light applications. For those who have tried unsuccessfully to apply a light topdressing with a conveyor belt-type spreader, Stuart and Dennis both attest that applying a silicone caulk to the seam in the belt eliminates the skips and misses when attempting a low or light setting

After the top dressing has been spread and has dried, it is worked into the turf by using a drag. The old metal doormat type of drag has given way to pull-behind dragbrushes by Standard and Gandy. Again, if you have soft greens and wish to avoid using utility vehicles you might want to consider walking and pulling doubled-handled tennis court brushes. Stuart does this after his light topdressings.

Brian Jenkins uses a drag mat made of indoor/outdoor carpet with the top surface down. On top of the indoor/outdoor piece he has a piece of regular shag carpet with some medium heavy chain in an "H" or "box" pattern for weight. The mat can be rolled up for transport from green to green. The two layers of carpet and chain are held together with nylon ties. The leading edge of the carpet is secured between two two-by-fours on which is attached the pull ropes that connect to the towing vehicle. After heavy topdressings, he often uses a board float to move the sand around before a finish drag with the mat.

Keeping the topdressing spreaders supplied with sand is one of the most important steps to maintain efficiency of the operation. Because of limitations on equipment or access, some superintendents must have the spreaders return to a central location, usually the shop, and haul each load out to each individual green. During heavy topdressing situations this can be very labor intensive.

Fortunately, those who were forced to use such measures tended to have small greens (5,000 square feet). Others with larger greens were able to support the effort with tractor-pulled dump trailers or in the case of **Don McCommon**, able to use a dump truck to supply the topdressing crew. **Chuck Blankenship** is able to stockpile his topdressing material in several satellite locations around the course to minimize the haul time from green to green. The number one enemy of the superintendent during a topdressing operation is rain. Everyone tries to schedule topdressing only in the early part of the week so in case of disaster, there is recovery time before heavy weekend play.

My most memorable topdressing experience occurred at the Lake Buena Vista Club. We had been fighting the weather all week and on our last closed day, Friday, we had the topdressing spread and were dragging it in when we experienced a twenty minute thunderstorm. Holes 15 through 18 remained to be done. There was a 7:30 a.m. shotgun tournament the next day.

The superintendent at that time was John McKenzie. He got permission from the legal department, security, and loss prevention to rent a helicopter from over on International Drive. With John in the helicopter pushing air down to the green and me on the ground testing the dryness, we moved from hole to hole dragging in the top dressing as soon as it was dry enough.

Keeping mower reels sharp during these processes requires careful planning. Most superintendents keep a set of older reels available to mow the greens for the first few times following a topdressing application. Some may elect to not mow for a day or two following a heavy topdressing application. Some superintendents elect to redrag the greens the following morning to remove the dew and wait until later in the day when the greens are dry before mowing.

#### Summary

Plan ahead. Communicate with staff and members. Organize and prepare crew, equipment, and materials. Check conditions, materials and spreader settings. Check dragging results. Pray it doesn't rain.



#### FGCSA SPOTLIGHT II

## **Service is its own reward** Joel Jackson, editor, past president wins Distinguished Service Award for 1992

oel Jackson, CGCS, has given his heart to his profession. In the summer of 1989, Jackson became the ninth president of the FGCSA, the third editor of *The Florida Green*.

But the bentgrass greens Jackson had been nursing through a severe summer drought that year survived in better shape than his coronary arteries and early in the fall, the 47-year-old (at the time) superintendent in otherwise excellent health underwent a double bypass. He recovered on the fast track, however, and was on hand as president of the host chapter to welcome nearly 18,000 delegates to the GCSAA's International Golf Course Conference and Show at the Orange County Convention/Civic Center in January of 1990.

"That was quite a year," recalls Jackson, who relinquishes his last major FGCSA post — editor of *The Florida Green* — in December.

Exactly three years after that fateful year began, Jackson's peers recognized his solid decade of service by awarding him the association's highest honor, the eighth annual Distinguished Service Award at the Crowfoot banquet at the Bay Hill Club in Orlando Aug. 2, 1992.

