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There are also very few houses bordering the course, and these have generous set-backs and are screened with lots of landscaping to break up the roof lines.



Number 18 and the clubhouse.

summer, the tees are mowed with triplex mowers. During the winter, a fleet of 11 green and tee walking mowers is trotted out to accomplish that manicured look.

On the fairways a seven-gang Parkmaster gives way to a pair of lightweight five-gang mowers to stripe the overseeded

*Continued on Page 38*



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*The crew at Bent Pine GC.*

## Bent Pine Golf Club

**Location:** Vero Beach, Florida.

**Ownership:** Member owned

**Playing policy:** Private - No tee times.

**Management:** Clubhouse Manager, Jack Grant; Golf Professional, Pat Gorman  
Club President, Robert Irwin; Greens Chairman, Joe Van Sickle.

**Designed by:** Joe Lee.

**Opened:** 1978, 18 holes. Originally called Indian River Country Club.

**Renovations:** Rebuilt greens in 1986. Currently, resodding greens collars-6 holes per year to remove 419 contamination.

**Acreage:** Total turf = 160. Lakes = 26 acres.

**Tees:** 2 acres, Tifway 419. HOC = .350. Overseeded w/Laser Poa trivialis.

**Greens:** 2.5 acres, Tifdwarf. HOC = .110 (January to June 6 - .125). Average size = 5,000 square feet. Overseeded w/Penncross creeping bentgrass @ 5 lbs. per 1,000 square feet. Winter green speed 10 - 11.5.

**Fairways:** 50 acres of Tifway 419, HOC = .500.

**Roughs:** 90 acres of Tifway 419, HOC = 1.50. 30 acres of Argentine bahiagrass, HOC = 3.0

**Irrigation: Source:** Artesian well. Pumps: 1 - 25hp; 2 - 50hp w/Autoflow Special Control Panel. System: Toro Osmac w/600 heads covering bermuda turf only.

**Staff:** Assistant Superintendent, Donnie Kouns (8 years). Equipment Technicians: Head Technician, Dwayne Keeling; Part-time assistant technician, Bob Kalin. Pest Control Technician: Sam Hooker. Irrigation Technician: Billy Gondek (8 years). Graduate of GCSAA, Toro, and Autoflow irrigation seminars.

**Total Staff:** 15, including superintendent.

# Golf



# Ventures

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*The Scott Bell family.*

## Scott Bell

**Originally from:** Ohio. Attended High School in Ft. Lauderdale.

**Family:** Wife, Debbie. Children: Jennifer(10); Sara(8); Scott(6); Allison(1 1/2).

**Education:** BS Landscape Horticulture from Colorado State University 1981.

**Employment:** Bent Pine G.C. since 1986; TPC at Monte Carlo, Ft. Pierce (2 Senior PGA events and 1 Senior Qualifier - Supt. 8/84 to 5/86); TPC at Eagle Trace, Ft. Lauderdale (1 Honda Classic - AS 3/83 to 8/84); The Pinery Country Club, Denver, Colorado (C.C.A. - AS 1981-82).

**Hobbies/Interests:** Golf (12 handicap); Yamaha Waverunner; coaching soccer, home improvement projects, travel, snow skiing.

**Professional affiliations:** FGCSA - President; Treasure Coast Chapter - all board offices; FTGA - Government Relations Committee; Indian River School Board - Gifted Student Task Force.

**Memorable moments:** Taking the Eagle Trace course from "dirt" to a PGA tour event site in one year was rewarding. Turning a bankrupt course into the TPC at Monte Carlo and hosting a PGA Senior Tour event was also a great feeling. Rebuilding the greens at Bent Pine to provide better playing conditions for the members has been fulfilling.

**Advice:** Remember, the customer comes first! Whether it's a member, a guest, or a daily fee player, we work for the golfer and they pay the bills!

**Mentors:** **Dr. Jack Butler** at Colorado State got me to switch over from an overcrowded forestry major to a six person turf program. I never looked back. **Fred Klauk** emphasized the importance of having very good greens as well as a manicured course. **Gene Burkholder**, a former greens chairman, taught me the art of diplomacy within the private club setting.



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*Numbers 9 and 18. Note the Martin house on Number 18.*

## *As we headed back to his office, Scott showed me one of his two successful purple martin houses...*

*Continued from Page 32*  
links.

As we headed back to his office, Scott showed me one of his two successful purple martin houses. This one was located on the lake bank of the 18th hole. He pointed out that the martins love to be near the water and out in open areas away from surrounding trees.

