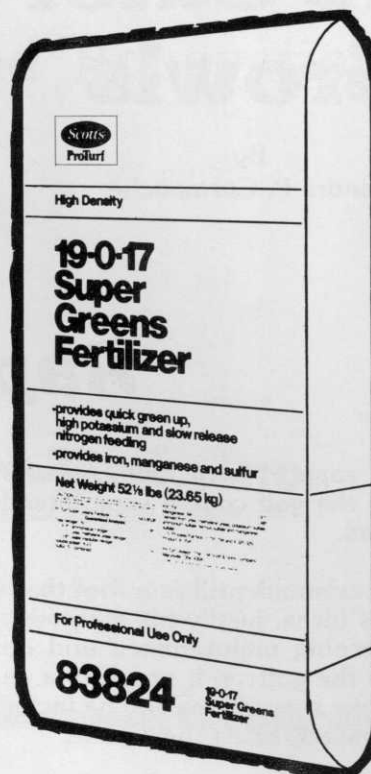
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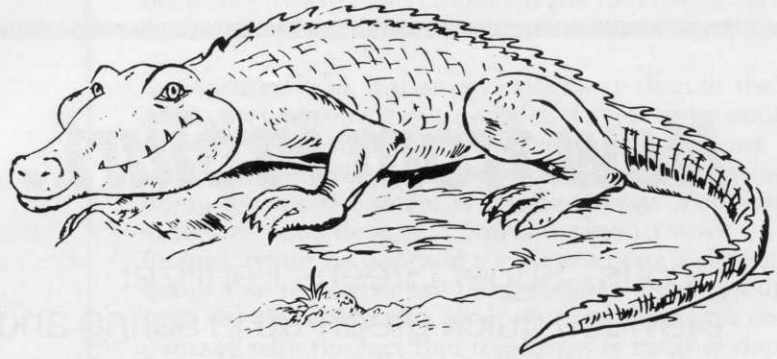
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By
Sandra P. Carmouche



Rapport Essential

Developing rapport with golf course members is as essential to the golf course superintendent as mowers and fertilizers.

For the superintendent it is a tool that can be used to promote his ideas, justify his methods, or solve problems concerning maintenance and condition of the course. For the golfers, it provides a necessary opportunity to make suggestions and be included in decisions that will ultimately affect their game.

In order to establish good communication with members, Bob Shevlin of Eagle Creek in Naples and Mark Black of Bonita Bay in Bonita Springs offer the following suggestions.

Talk is the simplest, most effective, form of communication. But before any conversation can take place, golfers must have access to the superintendent.

"Make yourself noticed," advises Bob Shevlin, who frequently stops to chat with people while making his rounds. He also has coffee in the Pro Shop every morning where members can easily approach him.

High visibility also has the advantage of reminding everyone that the superintendent is responsible for playing conditions on the course. Golfers who only see assistants and laborers working may soon wonder why they need a superintendent.

When listening to suggestions from members, Mark Black says, "Keep an open mind."

An automatic negative response from the superintendent creates bad feelings. But while some of the ideas that golfers come up with will improve their game, others may benefit only a choice few.

If, for example, 90 percent of the members at a club want the tee markers moved up, then the superintendent would do well to listen and comply with their wishes.

On the other hand, when Mr. Putter wants all the trees to the left of number six fairway cut down because that is where he always duck-hooks his ball, a polite explanation of why that can't be done is in order.

It is important to remember that requests from golfers are of genuine concern to them. Any lack of understanding or knowledge on their part can easily be remedied by the superintendent who explains his decisions.

"What it boils down to," says Shevlin, "is educating the members."

For instance, most golfers don't understand that verticutting fairways is necessary to remove thatch which causes disease, worms, etc. All they know is that it's a messy inconvenience.

It is up to the superintendent to make members understand what is being done and there are a number of aids that can use to convey information.

Quarterly or semiannual typewritten reports can communicate to members what goals the superintendent has for the course and how he plans to accomplish them.

Likewise, monthly club newsletters could include a column written by the superintendent. This is an excellent opportunity to let members know why, for example, the greens have to be aerified.

