

He served the Palm Beach GCSA for eight years from director through to president.

He has been a member of GCSAA since 1975 and a certified superintendent since 1980. He has represented the golf course industry on the Palm Beach County Ornamental Horticulture Advisory Committee since 1984 and the IFAS Fort Lauderdale Advisory Committee since 1990.

His contributions were recognized by his peers in 1988 when he was presented with the FGCSA's Distinguished Service Award. "That was without a doubt the highlight of my professional career," he said.

Jarrell gives credit to his long-time assistant, Art Mueller, for his ability to be involved in so many activities on behalf of the golf industry. "It would be impossible for me to do the things I do without a strong, dependable assistant taking care of things when I'm away. I am extremely



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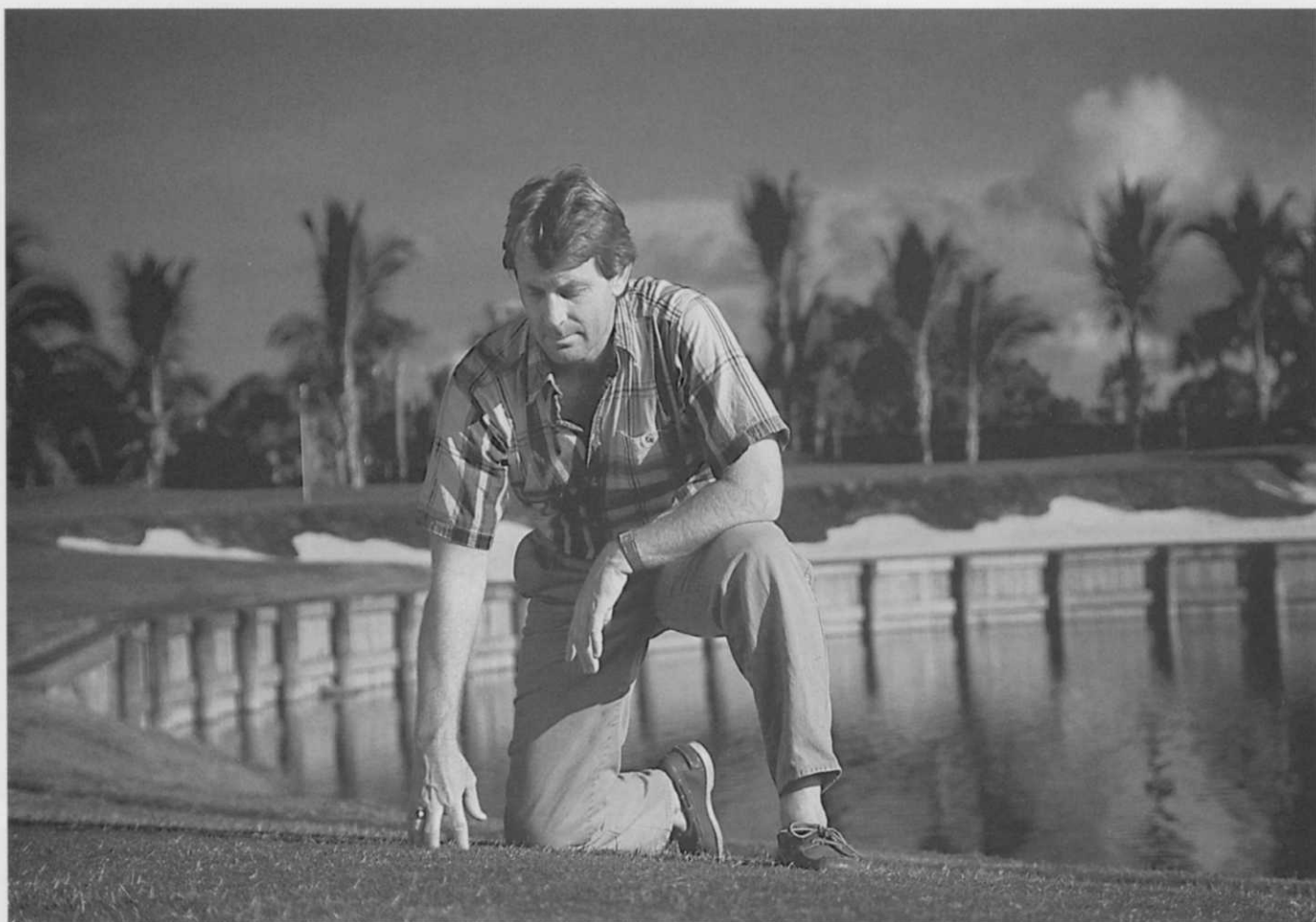


PHOTO BY DAN ZELAZEK

In addition to the 18-hole championship golf course, Mark is responsible for a 36-unit pod of condominiums and Mr. Rich's estate grounds in Palm Beach.

fortunate to have someone as talented and dedicated as Art.”

