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Bob is extremely proud of his dedicated crew members.

Ownership: Mr. George Valassis, Franklin Golf Properties. Franklin Golf Properties also owns and operates The Carolina Club in Margate.

Management: Dean Horn, president of Franklin Golf Properties; Steve Oa, golf professional; Robert Klitz, CGCS.

Playing policies: Semi-private. Memberships and public play.

Original design by: Billy Watts. Opened 1971. Redesigned by Arthur Hills and reopened November 1993 as an Arthur Hills signature golf course. New construction by Alan MacCurrach of MacCurrach Golf Construction, Inc. Tifdwarf from Quality Grassing, Inc.; Tifway 419 from Southern Turf Nurseries, Inc. 18 holes. 138 acres under maintenance.

Greens: Total 3 acres. Average size-6,200 sq. ft. ; turf: Tifdwarf; height of cut: 9/64; green speed: 8.5; overseeding: none.

Tees: 3.8 acres; turf: Tifway 419; height of cut: 7/16; overseeding: None,

Fairways: 34 acres; turf: Tifway 419; height of cut: 1/2 11/16; overseeding: none.

Roughs: 97.2 acres; turf: Tifway 419; height of cut: 1 3/4. Irrigation System: Toro Osmac controls with 20 field units. Side by side Toro 670 and 650 heads on greens. 865 heads on remainder of course.

Pumping system: 2 - 75 hp & 1-35 hp vertical turbine pumps with Liquid Ag fertigation system and Phairway Acid Injection.

Water source: Hillsboro Canal.

Staff: 23 including Bob Klitz, CGCS; Ted Hile, asst. supt.; Tom Seaman, foreman; Robert Manssen, head mechanic; Chris Mauser, irrigation technician.

Wildlife: Alligators, Anhingas, Blue Herons, Green Herons, Egrets, Fox, Ibis, Otter, Swans, Wood Storks.

“The friendships I have made and the sharing of information are some of the best rewards I have received from my service on the board of directors of the South Florida Chapter.”

impact, but they all alter and improve our techniques which ultimately results in a better product or less cost.

“One of my own ideas or inventions was to design a more user-friendly sand bucket for the tees. The old styles were always too heavy to move easily to new tee positions.

“I had our mechanic fabricate a circular bracket which would hold a one-gallon pot. The bracket is mounted on a waist-high spike. No bending, no heavy lifting. My wife says I should get it patented, but I would rather consider it my tip or idea to the industry.”

“The friendships I have made and the sharing of information are some of the best rewards I have received from my service on the board of directors of the South Florida Chapter. I am currently the vice president.

“Next year I hope to improve the attendance and participation of our members. Attendance of monthly meetings is only the beginning of being a successful superintendent.

“Service on the board of directors provides an opportunity to form lasting personal and professional bonds. My own experience has shown me that my fellow superintendents are allies and not competitors for the next job.

“One of our goals next year is to have a more successful Palm Beach-South Florida joint chapter meeting. This has been a traditional and meaningful event over the years. We have been meeting in August, but it seems that vacations and summer maintenance routines have been reducing the participation. We will move the meeting to October after the FTGA Conference to see if that will improve the attendance.”

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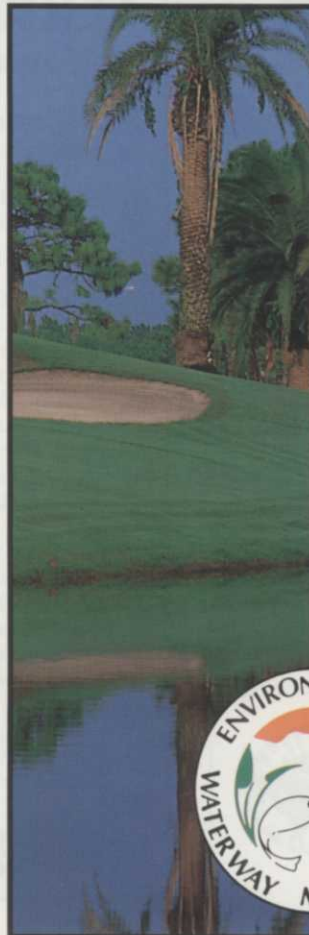
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Robert Klitz, CGCS

Ridgewood, N.J.

Family: Wife, Lisa; son, Robert, 3 1/2. The Klitzes are expecting in May.

Education: A.A. Degree. Course work done at the U. of Fla. and Broward Community College.

Previous employment: Ridgewood CC, Paramus, NJ; Inverrary CC, Lauderhill, FL, 11 years (laborer, equipment operator, spray technician, foreman, 3 years; assistant superintendent - 3 1/2 years; superintendent - 5 1/2 years).

Hobbies and Interests: Music, particularly the blues and reggae, working on the house, drawing and painting, golf.

Professional affiliations: FGCSA South Florida Chapter - 6 years, currently vice president; Adam Walsh Golf Tournament Committee - 6 years; Broward County Schools Agri-Business Advisory Committee - 2 years; GCSSA speaker on Underground Storage Tanks at the 1991 Conference and Show in Las Vegas; 1993 GCSAA Environmental Steward Award.



