

A Word About Native Plants

The use of native plants in the landscape has become much more common recently. Natives such as Seagrape, Sea Otas, Yucca and Green Buttonwood have long been used by residents living in coastal areas with excessive salt spray.

Now as water for non-essential uses such as lawn and landscape irrigation is more highly scrutinized, the idea of using native plants will become more attractive to a greater number of homeowners and developers. Native plants used properly in a landscape can lead to reduced water usage for irrigation as well as greater versatility to climatic changes. The Florida State Tree, the Sabal Palm, is an excellent example of a highly adaptable native plant which is able to grow in a variety of conditions. Wax Myrtle is another native which can tolerate a variety of soil conditions. Furthermore, it can be sheared as a hedge or maintained as a multi-stemmed small tree depending on the landscape needs. Included below is a partial list of some native plants which you might consider using for your landscape. A more complete listing is available from the Cooperative Extension Service Office.

1. *Acer rubrum* - Red Maple
2. *Ardisia escallanioides* - Marlberry
3. *Bumelia salicifolia* - Willow Busic
4. *Chrysobalanus icaco* - Cocoplum
5. *Chrysophyllum oliviforme* - Satin Leaf
6. *Conocarpus erectus* - Green Buttonwood
7. *Cordia sebestena* - Geigor Tree
8. *Dodonea viscosa* - Varnish Leaf
9. *Erythrina herbacea* - Coral Bean
10. *Ficus aurea* - Strangler Fig
11. *Gordonia lasianthus* - Loblolly Bay
12. *Ilex cassine* - Dahoon Holly
13. *Ilex vomitoria* - Yaupon Holly
14. *Liquidambar styraciflua* - Sweet Gum
15. *Lysiloma bahamensis* - Wild Tamarind
16. *Magnolia grandiflora* - Southern Magnolia
17. *Magnolia virginiana, australis* - Southern Sweet Boy
18. *Myrica cerifera* - Wax Myrtle
19. *Persea borbonia* - Red Bay
20. *Psychotria undata* - Wild Coffee
21. *Quercus laurifolia* - Laurel Oak
22. *Quercus virginiana* - Live Oak
23. *Simarouba glauca* - Paradise Tree
24. *Swietenia mahogani* - West Indies Mahogany
25. *Taxodium distichum* - Bald Cypress
26. *Thespesia populnea* - Portia Tree

Availability of some native plants is probably one of the greatest factors restricting their use. The number of nurseries offering natives is increasing, however, more should be encouraged to grow natives as the demand increases. Just remember, native plants were around long before sprinkler systems.

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"Off the Wall" HELPFUL HINTS

By: Rosalie J. Wyatt

In the profession of golf course superintendence, the ongoing exchange between one another of *HELPFUL HINTS* is in fact 'par for the course'! Above and beyond formal textbook education, on the job practical training, and on hand technical information readily available in the industry, superintendents continue to gain insight into their responsibilities, and gather useful advice from first hand experience (or second hand for this matter) of others also active in the field. To elaborate, it happens occasionally that a particular strategy, technique, system, or application mode will manifest itself in the form of the unusual, if not sometimes uncanny, or indeed unheard of approach to maintenance of a golf course. Thus the phrase; "Off The Wall" *HELPFUL HINTS* has been deemed appropriate for purposes of this article. At best, should any one superintendent in said profession, from rookie to veteran, gain as much as an iota of knowledge, or benefit to any extent from the information gathered from and herein disseminated to those of your in the field, the intention of this article is well lived. Understandably, to consider adopting one of the following *HELPFUL HINTS* as advice to follow, one must determine whether or not the hint is firstly applicable to one's set of circumstances, before a positive outcome may be pursued or before positive results may be achieved.