Art was a superintendent when Mark was still in grade school. He was the superintendent of the Tam O'Shanter Golf Club in Chicago when it hosted the Western Open in 1984 and '85 and the first superintendent of the Playboy Club in Geneva, Wisconsin. He was in charge of two of the Boca West courses after moving to Florida. His decision to step down a notch from the high pressure of the superintendent post was based on health considerations.

The rest of Jarrell's staff includes 11

men for the golf course and four for landscape maintenance. In addition to the 18-hole championship golf course, Mark is responsible for a 36-unit pod of condominiums and Mr. Rich's estate grounds in Palm Beach.

In his spare time, Mark enjoys SCUBA diving and snorkeling, traveling, coin collecting, genealogy and has a passion for the Civil War. "I've been fascinated with that period of American history since I played General Grant in a fourth grade play. Getting into genealogy and discovering my ancestors' role in that conflict has rekindled the flame." When Mark

takes the time to play golf, his handicap is around 13.

Most of these hobbies have been put on hold to fulfill his duties as superintendent of Palm Beach National and president of the FGCSA. Immediate goals are to get his golf course in great shape for the upcoming season, play more golf, and do a good job as president of the FGCSA. Mark's long range goal is to see Palm Beach National reach its full potential and work for Mr. Rich — "as long as he will have me."

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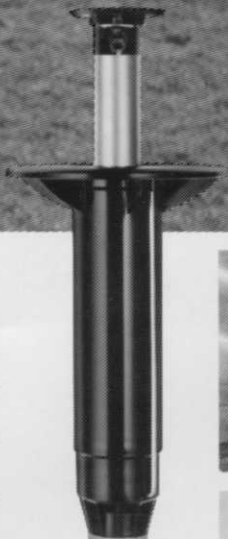


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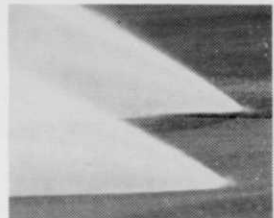
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Annuals at the clubhouse of Palm Beach National Golf & CC

Photo by Brian Southart

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Number 7

PHOTO BY MARK JARRELL

Palm Beach National Golf and Country Club

Overview: 18-hole championship course. 164 acres in Lake Worth near the Florida Turnpike. Original designer is unknown. Opened for play in 1961. Joe Lee is the architect of record. Lee redesigned the front side in 1978 and has since re-designed the most of the back side.

Ownership: Privately owned by Robert E. Rich of Buffalo, N.Y. as part of the Rich Products Corp.

Turf facts: Greens average about 6,000 square feet. Eight of the 18 greens are Tifdwarf and ten are a mix that is supposedly 328. Tees are 419 and fair-

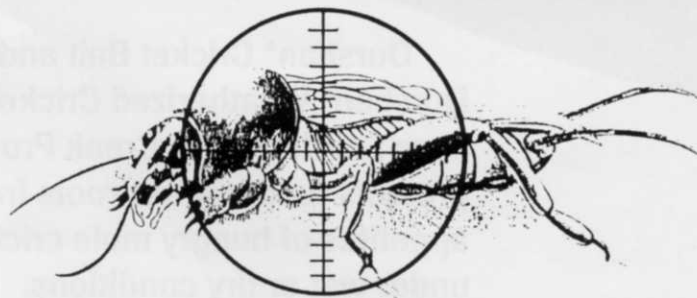
ways are about 60% Ormond and 40% 419. Green heights vary according to season and condition. Tees are mowed at 3/8 inches and fairways at 5/8 inches.

Ponds: 11 covering about 20 acres.

Bunkers: 62

Crew: Twelve plus superintendent.

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Topdressing

Eagle Pines superintendent Pat Hennessey (foreground) checks the density of the DOT sand topdressing being applied by Bill King with a pull-behind type spreader.

Why? What? and How?

