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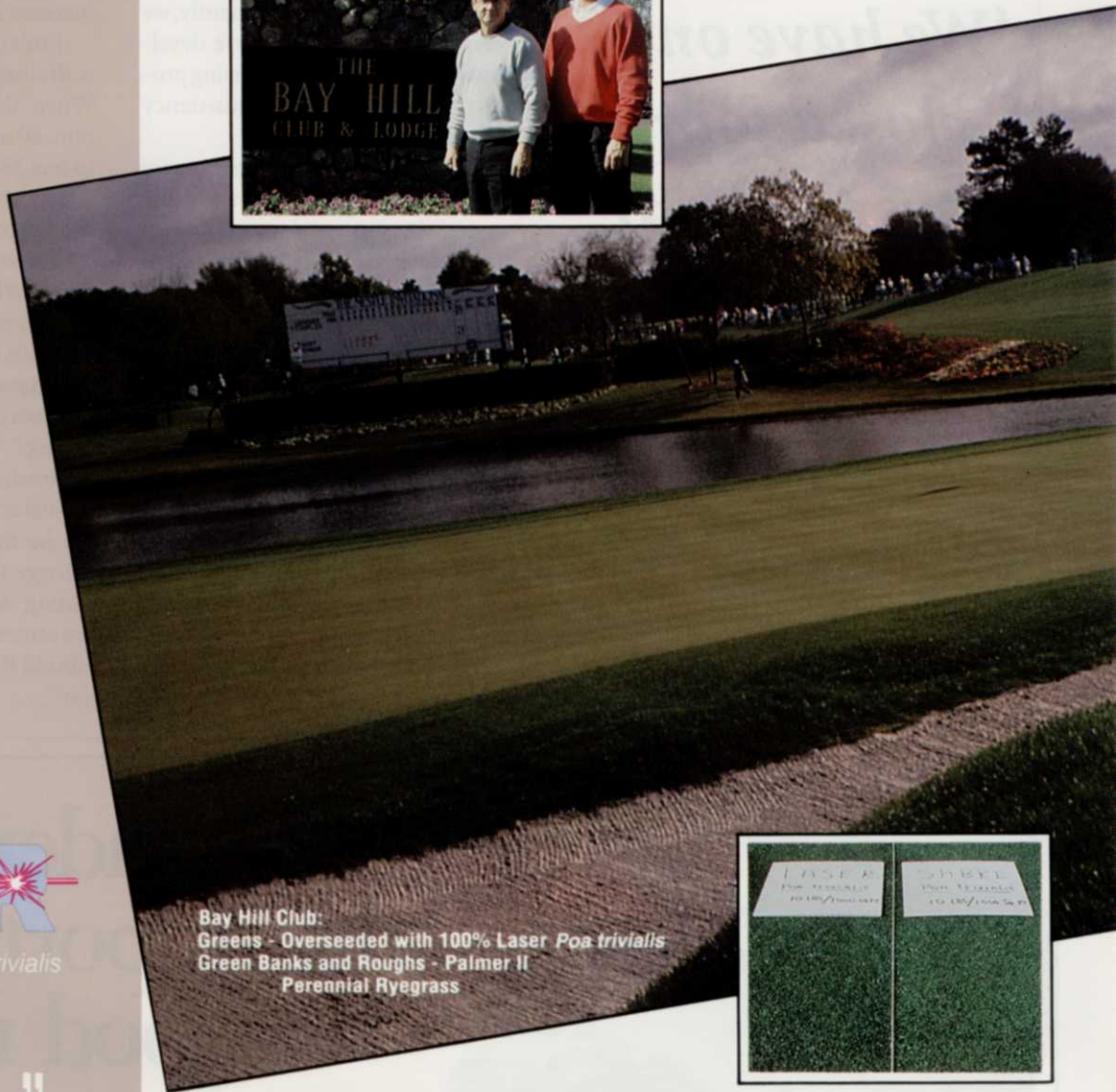
Dwight Kummer, GC Supt.  
Bay Hill Club, Orlando, FL



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Apply 100% Laser *Poa trivialis* at the rate of 10-13 lbs/ 1000 sq. ft. mid-fall. For heavy traffic courses, like Bay Hill, that receive 250+ rounds per day, you may want to supplement the original overseeding with an additional 2 lbs/1000 sq. ft. on a weekly basis late December through January.

