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## HEADS UP



*This is the existing wetland planting at Olde Florida Golf Club in Naples.*

Pines provide winter cover and have abundant seeds.

Other plant species on our property that benefit wildlife as a food source is the Dahoon Holly, native Lantana and Wax Myrtle.

These species provide abundant berries for birds and other animals. In addition, they can be aesthetically pleasing. Dahoon Holly was chosen for planting in front of the windows in the maintenance facility and around the clubhouse patio.

The red berries are attractive and also provide food for birds which staff and visitors can see the birds eat from within the building. Any future plantings that occur on the golf course will be from one of the previously listed native plants.

Since Olde Florida is a non-residential golf club, we are very fortunate not to be driven by real estate pressure of golf course views.

This made it possible to establish wildlife corridors between all the golfholes. The wildlife corridors are areas of native vegetation that are selectively cleared to varying degrees. These corridors provide wild-

life with safe freedom of movement around the golf course.

Trees are very beneficial for wildlife cover as well as providing framing and backdrops for the golf course. When construction was complete, a small number of areas on the golf course needed some additional plant material to connect existing natural areas. These areas are being filled in with native vegetation and then mulched to hold in moisture.

Another method of managing woodland areas for wildlife is allowing dead trees to remain standing if they pose no threat to

the membership or employees. These dead trees provide food sources and nesting sites. When these trees fall to the ground, they return nutrients to the soil.

When construction was complete on the golf course, there were hundreds of dead trees that were allowed to remain. In addition, several trees were struck by lightning during construction and their trunks still remain standing.

The dead trees, or “snags,” are abundant with nesting areas and birds such as

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*Continued on Page 64*

***A second method that is less noticeable to the membership is the perpetuation of existing native trees that are a very good natural food source. At Olde Florida, these trees include Cabbage Palms, Pines, Cypress, Dahoon Holly and native Lantana.***

# ACSP environmental planning outline

## 1. Wildlife Habitat Management:

A. Current: Native saltwater marshes are overgrown with non-native species of Brazilian Pepper and Melaleuca trees.

Future: Plan a non-native tree removal program to enhance the natural wetland area, allowing Red & Black Mangroves growth to provide cover for wading birds. Cary Lewis to monitor. Began 5/93.

B. Current: Clean edges with little vegetation throughout the fresh water lake system on the golf course.

Future: Planting of fresh water aquatic plant material to improve fish population and increase habitat for our many species of wading birds. Mike Swanson to monitor. Began Spring 1994.

C. Current: Few Nesting Cavities.

Future: Initiated and installed a nesting box program (Adopt-A-Box), membership funded, to attract bluebirds, wood ducks and other varieties. Randy Mosley to monitor. Began Spring 1993.

D. Current: Several small areas currently maintained as golf

turf.

Future: Investigate native grasses and wildflowers to possibly plant in these areas to increase habitat. Cary Lewis to monitor. Begin Spring 1995.

## 2. Water Conservation:

Current: Toro automatic system, using 100% reclaimed water for irrigation of all property. Practice deep watering programs which increase efficiency. Reclaimed source has high sodium levels which causes some salt burn at certain times.

Future: Install an acid injection system that will decrease the soluble salt load and increase water effectiveness. Cary Lewis to investigate and install when funding is approved.

## 3. Public Involvement:

Current: "Adopt-A-Nest" program for members and guests. We have installed a permanent Audubon Information Center in the Proshop, which includes bird books and a wildlife log.

Future: Native plant tagging program to increase awareness. Tom Pyne to monitor.

Cary Lewis  
Stouffer Vinoy Resort

## ACSP workshops announced

Florida golf courses are in a position to take a positive environmental leadership role with involvement in the ACSP. Currently, over 100 Florida golf courses are members of this very worthwhile program. Canada is behind us with 74 members and Michigan, Illinois and California follow with approximately 65 each. This program offers a wonderful opportunity to get the word out that golf courses are good for people, wildlife and the environment.