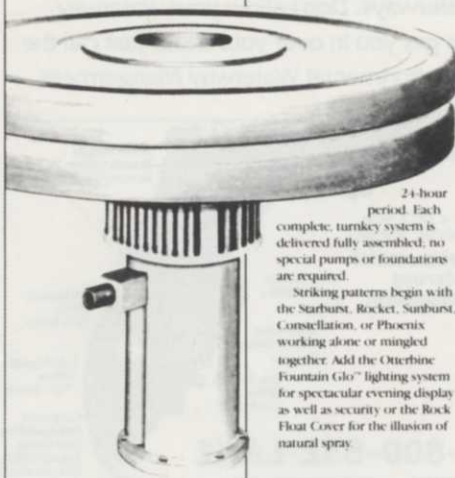
Bob confers with his assistant, Ted Hile, on the special project of the day.

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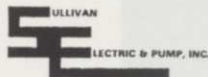
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Many superintendents choose to subcontract the job of verticutting and aerifying to companies that specialize in the process

Transition: boom or bust?

BY TOM BENEFIELD, CGCS

There is perhaps no aspect of a superintendent's job performance as caretaker of the golf facility that carries more importance than how they handle the transition periods.

Taking your golf course from warm-

season turf to cool-season turf and then back to warm-season turf has become the most important program for superintendents all over the state.

Often job performance evaluation is centered around this segment of the total turf program.

With the exception of golf courses in the southernmost part of the state, all superintendents must deal with this critical issue each year.

The members expect good playing conditions year round. Yet often due to their demands and expectations, an unfair burden is placed on the people managing the facilities.

It used to be the word transition was applied only to the greens and tee surfaces. However with the increasing competition among clubs for members and revenue, we see many clubs overseeding fairways and roughs. The old saying, "green brings in more green" has never been more true.

In the effort to bring in more green by

It will soon be that time of the year. When all the talk of how great the golf course is turns to, "What did you do to the golf course, I can't recall when I have seen it this bad!"

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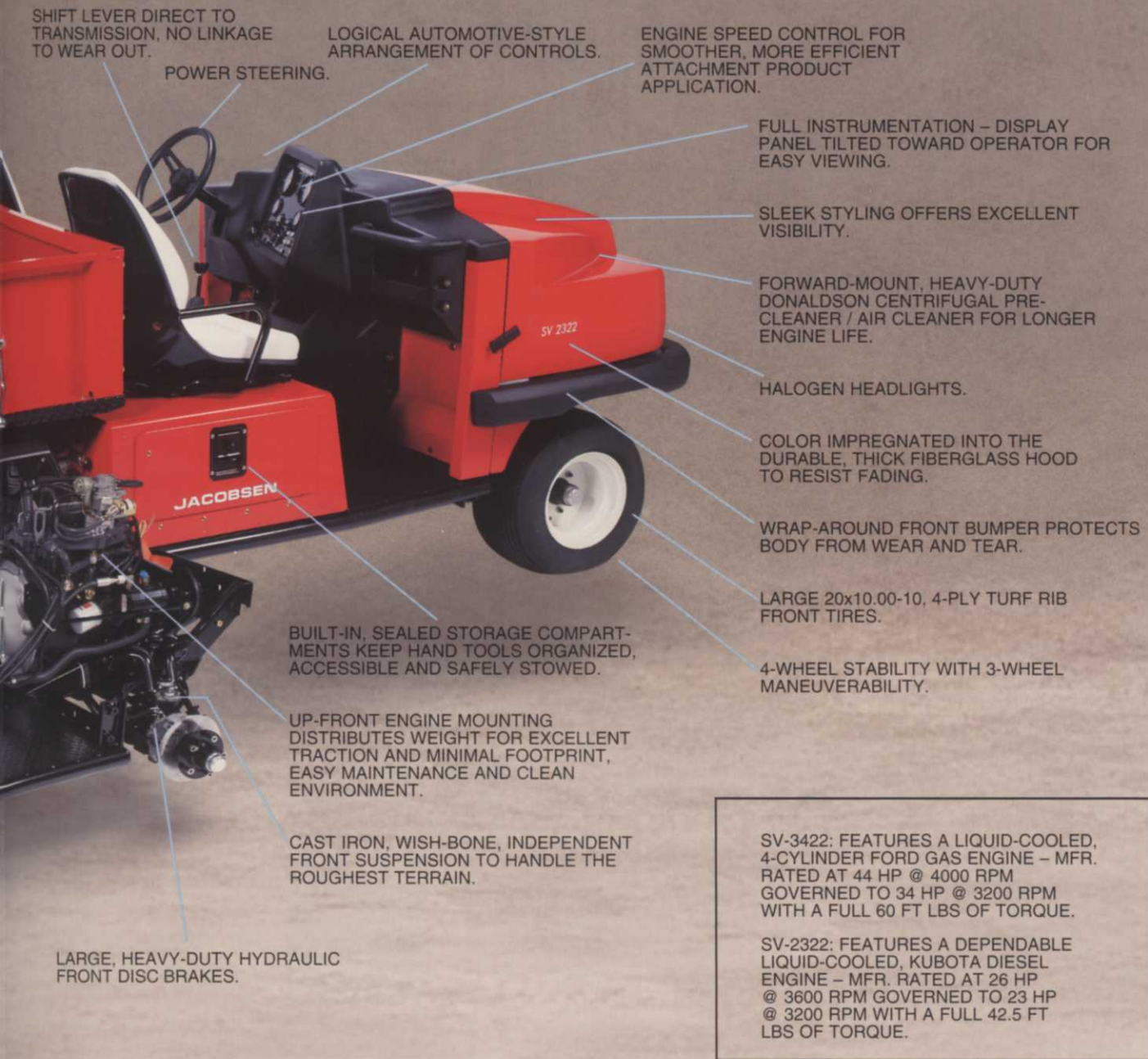
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(It's about time.)