If you want darker color, excellent heat and traffic tolerance, smoother spring transition and proven, tournament-quality performance use Laser for your overseeding program. It worked at Bay Hill, it will work for you.

Note: Laser *Poa trivialis* can also be blended with turf-type perennial ryes, such as Palmer II or Prelude II for Southern overseeding programs.

*'We have only closed four days this year even with the rainy winter we're experiencing.'*

month afterwards. Even the new greens rollers can't be used effectively without leaving obvious marks. Consequently, we only aerify once a year. We have developed a winter-long, light topdressing program to try to promote some consistency and reduce the thatch."

*[Author's Note: While I did see some of the thin runoff areas Jim referred to, I also saw some of the greenest, densest Tifdwarf I have ever seen on unseeded winter greens in Florida! He applies 1.0 pound of Nitrogen (quick release) every two weeks during the winter and 1.0-1.5 pounds of Nitrogen (SCU or IBDU) in the summer, weather permitting].*

"Maybe Dr. Meekins wasn't the best architect in the world, but I admire his foresight when he negotiated a 40-year contract with Manatee County to supply us with a million gallons of effluent water a day. We paid for the pipe and the county provided the labor to install the 5-mile-long connection. The county does a great job of tertiary treatment of the effluent.

We have no odor in our holding pond and we only experience an occasional increase in the algae population."

Jim's other big management problem is drainage. The terrain is basically flat. When the course receives a torrential rain, 80 of the 127 acres must be directed to one 36-inch drain swale. There is only a maximum of 6 inches of elevation change over the affected area.

Jim says, "It does move, but boy is it slow!" While members might be discouraged to play after heavy rains, generally no one is turned away who wants to play. "We have only closed four days this year even with the rainy winter we're experiencing."

Jim doesn't dwell on these difficulties. He just acknowledges them as part of the job he must contend with in order to manage the course. "We are constantly adding ADS pipe drains to make improvements. Maybe one day we'll even rebuild those greens with good drainage too!"



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### Atlantic FEC

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Jim's affection for the club extends beyond managing the course and working with his crew. "Did you notice the sign on the road when you crossed the city limits," he asked? "It says, 'Welcome to Bradenton, The Friendly City!' I grew up in St. Petersburg and it was a friendly place too, but it seemed to lose some of that when it began to grow. All I know is that when we came here, doctors and businesses opened up their doors to me and my family and that feeling has never changed. The church steeple in the background on the second hole symbolizes for me the kind of hometown community the club is in and how we care about one another."

That caring extends to the members who volunteer their time to serve on such projects as: Adopt-a-hole, where members sign up to police trash and debris on their favorite holes and report any problems they see. The Distance-Yardage crew goes out every Monday to check the sprinklers and replace any missing yardage decals.

Then there is also the Fire Ant Patrol.

"We had a very unfortunate situation last year when a visitor from New York was playing the county course. He happened to be allergic to stings, and unknowingly got into an ant bed. He died from the shock. Members and local authorities requested that each course develop a plan or program to combat fire ants and the Fire Ant Patrol is a reflection of our members' concern to help control this potential problem. I supply the fire ant bait and they apply it while playing their rounds."

The members also pitched in for a few days back when a tornado touched down on the course on a Wednesday evening and uprooted 139 trees. Jim recalled, "I can sympathize with the courses in South Florida after Hurricane Andrew. After cutting a trail to the shop and getting organized, it took two and a half days to restore the golf course. I had to hire extra crews to cut and remove the trees. We rented extra chain saws and a chipper, and hired a company called Resource Recovery to grind up the trees into mulch. It was about a year's worth when they were through. We did sustain some turf



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Golf Course Photography by Dan Zelazek

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**‘Then I  
got the  
education  
of a  
lifetime.’**

damage from the heavy equipment, but it was necessary.