To help golf courses who have already joined this program and want to become certified, the USGA Green Section, the Audubon Society of New York State, Inc., Tampa Palms & Golf & Country Club in Tampa, and Collier's Reserve in Naples, are offering two, one-day ACSP workshops.

The dates are Thursday, August 11 at Tampa Palms Golf & Country Club and Monday, August 15 at Collier's Reserve. The format will be a three-hour workshop in the morning, lunch, followed by golf in the afternoon. The learning process will continue through your round of golf, as ACSP programs implemented throughout the golf course will be pointed out and explained by literature provided.

The cost for this seminar is \$40 and GCSAA CEU's are being applied for. Space is limited at both sites. To register, call

- Greg Plotner, Tampa Palms G & CC 813-972-3375 Aug. 17
- Tim Hiers, Collier's Reserve 813-597-7063 Aug. 15

If you would be interested in hosting a ACSP workshop at your golf course, please call Shelly Foy with the USGA Green Section at 407-546-2620.

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### Continued from Page 62

Eagle, Osprey, Hawk, Swallow-tailed Kite, Dove, Owl, Woodpecker and others.

In addition to the natural, native wildlife nesting sites on the property, we are in the process of building artificial nesting structures. These boxes will be placed in open areas, along wood edges and near

lakes to attract a variety of bird species. Osprey feeding in the lakes has also been a common occurrence, so we are mounting an Osprey nesting platform.

Another beneficial form of wildlife cover that takes very little extra effort and that is a common practice at Olde Florida is the disposal of all organic material from the golf course property on site. We take brush,

tree limbs and other material and dispose of it on unused areas of the property.

The disposal of these materials creates new habitats for Fox, Skunk and other small animals.

### **Water Conservation**

I am fortunate in that I was hired early in the project and I was able to assist in the design of the pumping and irrigation systems. We were able to incorporate numerous water saving technologies.

One method was installing part-circle heads on most lake banks and tree lines, eliminating excess water from being thrown into these areas. Dispersing irrigation water into natural areas not only wastes water and fertigation, but increases electricity costs. This also benefits existing native vegetation.

By irrigating native vegetation, you can force decline and encourage unwanted weed competition.

The greens are constructed to USGA recommendations with dual heads installed around all of the putting surfaces. A part circle head irrigates the perimeters on nights that we do not desire to water the greens.

The USGA greens are also a valuable form of water conservation. The perched water table effect allows us to irrigate the greens deeply every three to seven nights, depending on the climate conditions. In between nightly irrigation cycles, only a small amount of hand watering of "hot" spots is needed, thus eliminating the need to water more frequently.

The irrigation system that we chose to install at Olde Florida is a computerized system that includes a weather station. This system allows us to replenish only the necessary amount of water, as determined by the daily evapotranspiration rate that the weather station transmits to the computer.

The computerized system also shortens the necessary time to run the irrigation on the golf course. A rain sensor is also linked to the computer that will signal the shut down of the irrigation cycle in case of rain.

Water conservation at Olde Florida remains an ongoing process. The Irrigation Technician and Assistant Superintendents make continued course checks



*Osprey observation perch at Olde Florida Golf Club in Naples.*

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A well thought-out environmental planning guide is evident here as the young hatchlings of the Sand Hill Cranes are doing quite well.

Photo by Tim Cain

looking for wet or dry areas and adjusting the run times accordingly.

By adjusting nightly run times on the golf course, the turf remains as healthy as possible without having to do excessive watering of dry areas in the daylight hours. Adjustment on the part circle heads is also periodically checked to insure parameters have not unintentionally changed.

Fertilizer and chemicals that require subsequent irrigation are timed so needed irrigation that follows the application would coincide with a normal scheduled watering. A pre-set schedule is not adhered to for chemical and fertilizer applications. A guideline of these applications is prepared, which is then altered by a few days if necessary to coincide with needed nightly irrigation.

