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GCSAA's Roberts tells Greenskeepers Assn. that education is vital

Continuing education is vital to the rapidly changing golf course management profession — not just in the U.S., but around the world — said GCSAA President William R. Roberts at the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association national education conference in England March 27-29.

About 150 greenkeepers and golf/turf industry associations, mostly from England and Scotland, participated in the fourth annual conference at the Royal Agricultural College in Cirencester, Cotswold.

British and American golf course managers share the need to deal with environmental, human safety and land uses, Roberts said. He emphasized the importance of continuing education for golf course superintendents to keep up with changing regulations, technological advances and new research on turf management

practices.

"Participation in continuing education is a personal responsibility each of us bears to our profession," Roberts said.

"And it is our profession's responsibility to provide the kind of continuing education opportunities that golf course managers need today, and will need tomorrow."

Roberts said he learned during his trip that only a few British schools offer greenkeeper training, and that this education is more "hands-on, practical" training than the business and turf management programs that U.S. golf course management students typically undertake. He also said that some of those programs may be in danger.

In Britain, as in the United States, tighter funding for public education means the private sector will have to play a larger role in education, training and retraining, he said.

He outlined the GCSAA's education program that includes an accredited curriculum of seminars and correspondence

courses, plus a professional certification program, and environmental management program, an annual conference and trade show, and a series of publications.

Golf House fetes Spitzmiller

Golf House, the museum and library of the USGA will exhibit the paintings of Walt Spitzmiller through Aug. 30.

Touted as a "traditional look at the modern game," the exhibit includes images of such courses as Cypress Point, the Old Course at St. Andrews and Augusta National; and such players as Bob Jones, Ben Hogan, Arnold Palmer, Patty Berg, Jack Nicklaus and Nancy Lopez.

A native of St. Louis, Spitzmiller works from his country home in Connecticut. His work has appeared in Golf Journal, Golf Magazine, Golf Digest, People, and TV Guide.

The USGA exhibit includes works from the private collections of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Murphy, Melbern Glasscock, Thomas Mendell and Jack Nicklaus.



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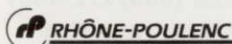
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ASGCA: Developers should involve superintendents in construction

The president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects has called on developers to involve golf course superintendents in the construction of their courses.

"We try to get a superintendent involved at the start of construction so he can act as a project liaison, help interpret plans for the contractor and make suggestions that will ease maintenance," said Clark. "For example, if we create a design that is difficult to maintain, he can bring it to our attention while changes can still be made."

With the superintendent present from the start of the project, it becomes easier to maintain the course according to its design, Clark said.

"Working together during the design and construction phase enables the superintendent to learn the intent of the original design," he said. "As the golf course evolves, the superintendent can help ensure that the layout remains true to the architect's original intent."

Education also enables a superintendent to become better acquainted with the purposes and perspectives of a golf course architect, Clark added.

"Being informed is 90 percent of understanding each other," he said. "The best ways to stay informed are through continuing education, attending conferences and exchanging information during the construction process."

Although few superintendents have the opportunity to be in on the development of a course from the beginning, they can always check the original plans to learn the architect's design strategy, Clark said.

"We must look to the superintendent to make sure we don't forget that the golf course must be maintained," said Clark. "We sometimes need to be reminded that a slope we've designed has to be mowed twice a week."

Architects also depend on the superintendent to monitor construction progress.

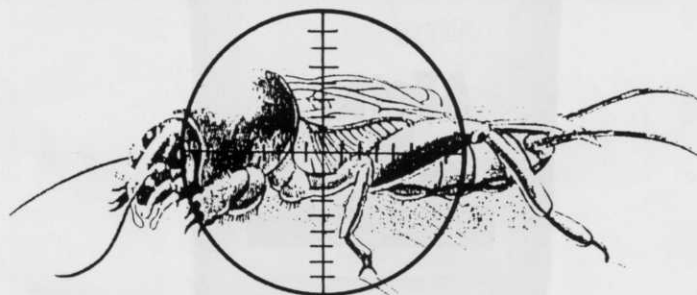
"The superintendent has a lot of authority during construction," said Clark. "The contractor has to realize that he must satisfy the superintendent."