HELPFUL HINT #1

A fast, proven effective method in pinpointing the smallest tubing leak on the irrigation hydraulic line system is that of liquid detergent soap injection. Soapy bubbles will appear directly over the broken tubing, thus identifying the leak. (David Bailey, CGCS/High Ridge CC). A different approach to the same problem is the injection of methyl bromide. As the gas takes the path of least resistance to the location of the cut, the area where the grass is killed will identify just that; the location of the cut. (Mike Bailey, Supt./Boca Greens CC)

HELPFUL HINT #2

For ease in spot treatment of worms, incorporate *Sevin* (straight dust) into the fertilizer, apply, and finally for five to ten minutes water it in. This method is an option when going to the extent of mixing a full spray tank of liquid pesticide is not necessary. (Craig Foley, Supt./Boca Woods CC)

HELPFUL HINT #3

In an effort to economize, counteract spring algae problems by spraying clorox, rather than a fungicide which is traditionally more expensive. Note that long term results have yet to be studied. (John Cicale, Supt./Boca Golf & Tennis)

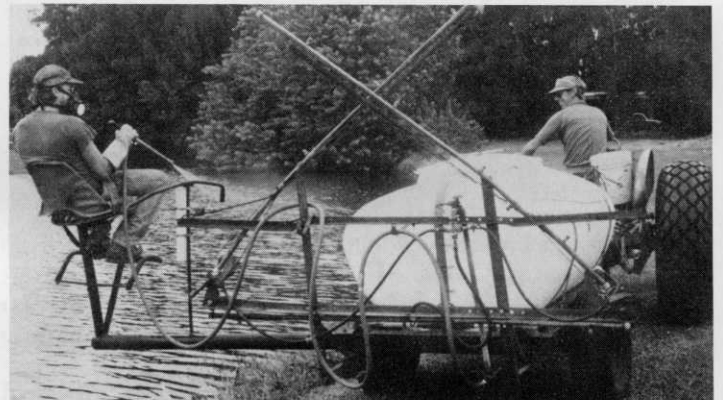
HELPFUL HINT #4

EARLY MORNING SYRINGING

A number of years ago when I was an assistant superin-

tendent at Doral Country Club we experienced a severe outbreak of brown patch on one of our courses. After getting involved with an extensive fungicide program and raising mower heights the greens began to recover, but the most dramatic recovery was gained after our course supervisor routinely started removing the morning dew by syringing the greens with irrigation water. Mr. Tom Mascaro had published an article that explained "Exudated Water" which contained a form of sugar called glutamine which when present can induce fungal activity. The U.S.G.A. had made recommendations back in the early 1950's that syringing greens could provide better putting surfaces and this example at Doral helped me understand a unique situation when combating intense fungus conditions.

(Kevin Downing, CGCS, Golf Manager/Mariner Sands CC)



HELPFUL HINT #5 (See Photo)

Bill McKee & Howard Turner running spray equipment

As controlling weeds along canal banks and other aquatics is part of the superintendent's aesthetic responsibility to a well maintained golf course, and due to the typically excessive expense incurred by contracting outside aquatic weed control labor, an extremely ingenious device has been crafted for the purpose of providing an alternative approach; a do it yourself custom home remedy. Because of the contraption's operational success, a patent could be in the offing for the inventive able team of one certain maintenance department in southern Florida! Imagine a removable device; attachable on either side as needed of the frame of a sprayer, two pipes welded together at a perpendicular, to which a seat equipped with built-in seatbelt is attached. From this extended seat, a spray person can effectively hand spray along canal banks, as these areas are normally open, permitting ease in accessibility of this innovation along the water's edge. And remember, it is essential to note that the seated spray person is at the mercy of the person driving the mower! (Bill McKee, Supt./Plantation GC)

(continued on page 44)

