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Golf tournament raises \$45,000 for environmental research


The Seven Rivers Chapter hosted the fourth annual Envirotron Golf Classic on April 22, 1996 at World Woods Golf Resort and raised \$45,000 for the Envirotron Research Equipment Fund. The four year total for the event has now reached \$132,500. The Envirotron is a 3,100 square-foot, state-of-the-art research field laboratory, which opened in November 1993 on the University of Florida campus. Funding for this facility has been a joint effort of the Florida Turfgrass Association and the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Tournament organizer, Stuart Bozeman thanked the tournament sponsors for supporting the event and its associated research projects. Bozeman offered special recognition to World Woods owner, Mr. Yukihiisa Inoue and Director of Golf, Steve Hritsko for providing a host course since the inception of the event.

"The staff and ownership at World Woods are the primary reason that this tournament has been so successful," Bozeman said. "Mr. Inoue's generosity and support reflects the kind of positive attitude that our industry needs to move forward in the field of research."

Major sponsors included: \$10,000 - Chipco Choice Insect Control Systems; \$2,500 - The Crowfoot Open, Southern Golf Products, the Central Florida Chapter of the FGCSA, Terra/Asgrow FL/Bayer. United Horticulture Supply/Bayer/Pickseed, Golf Ventures/Lykes/Helena/Ransomes; \$1,000 - Bayer, NuCrane Machinery, Great Queens of America, AgrEvo USA Co., Zeneca Professional Products, Greg Norman Turf, Harrell's Fertilizer/Polygon, Ciba-Geigy, Wesco Turf, Barbaron Inc., Tresca and

Jacobsen, Dow Elanco, Vigoro Ind. Inc., Eco-Soil Systems; \$500 - E. R. Jahna Industries, Florida Design Communities, Plantation Resort, Kilpatrick Turf Equipment, Golf Agronomics Supply and Han-

dling, Central Florida Turf, Seminole/Marico fertilizer, Liquid Ag, Environmental Golf, Inc., Gold Kist Inc., Lesco, Micro-Flo, ISS Golf Course Services, Green Releaf. 

GCSAA NOTES...


Help us stock our photo files!

PUBLICATIONS — The publications and media relations/video services departments are looking for photos or slides of members on their courses. These pictures are often needed to accompany articles in *Newsline* and in *Golf Course Management* magazine, as well as to use in slide presentations.

If you have any pictures depicting you and/or your staff performing various duties on the golf course, we would appreciate your donating them for our stock photo files. Please be sure to label the individuals, the course and the action or event taking place.

Also, remember that GCSAA strives to represent its members in a professional manner. We prefer not to use photos of superintendents in jeans, T-shirts or shorts; or wearing hats indoors, or shirts or hats that prominently display a company's logo. Hats worn outside, with your course's logo or the GCSAA logo, are acceptable.

The most useful pictures show superintendents in various aspects of their jobs, such as personnel training, irrigation, aerification, environmental preservation, group tours, tree and ornamentals care, wildlife conservation, business and financial planning, soil testing, renovations and any other duties that depict the superintendent's profession.

Please send photo donations to Christina Slape, *Newsline* editor, GCSAA, 1421 Research Park Drive, Lawrence, KS 66049-3859. 

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Tom Trammell, CGCS, Metrowest's Course Superintendent, stimps the 15th green as part of his crew works on the fairway and tee boxes.

Pot bunkers, storms and other challenges preparing for tournament play

BY CAROL BARFIELD

It was around midnight this past March when Tom Trammell, CGCS, knew for sure he had trouble on his hands.

The rain had been coming down in sheets for hours and now, as he rolled over in bed and checked the clock, it was showing no sign of letting up.

What the seasoned golf course superintendent knew for sure was this: His challenge to prepare MetroWest Golf Course for one of the club's largest and most attended events of the year had just

increased substantially as more than four inches of rain deluged the course in one night.

With the Celebrity Golf Association event just days away, the 86 bunkers that dot the course would not be pretty come dawn, to say the least.

"The rain? Yeah, it totaled some of our bunkers," Trammell said with a smile. "MetroWest has some wonderful hills on the course, but when the heavy rains ran off those hills into nearby bunkers, it

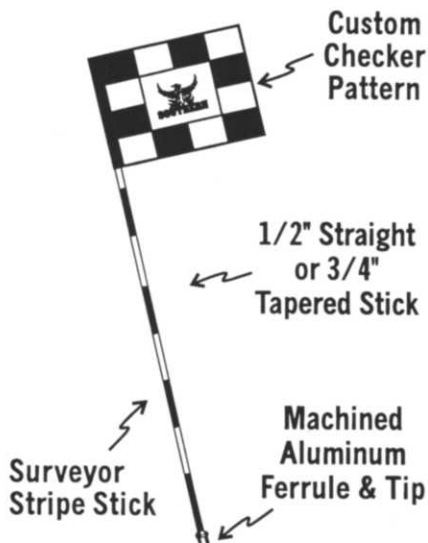
washed a few of them out. We had about 30 to 40 hours of extra work ahead of us to put it back into condition before our players and guests arrived. So we just got going. We rebuilt some faces and we had to resod bunkers lips," he explained.