"I was totally flabbergasted and speechless when my name was announced," said the superintendent at Osprey Ridge GC, one of the two courses at Walt Disney World's new Bonnet Creek complex.

"I could hardly get the vocal chords to mumble a general but certainly heartfelt — 'thank you.' I certainly appreciate this honor that my peers have bestowed upon me."

With a few days to think it over, Jackson reflected, "The service that I have been recognized for was not without some cost, but there is no way that I can adequately express how my participation these past 10 years has reaped dividends that have helped me grow personally and professionally. In some ways, it has been so very simple, as I have tried to emulate the professionalism and dedication that I saw in the examples set by Bill Wagner, Dan Jones and Tim Hiers."

Wagner and Hiers were the first two presidents of the FGCSA after the statewide organization was resurrected in 1978. Jones was the founding editor of *The Florida Green* whom Jackson succeeded. Those men were the first three recipients of the DSA.

ackson is reluctant to engage in self-promotion but in the course of conversation, some themes appear: surround yourself with successful people; look for needs to be filled and fill them; involve your family.

"Much credit must go to my wife, Susan, and daughter,



JANLARK PHOTO

Joel and Susan Jackson were honored at the awards banquet at Bay Hill Club during Crowfoot Weekend, 1992.

Jennifer," he says. "Susan has been my chief proofreader and sounding board for editorial ideas. Jennifer did an outstanding job of doing the Central Florida chapter's dues billing during my first two bentgrass summers. She was 14 years old when she started.

"With a team like that with me, how could I go wrong? I share this award with them and thank them for their love, patience, and understanding these past 10 years.

"I also want to thank my Mom and Dad, Dorothy and Albert Jackson, for the basic values and talents that they passed along to me: Dad for his example of honesty, integrity and hard work, and Mom for her creativity, imagination and humor. And my brother and sister, Greg and Debbie, for the love and compassion they have for others."

As for surrounding himself with successful people, Jackson is expansive in his praise for Walt Disney World, where he is on his second tour of duty.

"My initial and current service in local and state affairs has



Joel Jackson, CGCS, in his editor's office at his Orlando home.

JANLARK PHOTO

been accomplished with the encouragement and support of the Disney management team. Without them and the outstanding crew members we work with, I could never have felt confident about taking the time off to do the needed work in the association's behalf."

Between his assignments at Disney (he was superintendent of the Lake Buena Vista course at the end of his first tour), Jackson was superintendent at Isleworth CC in Windermere, Arnold Palmer's private playground. Isleworth was the scene of the high and low points of Jackson's professional career.

"From a purely personal standpoint as a golf course superintendent, I think the highlight of my career occurred when I was standing on the 8th green at Isleworth while Arnold Palmer was escorting the CEO of Nestle around the course and Mr. Palmer came up to me and made a point of telling me that the greens were exactly as he wanted them."

ust a little more than a year later came the low point — getting laid off at Isleworth in the wake of the developer's political and legal troubles.

"The darkest hour was having to endure the media accounts of the Lake Bessie/Isleworth lawsuit," he recalls. "The helplessness of not being able to rebut the stories that would resurface every few weeks and seeing the project get battered and splattered over and over again with allegations of pollution and flooding with no factual proof.

"Then, after the plaintiffs won an obscene financial award, the lake was named to the Top Ten Cleanest Lakes in the county! It was depressing. And it was outrageous! Outrageous!

"However, I was not the only person who lost his position during those tough times for the developer, and there have been some very trying and uncertain moments for those who have remained.

"As for me, there was a silver lining to the dark cloud because I had the immediate opportunity to return to Disney and be part of the new courses."

What has he gained from the 10 years of service to his profession?

"I've overcome my fear of public speaking," he offers with an impish grin.

"I've talked shop with so many outstanding professionals in my field that I never would have had the opportunity to meet if I had not been president of the FGCSA or editor of *The Florida Green*.