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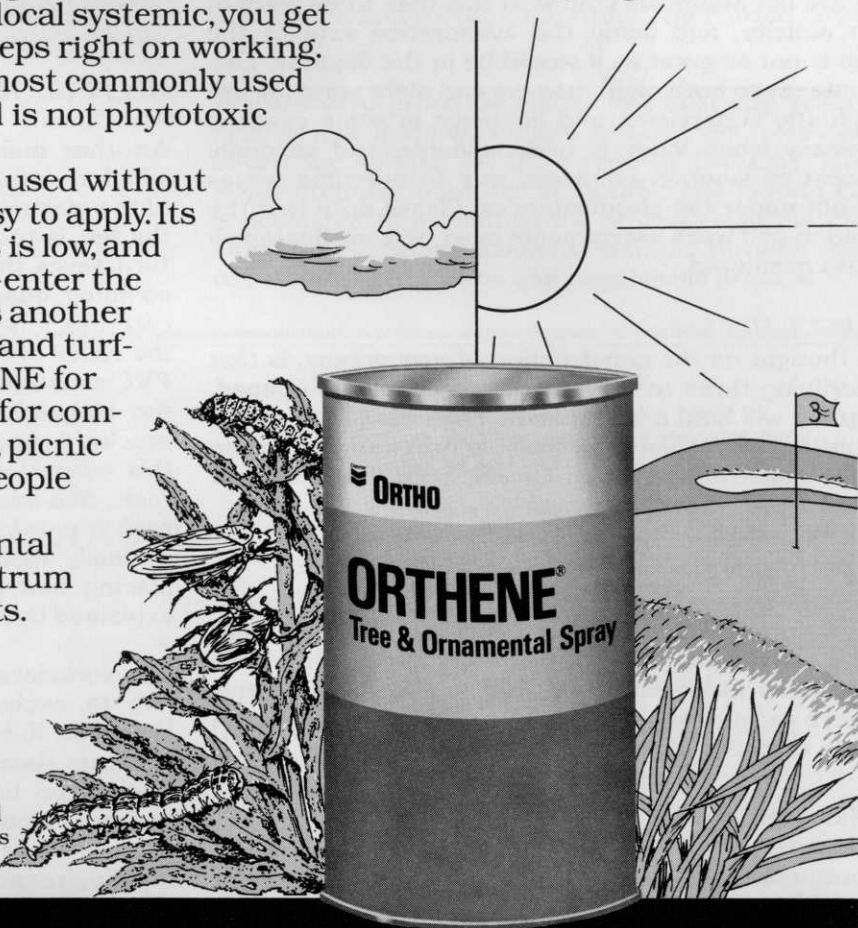
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HELPFUL HINT #6

To reduce the amount of damage from an oil leak, charcoal is typically applied; however this may not be the best medicine. Charcoal does in fact neutralize the oil, but does not aid in getting the oil out of the ground. A good approach to cleaning up the area is to apply granular detergent soap. By soaking the area with water to create sudsing, the oil will then allow itself to be squeezed off into the rough as it has suspended itself in the granular detergent. (John Cicale, Supt./Boca Golf & Tennis)

HELPFUL HINT #7

"Necessity is the motor of invention", quotes Boots Berckemeyer, Supt., of Century Village in Broward County. In light of this statement, night mowing and night spraying are suggested as alternatives to the daytime norms. Night mowing makes sense for reasons twofold; the amount of play throughout the day preventing the opportunity to mow at this time, and also the lack of sufficient equipment available in the daytime when the job demands. To perform this task, floodlights may be attached to the tractor. As for night spraying, there are three primary reasons to support doing so. The first being that insects are nocturnal, and secondly the members are not about the course at this time to be leery of such activity, and lastly the evaporation rate of the spray is not as great as it would be in the daytime. Disadvantages to both night mowing and night spraying are that firstly supervision and guidance in some cases is necessary when labor is undependable, and secondly the cost of labor is increased due to overtime wages paid out under the circumstances. Please note that the irrigation and work assignments must be coordinated all things considered.

HELPFUL HINT #8

One thought on the construction of new greens, is that by aerifying three to four times before play is opened, the green will hold a better shot. The intent is to soften the putting surface, as the green is firm and hard when initially constructed. (John Cicale, Supt./Boca Golf & Tennis)

HELPFUL HINT #9

There are more ways than one to approach the infamous ever-present pest; the mole cricket: For better "kill" results, apply straight *Orthene* late in the evening, preferably just prior to darkness; three pounds preventative per acre or four pounds curative per acre, and do not irrigate. (Peter Kohler, Supt./Island Dunes CC)

HELPFUL HINT #10

For occasional spot coverage on a green versus the conventionally more expensive blanket applications of insecticides, use six ounces of *Joy* per gallon water! Mix this dishwashing liquid, in particular, with water in a hand tank, insert probe in each mole cricket hole, and shoot! Seconds later the pest will surface and expire, as the *Joy* has successfully clogged the mole cricket's breathing apparatus! (Chuck Pincket, Supt./Miles Grant CC)