It's also important for the superintendent to be on site so he sees what goes underground, he said. "In particular, he needs to oversee the installation of the irrigation system and confirm that the greens, for instance, have exactly four inches of gravel, two inches of barrier layer and 12 inches of mix. When we leave a course, it's in his hands."

Remodeling projects offer an ideal opportunity for superintendents and architects to work together, Clark said.

"One of the first things we do during a remodeling project is get the superintendent and pro together to ask what they would suggest be improved," said Clark. "They are the ones who are there every day, so they know the course's strengths and weaknesses. We utilize this type of input to develop the master plan which is the blueprint for the project."

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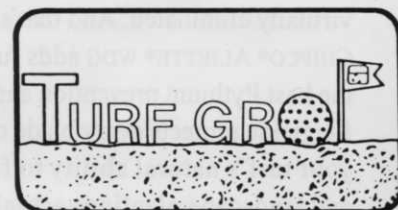


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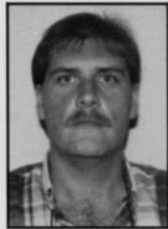
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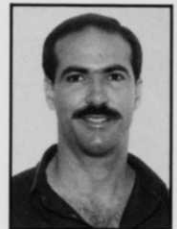
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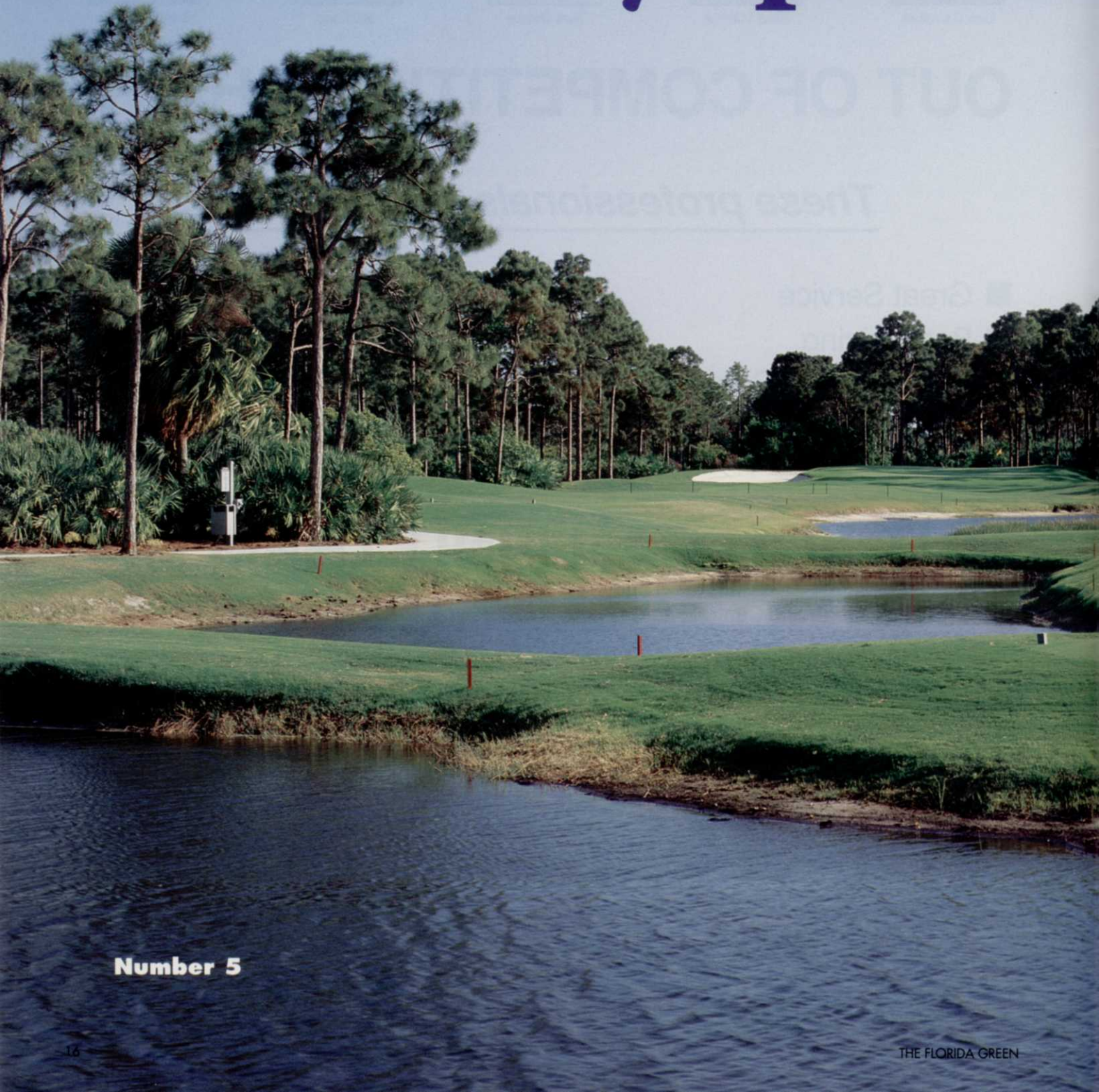
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'Bentgrass in a very special



