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Morris "Burr" Johnson, CGCS

Education: Lake City Community College. A.S. in Golf Course Operations in 1983; University of North Carolina at Asheville, 1974-1976; GCSAA certified in 1992.

Professional Affiliations: Golf Course Superintendents Association of America; Florida GCSA, North Florida Chapter; Georgia GCSA.

Previous employment: Superintendent, Cotton Creek CC, Gulf Shores, Alabama; Superintendent, Palmetto Pines CC, Cape Coral, Florida; Assistant superintendent, Ravines Resort, Middleburg, Florida.

Family: Wife, Linda; son, Andy (5 yrs.); daughter Mary Hanna (15 mos.).

Hobbies and interests: All sports. Andy's Tee Ball team. Quality time with the family.



service offered by Mr. Gilman to help maintain the quality and integrity of the community."

No golf course was ever built that doesn't have some special challenges, and Osprey Cove is no exception.

"Two of my biggest ongoing challenges are the maintenance of the Meyer zoysiagrass bunker faces and managing the turf growing on some of the front nine holes, which were once part of the old St. Marys Country Club.

"The bunker faces are not large, but they are steep, and the grass tends to dry out quickly when we go for periods without significant rainfall. This is especially prevalent on our fairway bunkers that only have single head coverage. We try to alleviate the problem by doing quite a lot of hand watering with wetting agents. I think, over time, the 419 bermuda will out-compete the zoysia."

"On the old holes on the front nine



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A watery grave awaits a banana ball on this 526-yard, par five at number six.

Because of the severe pressure from mole crickets we do make one annual wall-to-wall treatment in the spring.

that were incorporated into the new design, it seems like we spend more time on this area than on the rest of the course trying to control outbreaks of dollarweed, johnsongrass, carpetgrass, and Virginia buttonweed.” Since superintendents are their own worst critics, Johnson knows



where the little flaws exist. All the average golfer or the casual observer will see is excellence.

There have been several projects undertaken to enhance the course aesthetics and playability.

“One of the first problems we had to

solve was the damage done by traffic in our first year. Management agreed and we have installed nearly 3.5 miles of cart path and two bridges. We also had to enlarge the teeing surfaces on the par 3 holes — 4, 11, and 17. We have also added three rain shelters for our guests.”

Environmental considerations are a key part of Johnson’s total management philosophy.

“We only fertilize according to soil sample results and then we use slow-release nitrogen sources. We also map pest populations and spot-treat to control them.

“Because of the severe pressure from mole crickets we do make one annual wall-to-wall treatment in the spring. This year we will use the coulter-slit injection



A 395-yard par-four greets the golfer at the turn, with swamp to the right and rear.

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Osprey Cove Golf Club

Location: St. Marys, Georgia

Ownership: Howard Gilman . Gilman Paper Company

Management: General Manager, Gene Rose; Golf Professional, Darryl Jack

Playing Policies: Preferred tee times for members. Public play allowed.

Designed by: Mark McCumber. Constructed by: McCumber Construction Inc.

Opened: October 1990. Number of holes: 18 Turf: 120 acres under maintenance.

Greens: 3 acres. Average size, 6500 square feet in Tifdwarf hybrid bermudagrass. Height of cut 5/32" with walking mowers. Overseeding - Marvelgreen/Laser blend at 25 lbs./1000 sq. ft.

Tees: 3.5 acres in Tifgreen 328 hybrid bermudagrass. Height of cut 5/16". Overseeding . Sunbelt Tee & Fairway Blend at 15 lbs./1000 sq. ft.

Fairways: 45 acres in Tifway 419 hybrid bermudagrass. Height

of cut - 1/2". Overseeding - Sunbelt Tee & Fairway Blend at 275 lbs./acre

Roughs: 58 acres in Tifway 419 hybrid bermudagrass. Height of cut: 5/16". Not overseeded.

Irrigation system: Rainbird Linksmaster Controls, Pumps: 2 - 75 hp and 1 - 25 hp, 540 Rainbird heads.

Staff: Assistant Superintendent, Mike Nettles (LCCC graduate); Head Mechanic, Paul Merritt; Assistant Mechanic, Justin Jones (both graduates of LCCC golf course mechanics program); Chemical Technician, Jack Kennedy; Irrigation technician/foreman, Bruce Bowden; Golf Course crew - 12. Landscape crew - 10.