Scott added, "They are really a sight in the morning as the whole flight swoops and turns. When the sun flashes on their iridescent purple color, they're spectacular. I read that each purple martin can eat over 2,000 mosquitoes a day. That's a great benefit for simply mounting a bird house on a pole!"

Back in his office, Scott discussed his coming year as FGCSA President.


"The number-one mission of the FGCSA will always be to promote and educate the superintendent. We have made great strides in improving the professional image of superintendents.

"Right now, we should all be involved in taking a proactive stance on environmental issues. The FGCSA has and will con-

tinue to be a force in the search for better and safer ways to manage turf. While, we continue to actively raise funding for research, we must also support our lobbyist, Mike Goldie, in Tallahassee. Legislators need to hear both sides of each issue before heaping more business strangling regulations on our club's backs."

"We share funding of the lobbyist with the Florida Turfgrass Association. The FTGA is made up of members from all aspects of the turf industry including superintendents. I would like to see even more superintendents join and support the FTGA.

The FTGA is uniquely staffed and positioned to address large-scale issues that affect the industry. We are all anxious to see the results of the Turfgrass Economic Impact Survey that will help quantify the real financial value of turfgrass to the citizens of Florida."

"In this time of environmental sensitivity, it is critical for every club and every superintendent to do what is right. Superintendents with proven leadership skills are an asset to their clubs in this age of OSHA, ADA, and EPA activism." 



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# Wildlife and Habitat Management

## *The superintendent as wildlife manager*

BY SHELLY FOY

Heavy development in Florida is eliminating living area for many of our birds and animals. The Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission's official list of Endangered and Potentially Endangered Species List of June 1, 1994, lists 118 fauna and flora species in Florida as endangered, threatened or vulnerable.

In some locations, golf courses are the last remaining green spaces and their value to wildlife is immeasurable. So not only are golf course superintendents land managers, but wildlife managers as well.

All wildlife need food, water, cover and space to survive. These four combined elements make up an animal's habitat.

### **How do you manage wildlife?**

You provide for their needs; food to keep up energy levels, water to drink and bathe in, cover for breeding, nesting, sleeping, feeding and travel, and space to live and raise their young. The more elements, the more wildlife.

Throughout this article, many ideas and strategies are presented. They may not all be appropriate or needed at your golf course. The important point is that you implement programs you are comfortable with and have the time and energy to accomplish.

Every golf course is different, each idea of management is different. Step back and take a look at the big picture and decide what is right for your golf course and your golfers. Be patient and realistic about your expectations. A well-thought-out plan of action will be appreciated by everyone.

### **Creating a wildlife inventory**

According to the Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Florida has 1200 species of animals, which makes us the third most diverse state in the nation. Golf courses in Florida also have the opportunity to provide a valuable resting and feeding stop for migrating birds, as the East Coast is along the Atlantic Flyway.



### **Habitat Elements**

- Conifers
- Grasses and legumes
- Hummingbird plants
- Summer plants
- Fall plants
- Winter plants
- Nut & acorn
- Feeders
- Water
- Dust beds & grit
- Salt
- Brush and rock piles
- Tree snags
- Nestboxes
- Cut banks, cliffs & caves
- Butterfly, bee & moth plants

A wildlife inventory can provide you with information such as what species are on-site, nesting and feeding information, as well as if your course is being used as a migration stop. Also, without knowing what species you have on your site, deciding what programs will be best for your course will be difficult. An ongoing inventory will help you to document the success of the enhancement projects you are implementing.

#### **Ideas:**

◆ Post a large-scale map of your facility which lists as much detail as possible (buildings, plant material, lakes, etc.). Have a journal or log under the map where golfers can note date, location, species and any other pertinent information. For golfer convenience, try locating this journal near where they post scores.

◆ Create a wildlife library in your proshop or clubhouse where members can "check out" books on wildlife. Have a journal or log where sightings can be registered. As an educational tool, have a

board where you can highlight a different wildlife species each month, or educate members/golfers of the benefits of certain management practices, (snags, naturalization, etc...)

◆ Create a card (part of your scorecard maybe) which has pictures of the most common wildlife species on your golf course and a title that says, "Have you seen me today?" Even golfers who are not familiar with names of species can recognize them with a picture. Provide a few lines where they can note where they saw them and anything special that they observed.

◆ Take the time to educate your staff on the wildlife present on the course. Have a journal or log in the maintenance building where they can note sightings.

◆ Invite a local bird group, scout group, high school or college biology class to help you create an inventory, perhaps on a day the golf course is closed. Schools are always looking for new ways to interest students in learning.