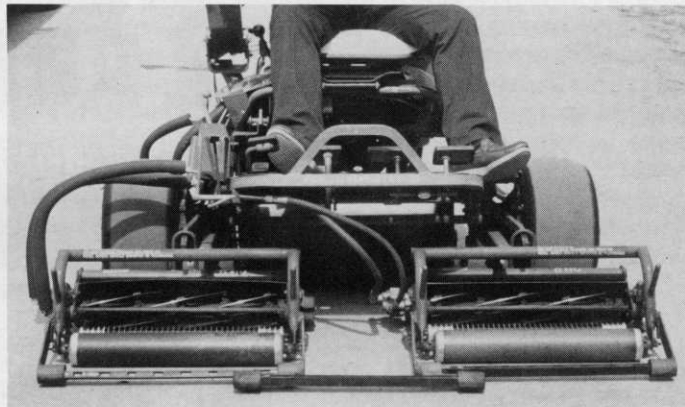
HELPFUL HINT #11

Experiment with preemergent herbicides on a small

scale with spot applications to determine which herbicides effectively kill grass contamination mutations that one would want to eliminate on putting surfaces especially. (Barry Carter, Supt./Boca Raton Hotell Club)

HELPFUL HINT #12

On an interpersonal note, it is recommended in jest, that to stay out of the member mingling situations which one inevitably faces in either the locker room or the pro shop, is (one way) to stay out of trouble. Professionally speaking, this rule of thumb favors only essential contact with members as opposed to intimate association. (Otto Schmeisser, Supt./Everglades Club)



HELPFUL HINT #13 (See Photo) View of Magnetic Attachment

Another maintenance department devised a way in which to attach a magnet to a mower. The sole purpose of the magnet as it performs 1/2 inch from the surface of the tee, is to pick up spikes and irrigation flags. This in turn saves the reels from unnecessary damage, and in so doing, guards the turf from streaks. In order to duplicate this innovation, custom weld a bracket in front of the roller of the reel unit. It is important to note that a PVC sleeve must be inserted into the bracket that holds the magnetic bar in place, as to prevent the entire bracket assembly from being magnetized. Not only does this adaptation cut down on normal wear and tear of reels, and unnecessary replacement and purchases thereof; it cuts down on the time in labor that mechanics normally spend repairing and sharpening reels, and replacing bed knives. (A Jacaranda CC innovation as explained by Art Kurtz, Asst. Supt.)

The workplace, indeed, provides for the everyday opportunity to exchange "Off The Wall" **HELPFUL HINTS**. However, if each chapter of the Golf Course Superintendents Association were to approve of maintaining a 'suggestion box' per se at the meeting sites, perhaps members would then be encouraged to exchange helpful hints on a regular and hopefully more frequent basis. Ideally, responses collected by the suggestion box would further enrich the worklife, as those hints determined to be significant or of a contributory nature to the responsibilities of golf course maintenance, would be reported at the chapter meetings to follow, under the subject of new business. A functioning system would then exist whereby all colleagues would be enabled to effectively and continually update each other on personal innovations and uncommon practices in golf course maintenance; which might (or might not!) be helpful to others active in the industry. ■

John F. Foy Named USGA Green Section Agronomist

FAR HILLS, N.J. — John H. Foy of Madison, Ga., has been named Agronomist of the Southeast Region of The United States Golf Association Green Section.

Foy, whose appointment is effective Oct. 1, will join the staff of Charles B. White, Director of the Southeast Region. Foy will be based in the West Palm Beach, Fla., area and will be responsible for Turf Advisory Service visits in Florida.

Foy earned his bachelor's degree in Agriculture from the University of Georgia in 1977 and received his Master's degree in Plant Protection and Pest Management from Georgia in 1980. He is presently a sales representative for a manufacturer of turf products.

Created in 1920, the USGA Green Section is the only scientific agency whose sole mission is to upgrade the playing surfaces of golf courses in the United States. ■



THE FLORIDA GREEN A Short History

The Florida Green had a predecessor, *The South Florida Green*, which was published for the first time in South Florida in October of 1973. This first edition consisted of six pages and was all black and white, except for the cover.

Dan Jones took over as Editor in July 1976. By this time the magazine had grown up to 16 pages, it was still all black and white inside with only the cover done in color. Also at that time we used the same cover photo for all four copies in a year.

We had ten advertisers in that July 1976 issue and it is interesting to note that nine of those advertisers will be running ads in our Winter 1986 issue, and that eight of these have remained with us continuously over the years.