### Water Quality Management

The largest, most noticeable form of water quality management is the addition of over 70,000 sq. ft. of planted wetland

vegetation. Some of these areas were planted during construction to comply with Collier County and South Florida Water Management District requirements.

Since this time, more plantings have been added and others are in the process of being added, by utilizing mature plants from the existing well-established wetland planting areas. These wetland plants not only provide a pleasing visual water enhancement, but are a tremendous wildlife cover and serve as wildlife food enhancement areas.

Numerous birds, including a variety of egrets, are a normal site in these areas. Also abundant in these areas are alligators, turtles and fish, all of which use the sites for beneficial cover and as a food source.

Another form of water enhancement is actually a form of preventive maintenance on the lake banks and the water. Fertilizer or granular chemical applications on the golf course are done carefully so as to not throw material into the water.

Instead of using large tractor-drawn spreaders around the water's edge, the lake banks are fertilized by hand using walk behind rotary spreaders. The weeds on the lake banks are hand-picked when necessary so that only a very small amount of pesticide spraying has to take place on the turfgrass in close proximity to the lakes. If spraying is deemed necessary, spot application is used whenever possible.

Environmental planning is more than just a step in the certification process for the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. It is a way of thinking that includes many avenues that all lead to the same end result. By consciously following a written environmental plan and making your voice heard outside the golfing arena, you can prove that not only can golf courses co-exist with nature, they can greatly improve the environment as a whole.

Darren Davis  
Olde Florida Golf Club



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## Really, Mr. Inspector, no one told me...

BY SCOTT BELL  
*Bent Pine GC*

Hopefully that won't be you if you are ever visited by the various agencies that govern our industry. To help all of us avoid embarrassing non-compliance, I have compiled a list of items that will help to insure that you are complying with the laws.

This is a step-by-step guide to compliance. Most of these items have been researched by our Government Relations chairman, Tim Hiers and they have also been reviewed by Jeff Wharton of United Horticultural Supply who spoke at the South Florida USGA meeting this spring.

The Board of the FGCSA cannot stress the importance of this minimum compliance.

The old saying is so true that a chain is only as strong as its weakest link and in our business this holds fast.

For example, in Vero Beach most of the courses have now built new maintenance complexes or the courses are so new that the complexes are up to date. While we have all spent or we are spending money to have new, safe, and environmentally friendly complexes that comply with the laws, if one of us slips up, all of the good work of the others will mean less and a negative news article in the local paper will hurt all of us.

Fourteen of the following 15 items are required by law. If you have not developed a policy for these it is in your best interest and the industry's best interest that you do.

Most of this compliance effort costs little more than your time and it should be

your goal that all Florida courses participate. If you have any questions regarding compliance to any of these, call me or Tim or Jeff and hopefully we can point you in the right direction.