Slight alterations in irrigation scheduling over a period of time should help ease transition woes.

overseeding larger and larger areas, there has been an increased burden on the superintendent and his cultural programs. When you throw the fickle whims of Mother Nature into the equation, you can end up with disastrous results.

Sometimes the result is top-quality superintendents looking for new positions.

It seems appropriate that we utilize this subject of fall and spring transition as

the editorial focus of this the Spring issue. It is a timely topic for which there is a wealth of information.

To find out how different superintendents from across the state handle this cultural and political issue, we have gathered information throughout our ranks and will share it with you.

Take a month off

It will soon be that time of the year.

A lowering of the mowing height is also in order, and to stimulate the bermudagrass base, we apply ammonium sulfate as needed. After we see the response we are looking for, we will re-adjust our cutting heights for the summer maintenance program.

This program seems to work well for us most of the time.

When all the talk of how great the golf course is turns to, "What did you do to the golf course, I can't recall when I have seen it this bad!"

That kind of talk will be my clue to remind the members that the last time they saw the golf course this bad was last year.

It's that dreaded time of the year again: Transition Time!

It's the time of the year when this superintendent would like to take about a month off.

Our technique at Tampa Palms G&CC to help speed along the transition period is to first cut back on the irrigation of the overseeded areas. Once we see some stress on the overseeded grass, we begin to verticut and aerify to help mechanically remove some of the overseeding.

A lowering of the mowing height is also in order, and to stimulate the bermudagrass base, we apply ammonium sulfate as needed. After we see the re-

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*Silver crabgrass, crowfootgrass

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sponse we are looking for, we will re-adjust our cutting heights for the summer maintenance program.

This program seems to work well for us most of the time.

In some areas of the golf course however, especially the tee boxes which are Tifgreen 328 bermudagrass, severe thinning can occur.

These areas require additional irrigation and fertilizer to achieve the response we are looking for. Wetting agents are helpful in certain areas where the soils are hard to wet and have become weak from the transition experience.

Education of our membership is important during the transition period.

I believe it is in your best interest to inform the members what is occurring and when they can reasonably expect conditions to return to what they consider normal condition.

If you are fortunate, your course will come out of transition in good shape and be perfect at just about the time to start the process all over again.

*Greg Plotner, CGCS
Tampa Palms Golf Club*



Thinning of turf is the greatest problem during the transition period.

The advantages for Venice G&CC with this approach is that we have fewer closed days for renovations, fewer complaints about “tearing up the course,” and have more effective utilization of irrigation by watering in the fertilizer, sand topdressing and insecticide all in one night.

Interseed with seaside

Our overseeding program consists of bentgrass on greens and ryegrass on the tees.

The process of transition is begun as soon as springtime soil and air temperatures are warm enough to support consistent growth of the base bermudagrass.

At this time we initiate cultural practices to favor the growth of the bermudagrass. These practices include turf grooming, verticutting, fertilization and irrigation timing and amounts.

These programs are continually ad-

justed as conditions require.

Like everyone else, we want to take out the cool-season grasses without experiencing periods of thinned turf on greens and tees.

Our greens are interseeded with seaside bentgrass. By using the interseeding method and seaside bent, the transition becomes easier. Seaside is less heat-tolerant than the “Penns” and other improved bents.

Logically, when temperatures increase, the bentgrass can be taken out without sacrificing turf quality.

Perennial ryegrasses have improved to the point where it is much more difficult to eliminate them from teeing areas in spring.

We follow the same general procedures that are used on the greens. Normally, when the ryegrass finally leaves, there is some recovery time until the bermudagrass can fill the voids.

We have done some experimenting with poa trivialis and will consider using it on tees for an easier transition.

*Lou Conzelman, CGCS
Fiddlesticks CC, Fort Myers*

One wild day a year

At the Venice G&CC, we begin to slowly implement cultural practices during May. We have overseeded tees, par-three approaches, collars and greens.

On the tees, collars and approaches, we verticut with a triplex in two directions once a week.

On the greens we using grooming reels three times a week and verticut once a week. In addition, we apply our spring