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# The Florida Green

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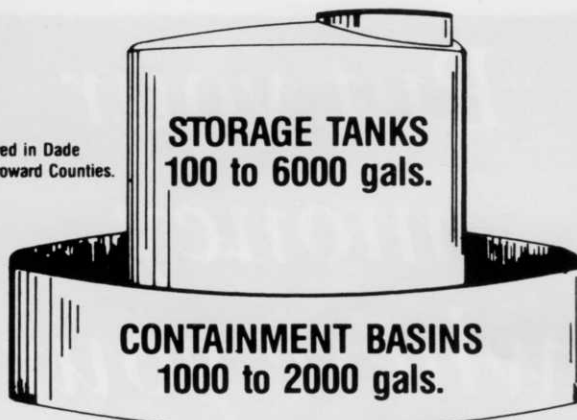
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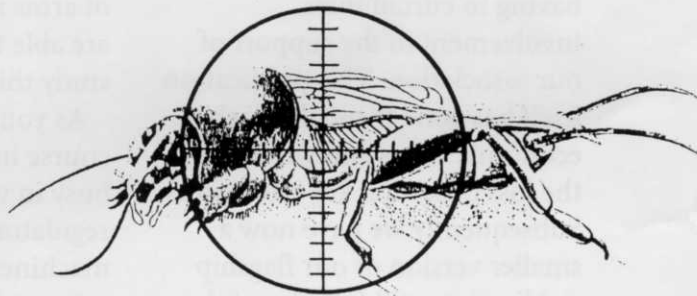
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Greetings. Here's hoping that you will have a more prosperous and productive new year than the one just completed. They say that as you get older the years get shorter. I gotta' believe, however, that last year couldn't get over soon enough.

What a miserable year. The economic downturn that politicians were eager to call a recession is getting closer every day to a depression, especially if you are the one who just lost his job.

It has had an impact on the operation of many clubs and companies in the golf industry with several of them

having to curtail their involvement in the support of our association. This publication itself has gone through tough economic times and witnessed the loss of several key advertisers. Subsequently we have now a smaller version of our flagship publication, still full of useful information for the superintendent, but not as extensive. Hopefully, the economic cycle will soon swing back the other way and things can get back to normal.

Things could be worse, however, if not for the diligent efforts of groups such as the Florida Golf Council, the FTGA and the FGCSA. Taxation of memberships, minimum spending and other aspects of normal club activities was

successfully fended off by the vigilant Bobby Brantley of the Florida Golf Council.

The end run by the utility industry through the DER to force golf clubs not only to take wastewater but to pay dearly for it has been slowed down by the work of the FGCSA. This is, however, an issue that won't go away. Pressure from the regulatory arena will intensify and much remains to be done on this subject.

The FTGA has been successful on many fronts. One of the key efforts has been working with the Florida Golf Council in securing funds for a survey for a survey of the economic status of the turfgrass industry in our state. This survey is long overdue and it is through the financial support of the FTGA and its members and through twisting of arms in Tallahassee that we are able to begin this important study this year.

As you can see, we in the golf course industry are extremely busy in working with the regulatory and political machinery in this state to create rules and implement projects we all can live with and benefit from.

We cannot do this alone. We need your support.

If you are not a member of the FGCSA, FTGA or Florida Golf Council, you should join. Even if you don't have the time to participate, your membership fees will work for your own benefit. So please do the right thing and give us a call and put your money where your needs are.

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# TURF NEWS

## ROUNDUP

### ALSO

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### Turf Quiz Answer

Replacing the turf and soil on this slope was no answer to solving the problem.

Severely compacted soil could not absorb water. Runoff was almost 100%. Aerifying the lawn five times sufficiently loosened the soil, so that it reduced runoff to zero.

Terrace was then replanted along with the lawn. Soil remained in place. Runoff can be an unseen problem on tees, fairways and greens. Check infiltration rates to guard against this hidden problem.

## TPC at Sawgrass rebounds to win PGA Tour accolades

Harshly criticized a year earlier by pros unhappy with ragged playing conditions, TPC at Sawgrass rebounded to win recognition as the top-conditioned resort course on the 1991 PGA Tour in a recent *Golf Course News* survey of tour players.

