

our communities but reach out to the nation and other parts of the world. To be able to be a motivating force we need the people that are willing to give of their time and expertise. By participating in business decisions and meeting with all areas of industry such as manufacturing, legislation, education and public relations, just to name a few, we will remain a strong organization.

As I saw the staff of our chapter and state in action I can see why our association remains strong. When the turf industry seeks help in education and new ways to advance, our people are at the ready. These dedicated people are always ready to give of their time and knowledge so we can move forward.

Working with and for the Florida Turfgrass Association we have once again gone toward the front in providing educational opportunities to our members and non-members alike. Our education

committees are committed to the development of programs that will not only stop the abuse of our land and water, but will set the standards to use these natural resources so they will be protected far into the future. By giving of their time for research to bring us educational seminars not only at local and state levels, they also reach out nationally so we can all reap the benefits of knowledge through continued education.

On the national level, let's not forget the people from our state that gave their time to organize, prepare and present their professional seminars at our National Golf Course Superintendent's Conference. It should make us all proud to have these people share their knowledge to a group of professionals from all over the world. We have one of the best news magazines in our industry, the *Florida Green*. Continuing to

distribute knowledge and information through an award-winning editor and staff is their goal. Throughout the ongoing effort of giving of their time and knowledge, we will all continue to benefit. Our state association and our satellite chapters have to be acknowledged and thanked for their efforts and time to keep us as leaders in our respective professions. I would especially like to take this opportunity to thank my professional board of directors and officers for their help and support in keeping our organization one that we can all be proud of. I will take pride in watching and helping one of the most professional golf course organizations in the country grow through giving of time, effort, and knowledge. We will all be wiser and better people for making our environment a better place for all things. This is my goal. 🍏

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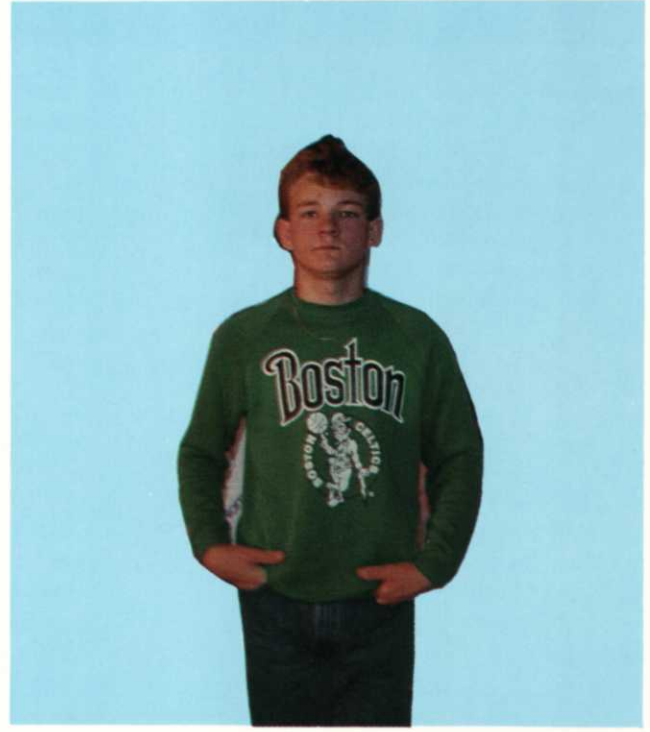
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How Precious a

by MAUREEN KOOYER



B.J. Kooyer

The crash echoed above the vibration of the stereo and hum of the air conditioner. I was out of the front door faster than I have ever moved — my mind screaming at me to hurry. I know it was B.J. before I ever saw him.

I cannot describe the horror of the evening of August 23rd, 1987. One of my biggest fears for our children had come true — our oldest son was hit by a car.

It started as a normal Saturday evening. Don, Daniel and I were listening to Saturday night at the oldies on the stereo. B.J. said he was going to a friend's house to spend the night. Mike's bike was broken but B.J. rode his bike over. They walked back — at least to the corner where they met another friend and stopped to talk. B.J. leaned up against the stop sign on the corner.

Not unusual for teenagers to be out on a corner at night — especially so close to home, Certainly none of us had any idea of what the night held.

As they were talking, they heard a car squeal around the corner and race down the street. They saw another car coming in the opposite direction and were joking about who would slam on their brakes first. No one sensed the danger — at least not then.

It soon became apparent that neither car had spotted the other. The stop sign was not slowing the person who had peeled around the corner. Then with a deafening CRASH, they hit. At that split second the boys knew they were in danger. The other boys got away quickly enough — our son, who had to ditch his bike and run — did not.

It sounds as if this all took a long time. It did not. It happened in just a matter of seconds.

No one can ever explain how a parent feels at the sight of their injured child. We know the feeling of terror — unfortunately from first hand experience.

Our son was lying on the ground, rolling back and forth and holding his rapidly swelling knee. His bike was smashed into the dirt, his glasses gone. His face was full of dirt, he had cuts and scrapes and scratches everywhere. And intense horrifying pain was written on his face, the signs of shock already apparent.

Car parts were scattered all over the street — water from radiators making puddles and running into the storm drains. There were crying and bleeding women in the street and many people had come outside to see what the commotion was.