"I don't feel like I've accomplished anything singularly monumental. I simply made a commitment to do what was necessary to perform the tasks at hand when called upon and I would not be reluctant to do them again. I am grateful to the association for providing me the opportunity to serve."

## Four earn President's Awards

Four men were honored at the Crowfoot Weekend awards banquet, Aug. 2, with President's Awards for 1992. The awards were for outstanding service to the profession with more than 20 years service as a golf course superintendent.

Honorees were Jim Svabek, golf course superintendent at Bradenton Country Club; Leroy Phillips, now a tree nurseryman in Port St. Lucie; Larry Kamphaus, golf course maintenance manager for all courses at Walt Disney World and Joe Konwinski, a self-employed turfgrass horticultural consultant and an instructor at Palm Beach Community College.

The FGCSA and Florida Green salutes each individual on his award and lifetime achievement. Below are accounts of each award-winner's accomplishments.

- Mark Jarrell

#### **Larry Kamphaus**

Larry Kamphaus, CGCS, is the golf course maintenance manager at Walt Disney World. His 22 years at Disney represents his entire career in the golf course superintendent profession.

Larry is responsible for 99 holes of golf and a \$5.5 million annual budget at Disney.

He was previously employed by Boeing Airplane Co. and Lear Seigler Service Corp.

Larry has been a member of the Florida Turfgrass Association where was a director for three years, a member of the GCSAA and a member and holder of all offices including president of the Central Florida GCSA.

Besides doing an excellent job for Disney, Larry is known for being the Crowfoot Weekend Host Committee chairman for many years. He has also been a host superintendent for a PGA Tour event for the past 21 years.

Among other major projects he has worked on for the good of golfing and turfgrass are the FTGA annual conference and Show and the 1990 GCSAA International Conference and Show in Orlando.

During his career, Larry has assisted construction and grow-in at Walt Disney World of the Palm and Magnolia golf courses, developed specifications for the For outstanding service to the profession

construction of the Osprey Ridge and Eagle Pines courses and redesigned the Oak Trail course.

Larry says G.C. Horn and Steve Nugent have had to most influence on his career.

He and wife, Vilma, have been married for almost 25 years. They have a daughter, Nicole, and a son Larry, both seniors at the University of Central Florida, and another son, Lance, a senior Dr. Phillips High School in Orlando.

Larry, a native of Oklahoma City, spent four years in the USAF as an airplane mechanic. He likes fishing, water skiing, bowling and, of course, golf.

"Ilove Florida because it's always green — quite a contrast to my prairie unbringing."

#### Joe Konwinski

Joe Konwinski, a charter member and the first president of the Florida Turfgrass Association in 1953, has been a member of the FTGA for nearly 40 years and a member of the GCSAA for more than 35 years. He has 46 years in the profession, and has lived all those 46 years in Florida.

He was a superintendent at Lake Worth Golf Course from 1946 to 1958. In the next 35 years he has been both selfemployed as a turfgrass consultant and employed by various other turfgrass and golf course businesses. For the past 21 years he has also been an instructor at Palm Beach Community College.

In 1961 Joe was awarded the "Wreath of Grass" award from the FTGA, that organization's top award. Hardly a year has passed that Joe hasn't been cited for service to his profession or to mankind. One he's particularly proud of is the Extra Mile Award from the Plam Beach Habilitation Center in 1991 for helping handicapped people.

During his career, Joe has worked on projects at more than 100 golf courses as

a consultant or supervisor in design, irrigation, drainage, finish grade, construction, equipment purchasing, material purchasing, planting, growing in and landscape.

Is Joe retired? Don't believe it. He is is still teaching, is presently serving as chairman of the Palm Beach County Ornamental Horticulture Advisory Committee, is on the Palm Beach Community College Beautification Committee and is a member of the Rotary Club of Lake Worth.