A single vote was the winning margin for the Ponte Vedra course, site of The Players Championship in late March. Sawgrass edged out Callaway Gardens CC of Pine Mountain, Ga., first-year host of the Buick Southern Open.

"We accomplished our goal," said Fred Klauk, TPC superintendent. "We were on a mission to prove to the players that their flagship club was something they could be proud of."

Sawgrass was featured on the cover of the spring 1990 issue of *The Florida Green* cover just after the 1990 Players Championship. The course had been ravaged by winter storms shortly before the event and the story chronicled Klauk and his crew's efforts to bring it back in shape. Despite their best efforts, playing conditions were less than ideal and players were outspoken in voicing their displeasure.

Klauk gained widespread support from golf course superintendents around the country when he agreed to be interviewed about course conditions during the nationwide telecast of the event.

Reseeding, tree trimming and additional workers brought the course back into tournament shape. Greg Norman, one of the most vocal critics in 1990, called the 1991 edition of Sawgrass "perfect."

"It was in perfect shape, from tees



Fred Klauk, TPC superintendent

through fairways through greens," said 1990 PGA Tour Player of the Year Wayne Levi. "The practice area was immaculate, the practice area tees better than many Tour fairways."

"We got control of some of the variables that we didn't have before," said Klauk. We limited play on the course to six days a week, 150 rounds per day, closed for overseeding in October and closed for a week before the tournament. All those things contributed to the outcome and the commissioner (PGA Tour Commissioner Deane Beman) is to be commended for getting them accomplished."

## FTGA will return to Jacksonville for '92 Conference & Show

The Florida Turfgrass Association will return to the Prime F. Osborn Convention Center in Jacksonville for the 40th annual convention and trade show Sept. 20-23.

Last year's meeting — the first in Jacksonville for several years — drew more than 2,000 visitors, making it the turfgrass industry's largest convention in the Southeast.



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## GCSAA's 63rd will host 16,000 in New Orleans

A discussion on pesticide use on the golf course may prove to be the focal point of the GCSAA's 63rd International Golf Course Conference and Show in New Orleans Feb. 10-17.

The discussion will highlight the Environmental General Session scheduled Feb. 14, midway through the eight-day conference expected to attract a record crowd of more than 16,000 from as many as 50 countries.

Other highlights will include a keynote speech by NFL Hall of Famer Terry Bradshaw, a three-day trade show featuring nearly 600 different exhibitors, and a gala concluding banquet featuring presentation of the GCSAA's Old Tom Morris Award to golfer Tom Watson followed by entertainment by singer Kenny Rogers.

The first four days of the convention (Feb. 10-13) are filled with more than 60 seminars, workshops and other educational sessions.

Six concurrent educational sessions are scheduled for the morning of Feb. 14, three of them concluding with the Environmental General Session beginning at 9:40.

## Golf courses spent \$3.4 billion in '91 for maintenance

Golf courses in the United States spent an estimated \$3.4 billion on golf course maintenance in 1991, according to a recent study released by the Center for Golf Course Management, a research subsidiary of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

The study looked at total annual maintenance expenditures, including labor but excluding capital expenses, at 1,164 golf courses. The number of courses involved in the study represents about 9 percent of the 12,846 golf courses reported in the 1991 edition of the National Golf Foundation's *Golf Facilities in the United States* report.

"This information is exceptionally important," said GCSAA President Stephen G. Cadenelli, CGCS, explaining that legislators and regulators seriously consider such data when dealing with laws affecting any industry.

Based on the survey, the projected annual total maintenance expenditure estimates incurred by each facility classification group: Nine holes, \$471 million; 18 holes, \$2.4 billion; 27 holes, \$251 million; 36 holes, \$207 million; and 45 or more holes, \$72 million. The estimated expenditures total more than \$3.4 billion.

The CGCM will offer a variety of marketing research services and publications at the 63rd International Golf Course Conference and Show Feb. 10-17 in New Orleans.

All of CGCM's 1990 and 1991 marketing research reports will be available for purchase during the show.