Turf equipment: 4 John Deere walking greens mowers, 5 Jacobsen Greenskins, 1 Toro triplex slope mower, 1 Jacobsen F-10 fairway mower, 1 Toro 7-gang pull frame mower, 1 Toro 72" Groundsmaster, 2 turf tractors — a 50-hp Kubota and a 30-hp Ford, 1 - 40-hp Ford front-end loader, 1 - 300-gal. Hahn sprayer, 1 - 100-gal. Agrotec sprayer, 4 Cushman utility vehicles, 4 EZ-Go utility vehicles, 1 Turfco topdresser, 1 Vicon fertilizer spreader, 1 Coremaster greens aerifier, 1 Ryan fairway aerifier, 1 AgriMetal blower, 1 Chevrolet 1-ton dump truck, 1 Chevrolet pickup truck.

method with Crusade. We are also experimenting with the parasitic nematode. We do alternate pesticide products to reduce the possibility of chemical resistance by the target organisms."

Johnson's vision of the future of golf is similar to many of his peers. "I see continued growth for the game with more new golf courses. But along with that growth will come even more stringent guidelines from federal and state agencies on how new and existing courses can be built and maintained."

From the friendly, cooperative, teamwork atmosphere prevalent at Osprey Cove it seems that Johnson is doing the "right stuff".

The formula for success in this business according to Johnson is simple: "Get as much practical experience as possible, and don't be afraid to ask for help from your friends and Your peers."

The most satisfying professional accomplishments so far for Burr have been being part of the construction, completion, and opening of two new courses, Cotton Creek and Osprey Cove.

"At Cotton Creek I got to meet and work with Arnold Palmer, one of the finest gentlemen in the golf business. And now at Osprey Cove, I have a great job working with wonderful people. What more could I ask?"

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With enemies like this...



TOM BENEFIELD, FGCSA

*Courses spend
\$50,000-plus
on mole crickets*

Yep! It's that time of the year again. Time again for what is fast becoming one of the most important annual rituals we superintendents in Florida perform each year. The invasion of the mole crickets as my greens chairman puts it. Tunneling, foraging, devouring all of the turf lying in their path, they have truly become the scourge of the golf course industry in Florida.

How big of a scourge do you ask? In

Once upon a time, healthy turf lived here. And then Mr. Mole Cricket set up housekeeping.

...you need a friend

the last survey done by the FGCSA, a question was asked as to what percentage of the pesticide budget was allocated to the control of mole crickets. The survey average was 70 percent. When you compile this figure with the average pesticide budget of \$75,000 (from those who returned their surveys) you can truly appreciate the magnitude of the problem. On average, an 18-hole facility will spend over \$50,000 per year to keep this pest in check. Certainly no other single item can cause as much monetary impact or agronomic destruction as our friend, Mr. Mole Cricket.

New products come and go. New methods come from the ingenuity of the golf course superintendents to become more efficient with higher efficacy rates than in previous years. Through this problem, we seek solutions and it this striving for a better mouse trap that brings our new solutions. For you see the old ways are on the way out. The days will soon be gone for products which are great for mole crickets but best-suited for nematodes. IPM of this pest has taken on a whole new concept. Biological controls are making their way into our arsenal of defenses, albeit ever so slowly.

New application techniques for some old mainstays which effectively reduces the runoff and odorous ill effects have become ever more promising. Yes we are getting better at controlling this pest and

at the same time becoming more environmentally conscious of our methods.