In July 1980 transition was made over to a state wide publication and we took the name *The Florida Green* at that time.

We are very proud of our record over the years and believe that it shows we are meeting the needs of the advertiser as well as the needs of the Golf Course Superintendent/Manager in Florida. *The Florida Green* is dedicated to promoting the profession of the Florida Golf Course Superintendent/Manager through the use of continuing education and responsible press. ■

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Gaseous Loss of Nitrogen from Turf

Nitrogen is the most important nutrient for turfgrass culture in terms of how much is required, how often it needs to be applied, total cost, and the amount of "greening-up" caused by an application of nitrogen fertilizer as compared with other fertilizer applications. There is a wealth of information on the above parameters, but less is known about the fate of nitrogen fertilizers after application. People applying nitrogen fertilizer usually assume that the turfgrass plants take-up all the fertilizer that is applied. If there is not the usual "green-up" response, then they will blame the fertilizer for not working properly. But all fertilizers do indeed respond very predictably to weather, soil, and cultural conditions. Understanding the possible fates after application is the key to making fertilizers work efficiently and maximizing the response.

We have primarily been concerned in Florida with the loss of nitrogen fertilizers by leaching because of the sand soils with low cation exchange capacity, high rainfall, and excessive irrigation. Research at the Ft. Lauderdale R.E.C. has shown that these conditions favorable for nitrogen leaching combined with the use of nitrate nitrogen fertilizers can lead to potentially large amounts of fertilizer losses (up to 60% of that applied).

However, everyone should be aware that potentially large gaseous losses into the atmosphere of applied nitrogen fertilizers can occur. Under certain conditions in Florida, gaseous losses can be as significant as leaching losses. One of the processes of gaseous losses of fertilizers is volatilization.

Volatilization is the loss into the atmosphere of ammonia (NH_3) as a gas. It can occur with any ammoniacal fertilizer material, such as ammonium sulfate or ammonium nitrate, when the soil pH is above 7.5. Under these conditions as much as one-third of the amount of fertilizer applied can be lost into the atmosphere. Very little ammonia (1%) is lost from these materials when the soils are acid.

The greatest concern with ammonia volatilization is with urea fertilizer, because of the large amount of gaseous losses under varying conditions. Urea is the alkaline form of ammonia. It is readily converted to ammonium

carbonate by an enzyme called "urease". This enzyme is present wherever there is microbial activity, such as on leaves, or in thatch and soil. The ammonium carbonate is an unstable chemical form and ammonia is readily released into the atmosphere. Urea fertilizers are usually broken down within 3 days of application.

Field tests on turf have shown ammonia volatilization losses to average 20-30% after an urea fertilizer application. When urea was applied to bare acid sand soils, the volatile losses were up to 59% of the urea applied. The higher the soil pH, the greater were the losses. The study also showed that by increasing soil moisture and temperatures, ammonia losses were also increased. It was interesting to note that these studies showed about 95% of the volatile losses occurred within 7 days of application.

A recent laboratory study examined the differences in ammonia volatilization from urea applied as either a granular or a liquid. Ammonia losses from granular urea ranged from 1 to 55% of that applied, whereas ammonia losses from liquid urea were 2-26% of the urea applied. The actual losses depended upon the temperature and relative humidity conditions in the experiment. Increasing temperature and humidity generally increased the losses observed. Periodic wetting and drying of the turf caused surges of ammonia losses. Irrigation immediately after fertilization by either method of urea application significantly reduced volatilization to minor losses.

To obtain the maximum fertilizer efficiency (greatest turf response), the turf manager must carefully plan and implement a fertilizer program. Fertilizers should be applied to the turf that has soil moisture near field capacity. This will help minimize potential leaching. The proper fertilizer source should be selected for the particular turf situation. If one is using urea fertilizers, the above research information indicates it is essential to water-in the fertilizer to minimize volatilization losses. Likewise, other nitrogen fertilizer sources will also benefit from being washed into the soil, not only to reduce volatilization, but also to get the fertilizer into the soil for root uptake. An application of a 1/8 to 1/4 inch of water is usually sufficient to wash the fertilizer into the

(continued from page 46)

thatch and soil. This should be done as soon as possible after fertilizer application. Using these techniques, a turf manager can make the most efficient use of fertilizer applications.