Joe was educated at at Northern State Teachers College (now called Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Mich.) with an AB degree in education with a minor in agriculture. He served in the US Army Air Corps from 1942-46 and was located at 21 bases in the U.S., Africa, Sicily, and Italy.

Asked who influenced him most over the years, Joe lists Dr. Harold Manor, Dr. Paul Graham, and Otis Harvey, all of Palm Beach Community College, Jim Blackledge, a past president of the FTGA and "my sister, Katherine Bruce, who was my seventh grade teacher."

Advice he'd give to an entry-level professional: "Listen and listen good, read and attend any seminars, classes or educational meetings offered. Then apply this with practical work (on the job)."

#### **Leroy Phillips**

Leroy Philips, an Avon Park native, started his career in golf management as an assistant golf course superintendent at Pinecrest Golf & CC in Avon Park. In 1958 he was promoted to golf course superintendent and moved to his second assignment for the same owner at a Sebring course.

In 1960 he moved to Appolo Beach as a superintendent for Flora Son Development Co. but that company went bankrupt a year later. He then moved to Seminole Lake CC in St. Petersburg in 1961 and stayed there until 1965.

Leroy then became director of golf course operations for General Development Corp. and worked there for 13 years. During this time he helped design and build Oxbow in Port Labelle and design and build the Wilderness course in Port

### **Presentations made at Crowfoot Weekend**

#### St. Lucie.

During his time with GDC he worked with Kevin Downing at Oxbow and Lonnie Stubbs at Sandpiper Bay.

After leaving GDC, Leroy has designed two golf courses in Elks Rapid, Michigan. Leroy is presently redesigning Capital City CC in Tallahassee.

He also owns and operates a tree nursery in Port St. Lucie.

Leroy's work for the industry in his professional associations includes the Florida West Coast GCSA (1958-65) where he served in various officer positions, the South Florida GCSA (1965-79) where he held officer duties and was president in 1977, and the FTGA (1959-1979) where he was a director.

#### **Jim Svabek**

Jim Svabek has been employed as golf course superintendent at Bradenton CC from 1967 to the present, some 32 years.

Prior to that he was the assistant superintendent for three years at Sunset CC in St. Petersburg under Superintendent Rubin Hines.

Jim has been very active in the Suncoast GCSA, which he helped to organize. For the past seven years he has edited the chapter newsletter. Prior to the formation of the Suncoast chapter, he was an active member with the West Coast GCSA and served as president (1971-72) and vice president (1969-70).

He is a member of the FTGA with regular attendance at the yearly conference and show.

Jim has provided a constant line of communication through his membership in the GCSAA.

Among the major projects he has worked on is the planting of 7,000 trees on the golf course to change the course from being wide open to tree.

The following was said about Jim in the 1988 article in the Bradenton CC's newsletter: "Jim likes working at the Bradenton CC and says he has seen many changes over the years. He likes the challenges the golf course has given him and says each day brings a new experience. He has seven people who work under him, three of whom have been with him since day one.

"In the past 17 years, approximately 7,000 seedling trees have been planted on the golf course at a cost for most of about a penny a piece. This in itself is a tribute to Jim. Jim's fondness for the earth, hard work and dedication have produced a golf course that has brought much pleasure to all.

"Jim and his wife, Carol, have been married twenty-five years and have three children, Steven, Michael and Karen."

Please turn page for photos.

#### **Turf Quiz Answer**

Sod-busting thieves! A senior citizens center reported that their St. Augustine grass lawn was stolen. A landscape company had installed a completely new lawn. During the night, thieves removed the freshly-laid sod and hauled



## **1992 President's Award Winners**



Joel Jackson presents Larry Kamphaus, left.

Larry Kamphaus Jim Svabek Leroy Phillips Joe Konwinski



Jim Miller presents Jim Svabek, right, and his wife, Carol.



Kevin Downing presents Leroy Phillips, left.



Paul Crawford presents Joe Konwinski, left.