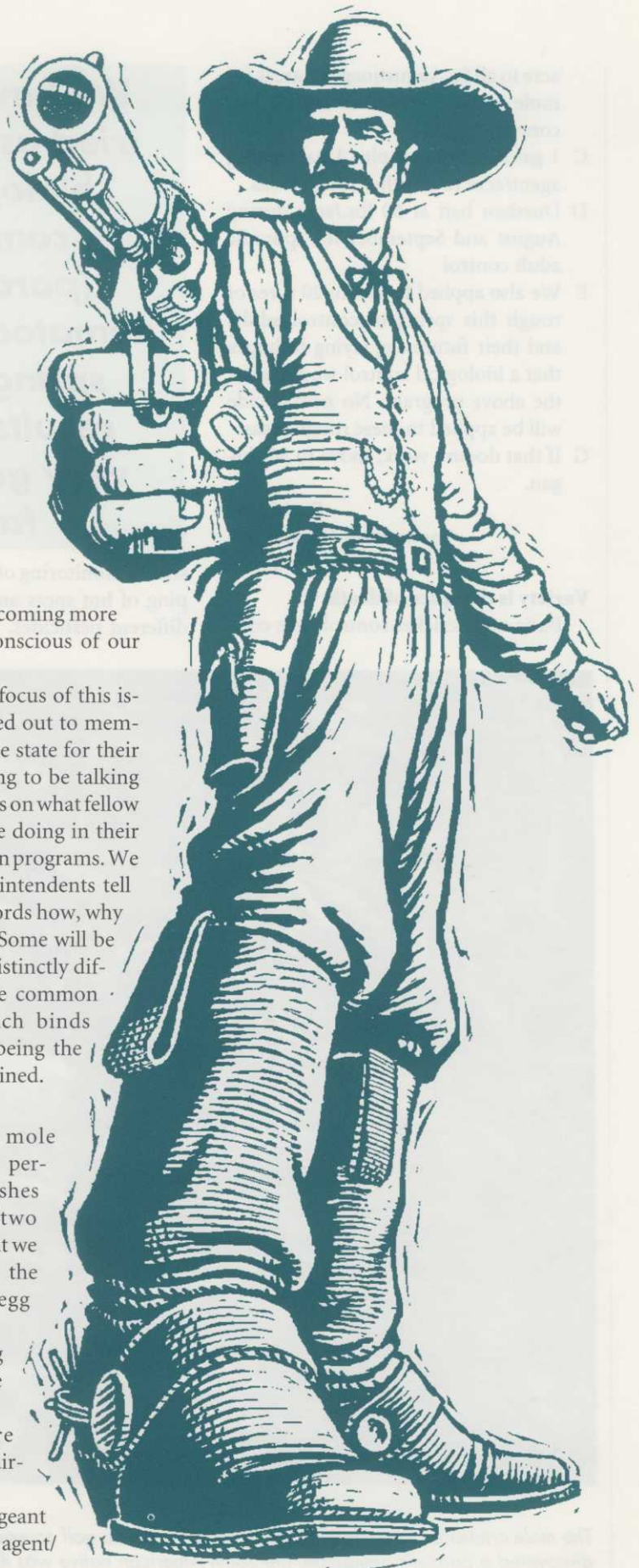
As the editorial focus of this issue, we have reached out to members from across the state for their advice. We are going to be talking the next few minutes on what fellow superintendents are doing in their chemical application programs. We will let these superintendents tell you in their own words how, why and what they do. Some will be similar and some distinctly different with the one common denominator which binds them all together being the level of success attained.

Soap Flush

We start our mole cricket control by performing soap flushes during the last two weeks of May so that we can observe when the majority of the egg hatch occurs.

After the egg hatch occurs, we apply:

- A 200 lbs./acre Mocap to all fairway-cut areas.
- B 6 lbs./acre of Pageant plus 1 gal wetting agent/



acre to all St. Augustinegrass areas for mole crickets as well as chinch bug control.

- C 1 gal/acre Oftanol plus 1 gal wetting agent/acre to all other rough areas.
- D Dursban bait at 50 lbs./acre during August and September for sporadic adult control
- E We also applied Proact to 20 acres of rough this spring to control adults and their future egg laying in hopes that a biological control would assist the above program. No nematocide will be applied to these rough areas.
- G If that doesn't work, move to Michigan.

*Fred Klauk
Tournament Players Club
Ponte Vedra Beach*

Variety is the spice of death

Basic mole cricket control here con-

We have also tried using the biological control (parasitic nematodes) this spring and results look very good so far.

sists of monitoring of in-star stage, mapping of hot spots and the use of many different pesticides. We have also tried

using the biological control (parasitic nematodes) this spring and results look very good so far.

Pesticides used to control the mole crickets include Oftanol, Crusade 5G, Pageant DF, Orthene T/O and Dursban Baits. In the fall, winter and spring Orthene and Pageant are used most. These treatments area always spot treatments, pesticides are always applied early evening. Late spring, early summer we apply Oftanol and Crusade to fairways and roughs. These pesticides are on a rotating schedule. One year Oftanol in fairways, and Crusade in the roughs, the following year they are rotated. These treatments also are our grub control products. Summer program consists of the use of Crusade, Pageant and Orthene, these are spot treatments only. Baits are



TOM BENEFIELD, FGCSA

The mole cricket is one species of exotic wildlife that no golf course wants to attract. Until University of Florida researchers discovered a parasitic nematode, the South American native was thought to have no natural enemies.