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"G.C.S.A.A. Finishes Third at International Greenskeepers and Superintendents Golf Tournament

Anytime that a golf tournament is held at the Old Course in St. Andrews, Scotland it becomes a very special event. The Ransomes Fifth International Tournament was surely no exception to the mystique of St. Andrews. With the shadows of the Royal and Ancient building filtering just near the first tee and the Swilcan Burr just a few hundred yards ahead, you know that the great challenge of golf in its purest form, lies directly in front of you.

On October 9th the G.C.S.A.A. sent its team of Dave Powell (North Carolina), Dick Stuntz (Kansas), Gene Baston (Texas) and Kevin Downing (Florida) against twelve other teams representing countries throughout the world. The Stableford competition was the format of the day with the best score of three players used to accumulate points. Captain Gene Baston elected to assist the team by providing moral and strategic advice for the first of two eighteen hole rounds that were to be held on the same day. The temperature was a cool fifty-five and coupled with overcast and windy conditions it looked like another fiesty round in Scottish conditions. The defending champions from Canada had assembled another strong group and they looked like the team to beat with stiff competition from Scotland and possibly the U.S.A.

Dave Powell and Dick Stuntz were both solid two and four handicappers respectively and Kevin Downing was playing to a nine handicap coming into the tournament. Being a "links" type of course it lends itself to a different type of strategy when positioning your tee ball and definitely the alignment of your approach shots is a critical feature when trying to score well on the Old Course. The summer rains in Scotland were abundant and the turf conditions were very lush for Scottish standards. Because of the softness in the soil and turf, the course played a little longer than usual but the expertise needed to execute the "bump and run" shot was not as critical. Because of the unusual size of the seven double greens coupled with the unique contours, it is so important to be on the proper side of the pin position when your approach shot comes to rest. When the flag of the U.S.A. was raised and the team was introduced, you started to feel as if you were in attendance at a mini-Olympics and the nerves and adrenalin began to shake and flow simultaneously. Downing floated a gentle hook that ended up closer to eighteen fairway than number one, but the other two members drove right down the middle. The thrill of playing in front of a crowd and utilizing caddies while walking the course adds so much to the intrigue of competition. The team basically got off to a shaky start but remained close by saving a few pars and remaining composed through a few sudden rain-showers. A team birdie on the eighteenth hole gave a boost to the moral even though the team was in sixth place after the morning round.

All three team members were extremely determined to regroup and mount a little charge in the afternoon. The skys cleared at noon and the temperature warmed up a

little even though the ski caps and rainsuits still remained standard equipment. Shot making was superb on the front nine and Kevin was able to salvage a critical par on number nine from deep in the heather and gorse. Stuntz rammed in a four footer for birdie three on the tenth and the charge was on. The inability to make any mid range putts had plagued the group throughout the tournament but Dave Powell made a twisting five footer on the eleventh to save par. The Canadian team was looking over from the adjoining seventh and responded with a birdie three which left the U.S.A. behind by at least three points. A natural birdie was recorded at the par five fourteenth after Downing and Stuntz both made four utilizing the new strategy of letting Kevin make the two footer before Dick drained the twelve foot putt. As in most events at the Old Course the seventeenth hole (Road Hole) always takes on special significance in the outcome. The tee shot over the "Old Course Hotel" is probably one of the most unique shots in golf when you must decide which letter in the sign you must aim over. Dick Stuntz rifled a three iron at the pin position which was snuggled directly behind a deep, deep trap. To everybody's disbelief the ball ran through the trap and on to the green setting up a possible net eagle which would be a big swing in the standings. Once again the ball ran over the lip and the U.S.A. settled for three.

Standing on the eighteenth tee while capturing the view of the R&A Building and the town of St. Andrews is quite a sight. Golf is a part of everyday life in Scotland and the townspeople take evening walks on the course or just assemble near the eighteenth green to watch players finish. In front of the green is the famed "Valley of Sin" and an access road cuts across the fairway, which you must decide whether or not you want to drive the ball over the road. All three players drove the ball very long and set up the approach wedge shots to the green. The team from West Germany was finishing out on the green when Dave's wife Sharon Powell came over to give the final pep talk of the day by giving the team a short rendition of Bruce Springsteen's "Born in the U.S.A." Apparently the added incentive paid some dividends since Downing's approach shot almost flew in the cup and came to rest a foot away after hitting the flag-stack. The eagle instead of the birdie would have given the U.S.A. a share of the lead but Canada (90 pts.) and Scotland (89 pts.) topped the birdie three with two putts that gave them first and second place with the G.C.S.A.A. bunch a close third with 88 points.