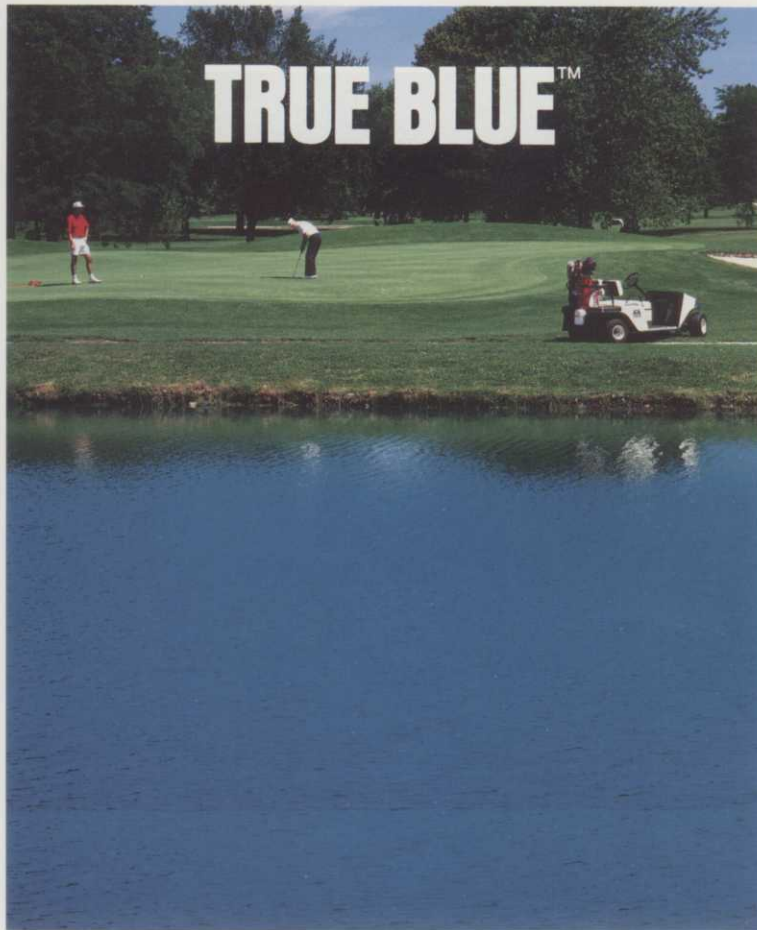
### 1. SARA Title III Compliance

SARA Title III has been around since the late 1980s and hopefully all of the attention that the association gave it then got all of us in compliance.

Generally, if you are storing Nemacur 3, you may need to review the SARA laws. If you are storing large amounts of diesel fuel or gasoline (over 1700 gallons) then you need to check the laws.

Generally, if you are storing more than 5 tons of any pesticide or petroleum product, then you need to check the laws. If you





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store Paraquat then you really need to check it.

In my opinion, no course should have five tons of any single pesticide on site for safety purposes as well as environmental. If you are storing chlorine gas for a swimming pool then you also need to consider SARA III.

## 2. OSHA Hazcom – Florida Right to Know

This law has been around since the mid-1980s and is one that you better be complying with.

To comply with this law you must first develop a written program that includes an alphabetical list of all hazardous products in the workplace and their MSDS's. If you don't know what an MSDS is then please call Tim Hiers or myself immediately.

Getting back to the written program, you must also include a description of how to obtain the MSDS in an emergency. The written policy must explain the labeling requirements for hazardous chemicals.

The written policy must also explain many other safety items such as employee training on Hazcom, emergency procedures for exposure or spills, ways to inform visitors or outside service personnel, and the identification of an individual who is the main Hazcom trainer.

Employers are required to explain the written policy to the employees. You should conduct regular training programs regarding the health hazards of the hazardous chemicals. Maintain detailed records of employees' attendance in these training sessions.



Displaying MSDS sheets and right-to-know information is the law – but it is not difficult to comply with.

Finally, all hazardous chemicals should be labeled. The best way to comply is to leave the compounds in the original labeled container.

The Hazcom/Right to Know is fairly easy to comply with if you take some time. GCSAA has seminars on it at the convention, FTGA has information on it, the state of Florida will be happy to send you information.

I have a written Hazcom policy that has

blanks for you to fill in so that it pertains to your place of business. This is a very easy and fast way to begin to comply with the law. Contact me and I will mail you a copy.

## 3. Chemical storage

Pesticide storage can be a huge liability for you and your club. Inspectors are out there spot checking and answering complaints usually from curious neighbors or disgruntled ex-employees.

Pesticide storage should be separate from your maintenance building in a locked concrete or metal building. If you have a fire in your shop and if there are pesticides stored in the shop, the fire department will probably let the building burn so that there is no pesticide run-off.

A good pesticide storage building will have a fairly impervious floor like metal, concrete or plastic and walls of similar material. The building needs to be properly ventilated and labeled. The shelves should be steel and ventilated, certainly not wooden. The doors should be large and accessible.

Tim Hiers has gotten Steve Dwinell of the Florida Department of Agriculture

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