Slide presentations are great for purposes of illustrating accomplishments at board and member meetings. Before and after shots of turf showing how conditions have been improved can be used when evaluating employees. They are also helpful for showing the progress being made on a project or pointing out problem areas.

Discussion should follow in which questions are answered and input is taken. Another item to consider in developing rapport is personal appearance. While clothes may not make the superintendent, they do contribute to the opinions formed by others.

"Obviously, suits and ties are out, but, as Mark Black warns, "If you're going to come on like a farmer, you're going to be treated like a farmer."

Whether a superintendent works for a developer or is employed by a private, semi-private, or public course,

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(continued from page 28)

good communication is imperative for establishing priorities.

Since the golf course will be a selling point for developers, it must be maintained to look good and play well at all times. Private clubs, however, may be forced to choose between overseeding in the winter and buying a new greensmower in the spring.

Whatever the situation, both developers and members have to rely on the expertise and advice of the superintendent on matters concerning the golf course.

And no matter what the circumstances, "The bottom line," says Black, "is that members are your bosses."

The ability to communicate with them is as important to the superintendent as the knowledge he possesses of turf. ■

South Florida PGA Pro-Supt. Tournament

By Larry Bush

STUART, Fla. — Rick Dytrych and Pete Brooks of the Palm Beach Par 3 Golf Club won the fourth annual South Florida PGA Section Pro-Superintendent tournament on a match of cards Friday at Mariner Sands.

They had birdied the par-3 12th hole, selected in a blind draw by tournament officials, enroute to a seven under par 65 on the 6,700-yard Gold course.

Also posting a 65 in the net better ball event were pro Dan St. Louis, Wellington Club, West Palm Beach, and J.B. Branstrom, the golf course superintendent at Palm Beach Polo & CC. But St. Louis and Branstrom had bogied the 12th hole.

Dytrych and St. Louis each made four birdies. Dytrych finished with a 72, St. Louis a 75.

Low pro in the tournament which drew 43 twosomes was Roger Kennedy, Pompano Beach CC, with a one

under par 71 on nines of 36-35.

Gleneagles superintendent Gary Price made a hole-in-one at the 165-yard 15th hole with a 6-iron. "It hit about three feet in front of the hole and rolled in," said his pro, Lew Hersey. They teamed for a total of 75, out of the money.

John Shulock of Vero Beach, an American League umpire who worked the recent baseball World Series, was the guest speaker during the awards cocktail party.

Tournament leaders:

Pro-Superintendent Better Ball

65 — Rick Dytrych-Pete Brooks, Palm Beach Par 3 GC, 32-33. Dan St. Louis-J.B. Branstrom, Wellington Club, 33-32. Dytrych-Brooks won match of cards. Dytrych-Brooks \$210, St. Louis-Branstrom \$175.

66 — Don Beattie-Tom McGuire, Pompano Beach CC, 33-33. Jack Seltzer-Dave Holler, Stuart Yacht & CC, 33-33. Sean Skelly-Bob Jacks, St. Andrews CC, Boca Raton, 35-31. \$132.33 per team.

67 — Bob Komarinetz-Gary Gump, G&RC at Eastpointe, Palm Beach Gardens, 35-32. \$105.

68 — Gordy Powell-Paul Bondeson, Bocaire CC, Boca Raton, 33-35. Scott Mailloux-Walt McMahon, Bear Lakes CC, West Palm Beach, 37-31. Bobby Benson-Paul Crawford, Palm Beach CC, 31-37. Chuck Knebels-Kevin Downing, Mariner Sands CC, Stuart, 35-33. Randy Cavanaugh-Mike Cooper, Jupiter Island CC, Hobe Sound, 34-34. Roger Kennedy-Scott Zakany, Pompano Beach CC, 35-33. \$46.50 per team.

Low Professionals

71 — Kennedy, 36-35. \$100.

72 — Dytrych, 39-33. Seltzer, 35-37. Komarinetz, 37-35. \$55.

75 — John Francis, Lago Mar CC, Plantation, 38-37. Ken Szuch, Kings Bay CC, Miami, 39-36. St. Louis, 39-36. Benson, 37-38. \$13.75. ■

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