The event was organized very professionally all the way from assigned scorekeepers, marshalls and the playing of the bagpipes at the closing ceremony. With the participation at the SIGGA Conference on the day before and the closing banquet there was a great deal of comradery between superintendents from all over the world. The atmosphere and tradition at St. Andrews is difficult to describe, but anyone that feels a great deal of respect for the game and its history would not have been disappointed. ■



Palm Beach Trade Winds

By: Mike Bailey Boca Green Country Club



Can You Talk?

HOW DO YOU COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR MEMBERS? Surely you will not go out and talk to every golfer today, however let us think about this....we are often the unknown professional. Typically there are three divisions within most golfing facilities: the clubhouse (club manager), the pro shop (golf professional), and the golf course (yourself). How often do you really get a chance to communicate with the people you so diligently work for . . . the golfer? Obviously we can not spend a great deal of time talking with our golfing public. As a matter of fact we typically find that we spend a very small percent of our time doing just that, why? Because we are busy supervising our crews, examining the course for work completed, and for future work to begin; not to even mention keeping records, placing orders, processing purchase orders, and all the other facets within the realm of our responsibilities.

Let's face it, we are the unknown professional. It is not uncommon for the golf course superintendent to be the least recognizable figure within the club, but this supervisor is commonly responsible for probably the most important division of the club's operation . . . the golf course. The golfer typically comes into contact with either the golf pro or the assistant pro at least twice a day. First an interaction is required for signing in, getting their clubs, the cart and whatever else they require. Secondly, at the end of the round the golfer discusses their game, thoughts about curing that slice or keeping their head down, along with pasting the days score for their handicap. Then the golfer will usually have lunch or dinner at the club, where an interaction with the club manager usually takes place. Here one might discuss an upcoming function or discuss their monthly billing.

We see how within a typical day at the club the golfer will interact with the pro and the club manager, but what about you? The golfer realizes you are out there, somewhere getting the work done somehow....after all if it were not for you the grass would be sky high, but, do they know your last name? If this is the case, what can you do about the "no name syndrome"? Somewhere within your busy day you are supposed to make the golfer aware their club employs a golf course superintendent. Yes, it is your responsibility for creating a meticulously maintained piece of real estate that enables the golfer to go out and shoot a great round of golf. This is not a problem that you can overcome in a matter of just a few weeks. It will probably require several

months before the golfer knows your name on a regular basis.

The following is a list of ten suggestions that just might help in creating an environment where the golfing public can know you on a first name basis, and most importantly, realize just what kind of an individual is responsible for their golf course.

1. Play the role of high visibility during prime time. True, most good golf course superintendents have examined the entire golf course and know the real estate like the palm of their hand before the first golfer even gets to the first tee every morning. Still it is a good policy to review the course again at the time of day when you will most likely be seen. Even on days when you might be tied up in meetings or at your desk preparing budgets or other paper work...it can be to your advantage to review the course. Of course you are totally confident your assistant is in control however, who does the golfer recognize as the boss? If the golfer doesn't see you, then who is in command? The golfer could very well tend to recognize the assistant as the superintendent.

2. Interact with the golfers in a nondisturbing manner. Since you will often find yourself examining the greens within the day, why not briefly discuss the conditions of the course with the golfers in a nondisturbing fashion? Obviously one should not disturb the concentration of the golfer, however, when walking to the next tee, try to carry on a quick discussion. If there is a complaint, you probably have already performed a cultural practice to rectify the problem, such as verticutting for grain, aerifying for softness, topdressing for smoothness, fertilizing for additional greening and so on. If the golfer realizes what you are doing and why, they will begin to understand we deal with a science rather than just mowing the grass.

3. Single out unknown faces. Most clubs have quite a few members and to recognize everyone on a name basis is impossible, I'm sure all of us can identify with this problem. It is important though to recognize the majority of the membership, not so much on a name basis, but at least be able to recognize their faces. You should however be familiar with the board members and the regulars, and if you are not familiar with any of these persons you should make it a point to go up and introduce yourself!