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18

67

7.63 8.0 1.62 a.d

6.9

11

12



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#### AFTERWORDS

They don't wear ponytails, either

BY MONROE MILLER, GCS Blackhawk Country Club, Madison,

Wisconsin from Jottings from the Golf Course Journal Reprinted by Permission

#### **Real Superintendents Part II**

Despite some unpopular response (and yet because of some popular demand), here's the second edition of "real superintendents." — Monroe Miller

The first edition, code named "earrings," generated a lot of commentary. Some of it went like this:

1. Twice I was called a sexist.

2. One person referred to that piece as "typical Wisconsin macho."

3. Pat Norton suggested I should be jogging, like he does.

4. Rod Johnson contended my penny loafers weren't any better than the tennis shoes he wears to work.

5. Peter Salinetti informed me he had two Volvos in his garage.

6. Dennis Christopherson declared he was going to continue wearing his gold necklace. I replied that since he wasn't a superintendent, it didn't matter one way or the other.

7. Mark Kienert caught me nursing a Lite beer at the WALSAA meeting in Las Vegas and quickly called me on it.

This has gone on for months. I could add dozens of more comments. On the other hand, the original list has been reproduced any number of times in newsletters and other publications across the country. So maybe it was a wash!

Regardless, I'm expanding my list of qualifications for real golf course superintendents. I do so knowing full well I'll hear all about it all over again.

One word of advice: please find your sense of humor before reading any further.

• A real golf course superintendent doesn't get to wear his hair in a ponytail; he leaves that style to his daughters. He also knows what is usually beneath a ponytail!

• Real golf course superintendents serve real coffee in their shops; not decaf and certainly not tea. Real superintendents drink their coffee black, too.

 Real golf course superintendents fly American flags outside their shop, and they were doing so before Desert Storm



made it vogue to do so.

• Real golf course superintendents get their hair cut at a barber shop; they never get their hair styled at a beauty parlor.

• The real golf course superintendent feels very comfortable among square establishment-type people. He likes that type better than those who are "cool."

• Real superintendents are "can do" people who don't blow an artery every time something goes wrong (which is all the time on a golf course).

• A real golf course superintendent thoroughly checks his golf course personally each morning and doesn't go from the office to the range to "hit a bucket of balls," even after twenty years on the job. The superintendent who does that (or dreams of it) should have been a golf pro.

• Real Wisconsin golf course superintendents like opening day in the spring, thick steaks on the grill in summer, Packer football in the fall and lots of snow in the winter.

• A real golf course superintendent never blasts his credit cards to the max.

• A real golf course superintendent knows a goodly share of the success he's had is due to the help an support of his gorgeous wife. He only thinks of her on two occasions - day and night.

• The real superintendent knows money isn't everything. He judges people by their attitudes and values. He especially appreciates and respects hard, fair play and devotion to duty.

• Today's real golf course superintendent doesn't trust pocket calculators (or computers), old hippies or young yuppies. He doesn't want anything to do with marijuana, Amaretto and Cream or designer jeans. Madonna disgusts him, Wall Street scares him and he'd put little Jimmy Baker away forever and a day.

 For the real golf course superintendent there are only two political parties in our country - the Republican and the leftist.

• A real golf course superintendent prefers neighbors who are neat, fussy and quiet.

• The real golf course superintendent has no time for bullying, unprincipled and ignorant salesmen. On the other hand he handsomely rewards those professional, competent and informed sales representatives who visit his office. They have his trust, his respect AND his business.

• The real golf course superintendent knows how to behave himself.

• The real golf course superintendent stands and removes his hat when the national anthem is played. If he isn't singing it, he isn't talking either. The real superintendent understands what the word *respect* means

• Real Wisconsin golf course superintendents ride Milwaukee-made Harley Davidson motorcycles, not those twinkle bikes made in Japan by Honda or Suzuki. Just ask Mike Lees.

• Real golf course superintendents in Wisconsin spend Thanksgiving vacation in the woods deer hunting.