“I also have to take my hat off to the power company. When they finally got here to check out our problem it was almost 6 p.m. They worked through the night and we had power restored to the shop by 2 a.m. We were opened for business on noon Saturday.

The pride and commitment that the members have displayed over the years is only surpassed by the devotion and loyalty of the members of Jim’s staff. “I have a second-generation employee here whose father retired from the crew. Our most junior crew member has been here eight years and our most senior, one of three that were here when I came, just received his 30-year pin last year. One other crew member and myself received our 25-year pins. I am glad that the club takes the time to recognize our service. It really reflects the respect we have for each other. The club also just initiated an Employee Golf Day. I knew the crew took pride in their work and this was a great way for the club to show its appreciation for their service. They really had a great time.”

Jim also appreciates those in the turf industry who have helped him over the years. “One of the greatest things about this business is the people

you meet and work with. I had the distinct pleasure to work for Reuben Hines, Jr. at the Sunset C.C. in St. Pete. He helped me get started when I was 18 years old and needed a full time job to support my mother and sister when my father died. Two years later, Reuben made me his assistant.

“Then I got the education of a lifetime. His father, Reuben Sr., operated some turf nurseries up in Maryland. He also was a consultant for the Congressional and Georgetown Prep golf courses. He would spend the winters consulting in Florida, and he would take me around our course and show me the whys and hows of turf management.

“Beyond that early valuable experience, I credit the some of the original turfgrass pioneers in Florida with expanding my knowledge. People like G.C. Horn, Gene Nutter, Harry Myers, and Col. Frank Ward that spoke at our West Coast GCSA meetings and helped all of us become better superintendents. I continue to owe a debt of gratitude to the superintendent associations. Involvement with these groups has kept me on the leading edge of our business. It has continued to train and educate me. I really salute Jim Miller of our Suncoast Chapter for bringing in some quality speakers. He has done an outstanding job.”

# Communications is the key to success!

"I have to tell you two stories about Colonel Ward. First, he was a member here and even served as the superintendent for a short while. His work in turf and the founding of the FTGA are legendary. I was fortunate enough to be able to escort him to Fort Lauderdale to receive the Wreath of Grass award from the FTGA. He was getting on in years at that time, and I had to really sell his wife on the idea. Beyond seeing that he ate his meals and making sure he got to bed, I never saw him. He was so excited to see and talk to old friends he was always on the go. Well, the award was a surprise and it pleased me to be able to help bring this joy and pleasure to someone who had given so much to our industry."

"The other side of Colonel Ward was the golfer and club member. He could be a tough nut sometimes, but his advice and information certainly made up for any criticisms. But the clincher came when we finally got approval to close on Mondays to do maintenance. Here was a man who supported and promoted superintendents his whole life. When we closed on Mondays, he wrote a letter to the board of directors requesting one seventh of his dues back. When I questioned him about his position and reminded him how valuable that day was for us, he merely replied, 'But, I can't play that day!'"

Jim received a lot of advice in his career and he was asked what he would share with others. "Communications is the key to success!"

"You have to be able to talk to your crew, the pro, the members, the greens committee, the club manager. And, you must remain flexible to handle each day's surprises!"

And what does the future hold for our industry?

"Our industry will continue to grow, but with the increasing environmental concerns and restrictions, we will have to become even more creative and ingenious to maintain quality turf conditions.

Jim was asked about his accomplishments to date and future goals at BCC. "I feel we have made the course interesting and challenging yet still fun to play. We

have incorporated some new and modern methods without changing the old style and character of the original design. My goal is to someday rebuild the greens and continue to improve our course."

Twenty-two years ago Jim interviewed for another job. He was rejected because he had only been a superintendent for three years and they were looking for someone with a little more experience.