Dan called 911 — brought towels out for a woman who was bleeding — all the while not realizing B.J. had been hit. I finally screamed at him — and when the enormity of what had happened hit him — he was shocked.

The man responsible for the accident was on his hands and knees in the street crying and saying how sorry he was. I couldn't feel any sympathy for him, could not even look at the person who had done this to our son.

The ambulance came within minutes, it seemed. I cannot say enough for them — their care and concern was evident with everything they did. B.J. was awake although he was not totally coherent.

At the emergency room they did blood work, took x-rays, all the usual procedures were done. An orthopedic specialist was called in. B.J. was shaking from cold and shock, crying and trying to tell us what had happened.

When the two cars hit, the car causing the accident flew into the yard hitting B.J. and throwing him about ten feet in the air. He said he tasted dirt when he landed. He said he felt like Superman!

His knee by now was larger than his thigh — we also asked for back, neck and head x-rays. His left knee and ankle were broken.

He spent several days in the hospital, weeks out of school. There were countless trips to the doctor, physical therapist, and eventually to a neurosurgeon who diagnosed two herniated discs.

He fell behind in school, had to give up basketball and football and was basically confined to the house with a hip cast. He had school over the phone, couldn't see much of his friends — the list is endless.

The ramifications of this accident are far-reaching. To say it altered our lives is an understatement. They have changed drastically! The injuries healed as well as they can but he will live with the permanency of them for the rest of his life. His knee swells daily, his ankle gives him some problem and his back is a weakness — one, we are told, which will eventually lead to surgery.

But I thank God daily for sparing his life, and I realize how very fragile these lives of ours really are. I pray that other parents reading this won't have to go through it themselves someday. ■

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Red-Eyed Fly Lives, Eats Mole Crickets



Photo by James Castner

Red-eyed fly, *Euphasiopterox depleta*.

The red-eyed Brazilian fly is alive and well . . . and pregnant! This is bad news for mole crickets and a blessing to Floridians, say University of Florida scientists. About 500 of the flies were released in April and June into an Alachua County test pasture by UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS).

"We were a little worried until we finally found several pregnant flies in our traps in late August," says entomologist Tom Walker. "But now it looks like we've established a new enemy of the mole cricket."

Mole cricket munching and burrowing does at least \$46 million worth of damage each year to Florida golf courses, commercial turf operations, pastures and fields of vegetables. Coordinator Howard Frank, says the goal of the IFAS project is similar to most biological control efforts. "We're working toward reducing the mole cricket population to a point where it is no longer damaging."

The Brazilian fly, with its distinct red eyes, is about the size of a house fly.

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by DAVID MORRIS, IFAS

Females come to the male mole cricket's mating call and lay living larvae on or near the male mole cricket. These larvae then burrow into the male or mates and emerge from the killed host about 10 days later.

The next obstacle for the project is winter. Mole crickets will be less active then, and flies may not survive the winter, but Walker remains optimistic. "We're 90 percent sure we'll have flies next spring. The fly comes from a climate like Gainesville's."

More fly pupae are scheduled for release this fall in Bradenton at the IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center. The mole cricket population has been monitored in Bradenton for years, so the situation seems ideal for evaluating the effects of the fly's marauding on mole cricket populations.

Scientists have introduced other natural enemies of the mole cricket in the past with varying results. More recently a kind of microscopic worm has proven quite successful, but the difficulty and expense are delaying breeding and

distribution of the nematode.

With further success this nematode is likely to be a commercial proposition, while the red-eyed fly would probably be distributed by the Florida Department of Agriculture for free, according to Frank. Savings from reduced pesticide use and the resulting benefit to the environment make both alternatives attractive, said Frank, who has already received a number of inquiries.

Frank attributes part of the project's success to the support of the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences and its cooperative agreements with four Brazilian institutions for biological control research.

Though the project is still in the evaluation stage, the researchers have good reason to believe the red-eyed Brazilian fly will help control mole crickets. "We've reached step one, and so far the project has progressed just as we'd hoped," says Frank.

"We'll have to measure changes in mole cricket populations over several years to quantify the effects." 🍏

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Douglas hires Shook

Douglas Fertilizer & Chemical, Inc. with plants in Zellwood and Lake Placid, Florida, recently hired Matt Shook as Territory Manager. He will be responsible for sales to golf courses, lawn spray businesses, and nurseries. Matt has a degree in Agronomy from the University of Florida. He has held sales positions with Wheeler Fertilizer and Lesco, Inc. 🍏

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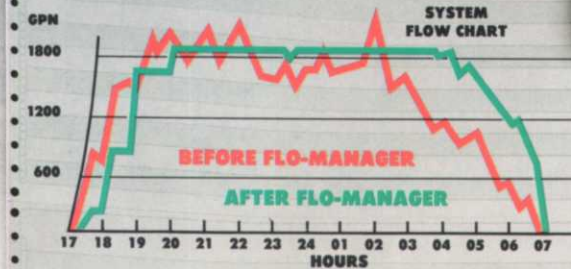
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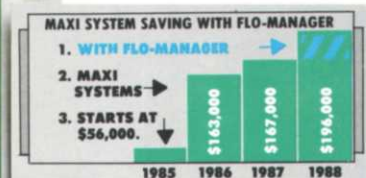
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