• The real golf course superintendent is never the butt of rude jokes by the club president other officers, directors or the greens committee chairman. The real golf course superintendent is smart enough not to do anything to merit such disrespect.

• The real golf course superintendent has simple tastes - he likes the best.

• For the real golf course superintendent, Coca-Cola is the real thing. He drinks Miller High Life beer. Kellogg's Corn Flakes make for a real breakfast. He reads *Time* magazine and uses AT&T telephone service.

• Real golf course superintendents despise those little pin locator balls and flags some want on flag sticks. They consider such trivial amendments mere clutter on the golf course and won't stand for it.

• Real golf course superintendents may not wear cologne to work, but they do wear deodorant. They don't mind smelling like the shop, but they definitely do mind smelling like a sweaty locker room. protecting our health, food, property and the environmen







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#### AFTERWORDS



Definitions, observations, and other undeniable proof that Murphy's Law has gone Green!

Just when you thought it was safe to read The Florida Green again! Mike Bailey is busy organizing the nuts and bolts of the new staff of the The Florida Green, so he turned this "nut" loose for another issue.

After having to rebuild a steep bunker face that was being destroyed by novice mountain climbers on our sixteenth hole, the idea for the following list was born.

• There has never been a bunker face designed steep enough that a golfer can't climb out of it on all fours (eyewitness account) Of course, we have to use a rope on a flymow to mow it!

 Shotgun start tournaments are sometime like surprise birthday parties. Everybody knows about it, except you!

• When was the last time you heard a shotgun at a shotgun start?

• Definition of a moving target: a golf course crew member usually engaged in mowing a green or fairway.

• Definition of an early bird: a single golfer who insists on being the first one off the tee. It is mandatory that he not be paired with more than one other person. (See gruesome two-some).

 Definition of the word, FORE: a four-letter word whispered by an early bird or a gruesome two-some as a golf ball flies toward a moving target.

• Definition of a gruesome two-some: two golfers who insist on establishing a new speed record for playing 18 holes on your heavy mowing day.

- When are you most likely to have a heavy rain?
  - a. On the day you are topdressing.
  - b. The night before the member-guest.
- c. On the day of the monthly superintendent meeting.
- d. When you need it the most.

• It is a little known fact that the rubber used in golf cart tires is attracted to the high moisture content of the soil around fairway drain basins.

• If cart paths are generally 72 inches to 96 inches wide, and a golf cart is only 48 inches wide. Why are there ruts along cart paths?

• 90 Degree Rule: Turn 90 degrees from the cart path and proceed to your ball. Turn 90 degrees and drive up the wet fairway until you see the ranger or the superintendent, then immediately turn 90 degrees and head for the cart path.

• Golfers who disregard signs requesting golf carts to be kept 30 feet away from greens and tees must have already gone metric and have converted to millimeters.

• Why is it that every wrapper from every candy bar and pack of crackers sold by the beverage cart or half-way house is destined to end up in the superintendents cart?

• Ever notice if the productivity of the crew varies inversely proportional to the personality of the beverage cart driver?

• We are an Entomological Cooperative Sanctuary. We have mosquitos, gnats, deer flies, horse flies, mole crickets and fire ants.

• If given a choice of several thousand trees, lightning will always strike the tree guarding a fairway dogleg first.

• Two of my favorite weather questions: (1) When will the frost thaw? and (2) When will the rain stop?

• Special requests from the clubhouse, reports of irrigation breaks, and other disasters usually occur on Friday afternoons after the crew has gone and after you've been on the job for eight hours.

• "Failure to plan ahead on your part does not constitute an emergency on our part" is not an acceptable answer to the greens chairman, club manager, or pro shop.

• All greens have three speeds on any given day! Too fast, too slow, and just right!

Stimpmeters need to be calibrated quarterly!

I'm sure over the years you have discovered your own set of "golfisms." Send them in and maybe we'll publish a second edition.

### Green Side Up



Jack D. Jackson

Joel D. Jackson, CGCS Editor