Jim never looked again. "When I think about how friendly the town is, how supportive the members are, and how much there remains to be done here, there was no reason to look elsewhere. My house and a club membership are provided, my daughter was married here. It's a hometown atmosphere that is rare in today's business world and I appreciate that aspect of this position very much." ➔



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# Bradenton Country Club

**Location:** 4646 9th Ave. West, Bradenton, Florida

**Ownership:** Member owned.

**Management:** General Manager, James Brand; Golf Professional, Jim Dargis; Club President, Dan Callahan; Greens Committee Chairman, Lonnie Pullen.

**Playing Policies:** Private. Occasional outside group invited to play on Mondays.

**Design & Construction:** Built 57 years ago. Originally listed as a Donald Ross course, but modifications over the years have removed it from the list of active Ross

courses. Front nine greens were rebuilt in 1965 under the direction of member, Dr. Archie Meekins. Back nine greens rebuilt in 1966 by architect Mark Mahannah. Yardage: 6,590 yards, par 72.



Number 15 green.

Greens average 5,000 square feet in Tifdwarf bermudagrass. Tees and fairways are Ormond bermudagrass (72.5 acres). Since Ormond is no longer available, Tifway 419 has been introduced by necessity in some repaired or renovated areas. No overseeding has been done on the golf course in its history by member choice.

**Irrigation system:** Manual system converted to Toro Varitime II with 367 Toro heads: 320 Toro 670s. A few Toro 690s on the range, and

Toro 640 part circle heads around some greens near the property line. Water source: Tertiary treated effluent since 1975.

**Maintenance Staff:** 8 fulltime members. No assistant superintendent. Foreman, Larry Smith.

**Turf:** 127 acres under maintenance.

**Turf equipment:** 4 Toro Greens-



Photo by Philip Pettus

## Jim Svabek

**Education:** St. Petersburg Community College for basic botany and zoology courses; 32 years of turfgrass maintenance experience. Many of Jim's early years in the business were under the personal guidance of agronomist Reuben Hines, Sr.; superintendent Reuben Hines, Jr.; and FTGA founder Col. Frank Ward.

**Professional Affiliations:** GCSAA; FTGA; Past president and vice-president of the West Coast GCSA, co-founder and current newsletter editor (7 years) of the Suncoast GCSA. Recipient of 1992 FGCSA Presidents Award for over 20 years of service to the profession.

**Previous employment:** 7 years at Sunset C.C., St. Petersburg, Fla. 5 years as the assistant superintendent; 25 years as the superintendent of the Bradenton C.C..

**Family:** Wife, Carol; sons, Steven and Michael; daughter, Karen.

**Hobbies and interests:** Golf, fishing, coaching football, playing the guitar, and writing the Suncoast GCSA newsletter.



masters(greens and tees); 1 Toro 7-gang Parkmaster(fairways); 1 450-D Reelmaster(slopes and fair rough); 2 Toro Groundsmasters (deep rough); 2 spray rigs (100 and 500 gallon); 2 Cushman utility vehicles; 2 front-end loader tractors; 2 utility tractors; 1 Vermeer chipper; 1 pickup truck; 1 dump truck.

**Trees:** Over 7,000 planted since 1972. Oaks, pines, cypress, Chinese tallow, eucalyptus, rosewood, willow, palms.

**Lakes and ponds:** 9 covering about 8 acres.



Golf Course Photography by Dan Zelazek

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# Nitrogen Source Study on the Otto Schmeisser-FGCSA Research Green

By **Monica L. Elliott**  
and **Marcus Prevatte**  
University of Florida  
IFAS  
Fort Lauderdale  
Research and  
Education Center

**D**uring the summer of 1990, the FGCSA in cooperation with the University of Florida built a 20,000-square-foot golf course putting green at the Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center. The purpose was to develop a field laboratory to be used by turf researchers for their projects and to conduct independent field testing of products that the superintendents wished to evaluate on bermudagrass maintained as a putting green.