4. *Play golf with your membership.* How can one go take a test ride if you don't know how to drive? The golfer tends to appreciate the fact that you know the game of golf and if you play the game well, that's all the better. Our chapter has several superintendents playing to a single digit handicap. A good superintendent can hold his own ground not only on a mowing machine, but also at the first tee. Playing a round of golf with the members at noon, once a week, in season should not be frowned upon as taking the afternoon off. Reviewing the course with the members allows you to view the course from their point of view. Are the greens really too hard? How about the lip edge on those sand traps? Is the rough too thick? Should that tree on the left side of #7 be cut down? These common questions can be mutually discussed and usually a practical solution can be made before the end of the round.

5. *An article about the golf course in the club's newsletter.* Every month, within our club's newsletter I write an article entitled "The Greener Side". This allows me to prepare the membership for future projects such as aerification, drainage, fertilizing and other various factors having a direct influence upon the playability of the course. I also like to play the role model of the critic in regards to exercising "care maintenance", such as keep carts on cart paths, repair ball marks and divots, stay off the fairways whenever possible and so on. By discussing these various topics, the membership has been advised on proper techniques and they have an understanding about my style of maintenance operations.

6. *Memo communications posted at bulletin boards.* If your club does not partake in newsletters perhaps you can pass memos to communicate with your membership. Bulletin boards are common in both the ladies and men's locker rooms along with the pro-shop or snack bar. Even if you are fortunate enough to write articles within your club's newsletter, why not still pass memos of communications at these strategic locations. "It is better to over communicate, than to just sit down there in the barn and worry about whether or not the membership understands a certain procedure that is taking place on the course".

7. *Post your own golf tip of the month.* Golf tips can include a wider spectrum than just the ability to play the game. There is the proper technique for repairing a ball mark, replacing a divot and just where a cart should really be driven. An entire memo can be written on just one topic.

8. *Display the periodicals of your industry.* As members of the associations (GCSAA and FGCSA), we receive issues of "Golf Course Management" and "The Florida Green" that can be put to good use. Have a copy of each available within the lobby of the clubhouse. Let your membership appreciate the fact that we are an organized association striving towards professionalism within our industry. Perhaps the "Green Sheet" might even be put out for display too.

9. *Allow membership to partake within projects.* If a golfer can take a part of the action, it makes them feel important, not to mention the tremendous help they can offer. Periodically on Sundays, I hold a project called

"Fire Ant Day". Considering that the eradication of the fire ant can be much like looking for a needle in a haystack, I have created a situation where the golfers help me locate the fire ants. On those Sundays, the golf carts are supplied with a bundle of perhaps 10 survey flags. The golfers within their round, simply stick a flag in the ground near the mound. Why on Sunday? Because after two days of no mowing the mounds become recognizable over the top of the grass. Then early on Monday morning the sprayman will go out to each location, pull the flag, spot spray the area and voila! This creates an environment of pride and satisfaction for the membership, not to mention the safety factor of specifically eradicating the pest.

10. *Help sponsor Florida Golf Day.* By overcoming the barrier of the golfer not recognizing their superintendent, we begin to find the membership mutually caring for the same goals as the superintendent. In order to achieve a good environment for both the superintendent and the membership, your club can help sponsor Florida Golf Day. Your influence, and the clubs' response can all work together towards improving our industry. Research and Development is a vital link towards improving courses for the future. Kevin Downing has created an event that has proved to be very beneficial for upgrading the image of our industry, not to mention the rewards for future research work.

Perhaps these suggestions will not be appropriate for your club, however in my situation I am constantly striving towards bonding together the attitudes of the membership to understand exactly what type of work is being performed on the golf course. I have concluded these topics to be extremely necessary in order to achieve a sense of security and calmness for both the membership and myself. We commonly hear of frustration and disappointment from both the membership and the superintendents at clubs where legitimate problems exist. These problems can not be cured in the matter of just a few months. It might require several years in order for a club to accomplish its their golf course. As long as the superintendent communicates closely with their membership in a way which allows the membership to understand exactly what is going on, why it is going on and how long it will take, then I believe that both parties will be able to see the goals of achievement. It simply requires: *communication.* ■