Number 5

Florida... situation'

The Reserve *Golf and Tennis Club* Fort Pierce

BY LARRY KIEFFER

Tim Cann, CGCS, is in a class by himself. He has grown bentgrass year-around in South Florida for more than three years on greens that have no drainage tiles... and survived. And so has most of his grass.

"Our members know that we have good greens for eight months and pretty good greens for another month," says Cann, head superintendent at The Reserve G&TC in Fort Pierce.

"They know the greens are going to be bad for three months every year. They have come to accept the bad greens in summer because they know what a good surface they will have for eight months.

"Bentgrass in Florida is a very special situation. You couldn't think about having bentgrass down here if you get any play in summer. You'd have to have another 18-hole course with bermudagrass greens if you got even 30 rounds a day in summer."

So far, summer traffic has not counted for many of the 30,000 annual rounds at the 6,980-yard,

Photos by
Brian Everhart

par-72 private course owned by Pittsburgh businessman Jack Piatt. Although about a third of the members are year-round residents, a nine-hole, par-three course with Tifdwarf greens entertains those with enough patience to work on their putting in Florida's summer heat.

Still, maintaining bentgrass in Florida on greens with no drainage is fairly remarkable, particularly when you consider the size of Cann's staff — 13 counting an assistant, two technicians, two mechanics and a crew of eight.

"I've got a part-time cup-cutter," professes the 31-year-old native of Wallingford, Conn.

"Actually, it's not as heroic as it sounds," he adds. "My assistant (Mike Strahowski) and I are working superintendents. We do most of the syringing so the others can stay with their routines.

"We sometimes put in long hours, but it's really a pretty relaxed atmosphere around here. The owner and the members accept the summer situation because they get great greens in winter and my boss (Executive Vice President Michael Dillman) understands the limitations in-

***But no
drainage
tiles?***

herent in working with nature. This is not a high-pressure job."

But no drainage tiles?

"Well, we have installed some tile ourselves on the low spots that wouldn't drain," he said. "When (father-and-nephew architects) George and Jim Fazio built this course in 1984, they thought they had good sand to work with and that they wouldn't need drains."

The attitude was prevalent among golf architects a decade ago. And the senior

Fazio, who died in 1986 with nearly 50 designs to his credit, was best known for two things — losing the U.S. Open to Ben Hogan in a three-way playoff with Lloyd Mangrum at Merion CC in 1950... and for doing things his way.

As a top-level touring pro, Fazio wanted the superior surface of bentgrass at The Reserve, which he owned. It sported greens planted in a combination of Tifgreen 2 and bentgrass when the course opened in 1984, but the Tifgreen had a lot of problems, so they took out the bermudagrass in 1986 and put in pure Penncross bent.

That was two years before Cann arrived. Since then, two of the greens in the middle of summer have been replaced by Tifdwarf.

How have the others managed to survive the summers?

"Well, the big thing is the cloud cover that rolls over from Lake Okeechobee every afternoon," says Cann. "That helps more than anything else to keep us cool.

"I have a good topdressing program with a light application every two weeks and we do a lot of spiking, but you have

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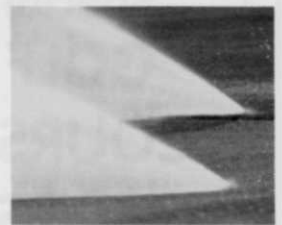
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