The first project, initiated in May 1991 for the FGCSA, was an evaluation of nitrogen sources, primarily slow-release nitrogen sources.

A summary of green construction and the first six months of the nitrogen source study (May through October 1991) was published in the January/February 1992 issue of *The Florida Green*. In this article, we will summarize results obtained from November 1991 through October 1992.

## Study Area and General Maintenance

The section used for this study was the area built with the geotextile material Terrabond substituted for the coarse-sand "choke" layer. The root zone mix was 80% sand and 20% Canadian peat moss as has been all material used for topdressing. The area was planted with Tifdwarf hybrid bermudagrass and has never been overseeded. It is maintained at 3/16 inch height of cut using a walk-behind greens mower with groomer attachments. The area is verticut and topdressed approximately once per month, with depth of verticutting dependent on thatch layer thickness.

Phosphorus is applied as triple super phosphate (0-46-0) twice each year (spring and fall) at 1.5 pounds phosphorus per 1,000 square feet.

The only pesticide used over the entire area during the study period was the natural insecticide

**Table 1. Nitrogen analysis of products evaluated in nitrogen source study on the FGCSA Research Green at Fort Lauderdale R.E.C.**

Company	Formulation	Percentage (%)						Source of Slow-Release Nitrogen
		Total Nitrogen	Nitrate Nitrogen	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	Water Soluble Org. Nitrogen	Urea Nitrogen	Water Insoluble Nitrogen	
O.M.Scott <sup>ab</sup>	40-0-0	40.2	0	0	10.9	12.1	17.2	Methylene Ureas <sup>c</sup>
Vigoro <sup>a</sup>	25-0-12	25.0	3.5d	1.8	0	2.0	17.7	IBDU <sup>c</sup> , SCU <sup>c</sup>
Vigoro <sup>a</sup>	25-0-14	25.0	4.3d	0	0	10.2	10.5	IBDU, SCU
Vigoro <sup>ab</sup>	30-0-0	30.0	0	0	0	15.5	14.5	IBDU, SCU
Vigoro <sup>b</sup>	31-0-0	31.0	0	0	0	9.5	21.5	IBDU
Vigoro <sup>b</sup>	21-0-0	21.0	0	21.0	0	0	0	none, ammonium sulfate
LESCO <sup>b</sup>	46-0-0	46.0	0	0	0	46.0	0	none, urea only
LESCO <sup>b</sup>	29-0-0	29.0	0	0	21.75	7.25	0	SCU
Nor-Am <sup>ab</sup>	40-0-0	40.0	0	0	20.5	5.0	14.5	Methylene Ureas
Nor-Am <sup>ab</sup>	38-0-0	38.0	0	0	7.0	4.0	27.0	Methylene Ureas
Howard <sup>a</sup>	40-0-0	40.0	0	0	28.0	0	12.0	Methylene Ureas
Nitram <sup>b</sup>	34-0-0	34.0	17.0	17.0	0	0	0	none, ammonium sulfate
Cleary <sup>ab</sup>	18-0-0	18.0	0	0	7.2	6.3	4.5	Methylene Ureas, liquid
Traylor/Arcadian <sup>ab</sup>	18-0-0	18.0	0	0	9.0	9.0	0	Triazone, liquid
Greensmiths <sup>a</sup>	28-0-0	28.0	0	0	0	28.0	0	None <sup>e</sup> , liquid

<sup>a</sup>Used in the study from November 1991 through April 1992.

<sup>b</sup>Used in the study from May 1992 through October 1992.

<sup>c</sup>Methylene Ureas are urea-formaldehyde reaction products; IBDU<sup>TM</sup> is isobutylidene diurea; SCU is sulfur coated urea.

<sup>d</sup>Also contains potassium nitrate as nitrogen source.

<sup>e</sup>Dicarbamide dihydrogensulfate (Combination product of urea and sulfuric acid.)