## USGA Green Section offers turfgrass advisory service to public golf courses

More than 50 public golf courses around the country already have taken advantage of the USGA Green Section's offer to provide a full-day turf advisory service visit by an expert agronomist at the half-day price of \$700.

"It actually costs the USGA \$1,500 per visit to provide this service," said Raymond Anderson, chairman of the USGA Green Section Committee. "We hope that by providing our expert agronomic advice to public courses at a reduced price, we can help to improve the quality of playing conditions for many of the nation's public golfers."

The offer is available only to public golf courses, defined as courses that accept green fees from the general public and do not have a membership that owns the course. Only public courses that have not used the TAS during 1989, 1990 or 1991 are eligible. For more information, please phone the USGA Green Section at 407-546-2620 or write to 8908 S.E. Colony St., Hobe Sound, FL 33455.

## 14 Florida golf courses honored for promoting public golf

Fourteen golf courses in Florida have been recognized by the National Golf Foundation for excellence in promoting public golf in their communities.

They are among 80 facilities around the country to receive the NGF's Public Golf Achievement Award for 1991. Created last year, the award program is part of an effort by the Foundation to underscore the importance of public golf.

In June, the NGF invited its members facilities to share their best educational and promotional programs in such areas as etiquette, speed of play and instruction.

Efforts to upgrade the quality of the courses themselves were recognized as well.

The recognized Florida courses: Clearwater - Airco GC; Cocoa Beach - City of Cocoa Beach GC; DeBary - DeBary Plantation GC; Delray Beach - Delray Beach GC; Jacksonville - Windsor Parke GC; Jupiter - Jupiter Dunes GC; Melbourne Beach - Spessard Holland GC; New Smyrna Beach - New Smyrna Beach GC; Orlando - Marriott's Orlando World Center; Orlando - Metro West CC; St. Petersburg - Mangrove Bay GC; St. Petersburg - Twin Brooks GC; West Palm Beach - Emerald Dunes GC and West Palm Beach - West Palm Beach CC.

## Crossing the Bar

Col. Harry C. Eckhoff, who helped foster the development of more than 5,000 golf courses in a 31-year career with the National Golf Foundation, died at his home in Lake Park, Christmas Day. He was 88.

Gerald L. "Jerry" Zachariah, vice president for agriculture and natural resources at the University of Florida, died Dec. 20 at Shands Hospital in Gainesville after suffering a heart attack late that same Friday afternoon. Zachariah, 58, was responsible for the 22 research and education centers under the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences — better known as IFAS.

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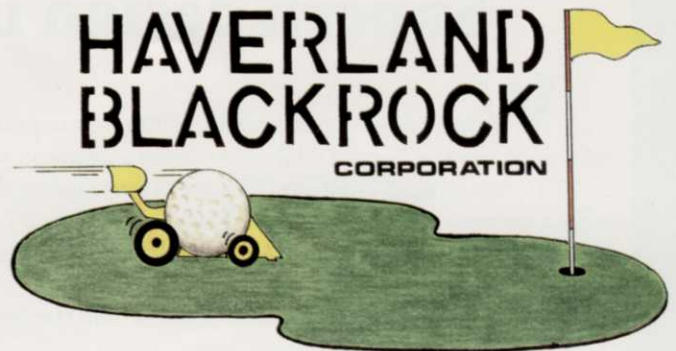
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can play the  
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— Eddie Snipes, CGCS



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BY LARRY KIEFFER

**W**hen Eddie Snipes landed a \$2.50-an-hour job as a laborer with the city of Jacksonville Beach in June 1974, he just wanted to support himself while completing a degree in psychology at the University of North Florida.

“I’ll never forget my first day,” he says. “I was standing there and this guy drove up in a pickup truck and asked me if I knew what a tee was. I said I wasn’t sure. Then he asked me if I knew what a green was and I said I thought so.”

“‘Then why do you want to want to work on a golf course?’ he asked. ‘I didn’t know that’s where the job was when I applied for it,’ I replied.”

That was Snipes’s introduction to golf and John Hayden, a winner of the 1991 President’s Award for lifetime achievement