The following Central Florida superintendents contributed to this article: Chuck Blankenship, Zellwood Station GC; Stuart Leventhal, CGCS, Interlachen CC; Brian Jenkins, Dubsdread GC; Don McCommon, Ventura GC; Joe Ondo, Winter Pines GC; Dennis Parker, Rio Pinar CC; Hal Richburg, Heathrow CC

Why?

Topdressing is that process used by superintendents to smooth out and speed up the putting surfaces of greens and

keep tees smooth and level. While it is a beneficial process for the longevity and playability of the turf, it is a process viewed with trepidation by the golf pro, the members, the mechanic, and even the superintendent himself.

No amount of assurances from the superintendent can dissuade the golf pro and the members from perceiving that greens are going to be "messed up" for awhile when they see that top dressing being applied. Contrary to their perception, the greens actually hold shots better after a heavy topdressing. While the green speed may be slower for a few days, the quality will improve rapidly as the grass blades grow up through the topdressing

and are clipped off on the new smooth even surface.

To minimize the negative impact of topdressing, the superintendent, golf pro and club manager need to prepare a yearly maintenance calendar so the renovation dates can be set well in advance to avoid impacting important tournament events. When considering date selections, the superintendent should make his fellow managers and greens chairman aware of the importance of timing certain procedures to maximize the effect of the renovation. Revolving dates around an arbitrary events calendar can reduce the effectiveness of the necessary cultural practices. By publishing this calendar in the



Bill King (left) and Eagle Pines working foreman, Bill Manson (right), use a modified dump trailer to refill the spreader at each green.



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Dan Koronka uses a pull-behind drag brush to work the topdressing into the turf.

club newsletter, with timely reminders as the time approaches, members can plan their outings and avoid hosting guests when the course isn't in its best condition.

Emergency or light topdressings can be accomplished without much notice because they address an immediate, easily identifiable problems, i.e. thin areas from transition, algae, vandalism. Light summer topdressings are usually unnoticed by the players.

Most superintendents in Central Florida have two major top dressings each year. One in the spring and one in late summer or early fall. These topdressings follow greens aerifications and the heavy applications are needed to fill in the resulting holes. Light topdressings vary in frequency depending on the operation of the club. Most superintendents on the panel tried to stick to a three- to four-week schedule of light topdressings during the summer. Hal Richburg mentioned that private clubs traditionally used Mondays as maintenance days and could often accomplish such activities like topdressing on those closed days. However, he noted that more and more clubs are using Mondays to host outside groups to help generate revenue for the club.

Stuart Leventhal and **Dennis Parker** believe that frequent light topdressing are very beneficial in maintaining Tifgreen 328 greens in the summer when they are the most difficult to manage.

One of the other benefits of topdressing is thatch control. Most superintendents believe that two heavy topdressings per year address that issue when combined with verticutting and aerifying. Superintendents who follow a program of frequent light verticutting and vertigrooming must balance topdressing applications against these verticutting schedules so they are not constantly disturbing the applied topdressing.

What?

Most superintendents use a straight sand for topdressing called "D.O.T. sand". The particle size distribution of this sand generally falls within the range specified by the USGA for use in greens mixes. When applying this sand to the surface in a light application, several superintendents felt that the particles in the coarse portion of the range posed a problem for their mowers and in obtaining the desired smoothness from the topdressing.

Chuck Blankenship said he believes that D.O.T. sand is too coarse and causes the exposed lips of the cups on the greens

to crumble and give way during play. These concerns have caused some superintendents to use a "concrete sand" or other sand that has additional screening to eliminate particles larger than 2.0 mm. It is important to make sure the selected sand is coarse enough to allow a good percolation rate and not so fine as to cause a layering effect which will impede water penetration.

Joe Ondo at the Winter Pines GC continues to use an 85% sand to 15% Canadian peat mix that is identical to the greens mix which has been used to rebuild his greens. Joe likes to keep a small amount organic in his mix which he feels aids in water retention and fertilizer and pesticide efficacy.

How?

Top dressing can be applied by a variety of methods ranging from wheelbarrow and shovel or mechanical spreaders. Someone with new, soft greens may consider the former method to avoid causing tire mark impressions, but most use a pull-behind spreader attached to a utility vehicle. Some used a Cushman spreader mounted in place of the cargo bed. Other choices included Vicon and Lely spreaders for frequent but light topdressings. The new Terra Topper is also ideal for