Rebuilding parts of a golf course was not on Tom's list of things to do to prepare the course for a tour event, but he says that's just the point. "You have to stay on top of what you know is coming, because in this business there are just too

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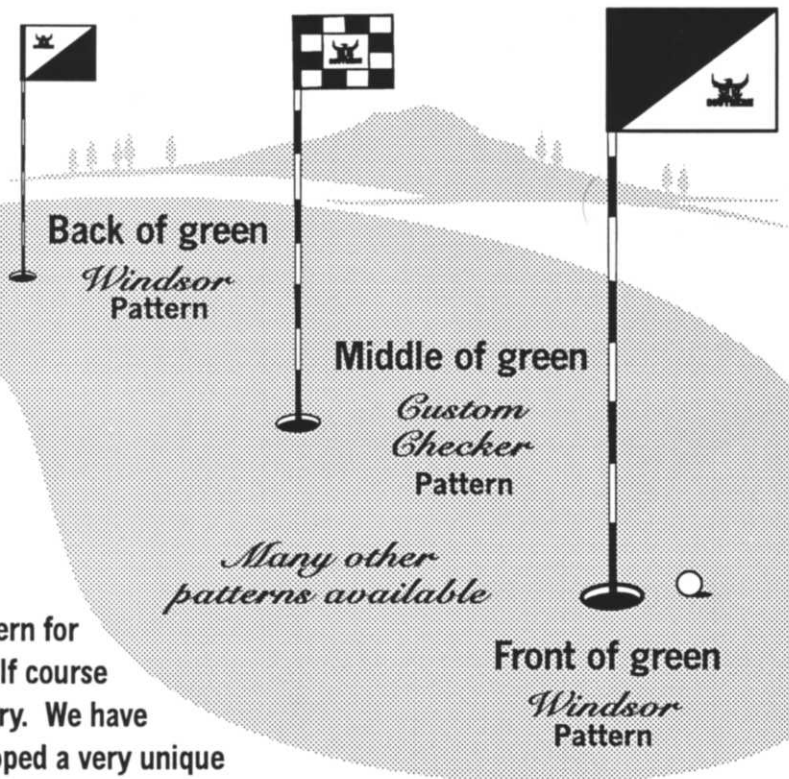


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many unknowns.”

Getting MetroWest’s 220 acres of Robert Trent Jones Sr.-designed course ready for the CGA event included putting up show fences and more than 12 miles of ropes, posting hole signage, erecting leader boards, and a host of other last minute necessities. The roping of the course may have been the most obvious change, but behind the scenes work on the greens, tees and fairways had been going on for some time.

Jim Karvellas, Commissioner of the CGA, said his staff had been meeting with Tom for more than a month, identifying course conditions that needed improvement and watching Tom coax and nurture Mother Nature along.

“We are always striving to keep our greens in top shape,” Trammell stated. “In this case, as we approached a transition period, we were working to keep the winter grass with us.”

Their special attention paid off, for when a host of celebrities, media and fans came together on the course March 21, the course’s eighteen varied splashes of emerald green were well appreciated.

“The players commented very positively on the greens,” explained Karvellas. “These are golfers *and* celebrities, so they have the opportunity to play the world’s finest courses. They openly said that MetroWest had some of the best winter greens they had seen all season.”

And just how fast were the greens to be cut for the CGA event? “The tournament organizers wanted them a bit faster than we normally keep them,” Tom said. While regular members and guests find the course greens running at 8 or higher, the MetroWest maintenance team was asked to have the greens stimping between 10.4 and 10.5.

With the day’s events beginning early each day, Tom was faced with the challenge of having the course prepared for play with first sun. MetroWest’s 50 acres of fairways posed a particular challenge, which the crew met with an unconventional solution. “Yes, we worked at night,” Tom recalled, laughing. How? “We had infrared sunglasses. . .” he attempts before a shy grin emerges. “With floodlights on the equipment, you can mow in

the middle of the night.”

The fairways, it turned out, were also well praised during the CGA event. Tom explained, “At MetroWest our fairways are seeded at a very high rate, then cut lower than three-eighths of an inch.”

The result on this one? Tournament players said they found MetroWest to have some of the truest fairways playing conditions they have ever seen.

Trammell admits that creating tournament playing conditions demands grueling hours and team commitment. It also takes a blend of scientific and creative problem-solving related to turf growth and maintenance. Yet the Florida native was all smiles as he recalled the event. “We loved it. It is a great motivator to have a challenge such as this. Our staff really came through,” Trammell said.

And what about Karvellas and his CGA event? “We’ve held our Central Florida tournament at MetroWest for two years now and our players love it here. We consider MetroWest our Central Florida home, and we’re looking forward to coming back,” he added.

Those words will be music to one course superintendent’s ears.

Editor’s Note: Last year we did a series on the traditional LPGA, PGA and PGA Senior Tour sites. With the popular growth of the Celebrity Golf Association, it seemed only fitting to run this story submitted by freelance writer, Carol Barfield, to complete the picture. MetroWest was also one of the courses played in the GCSAA Golf Championships this past February. Congratulations, Tom!

Turf Trivia

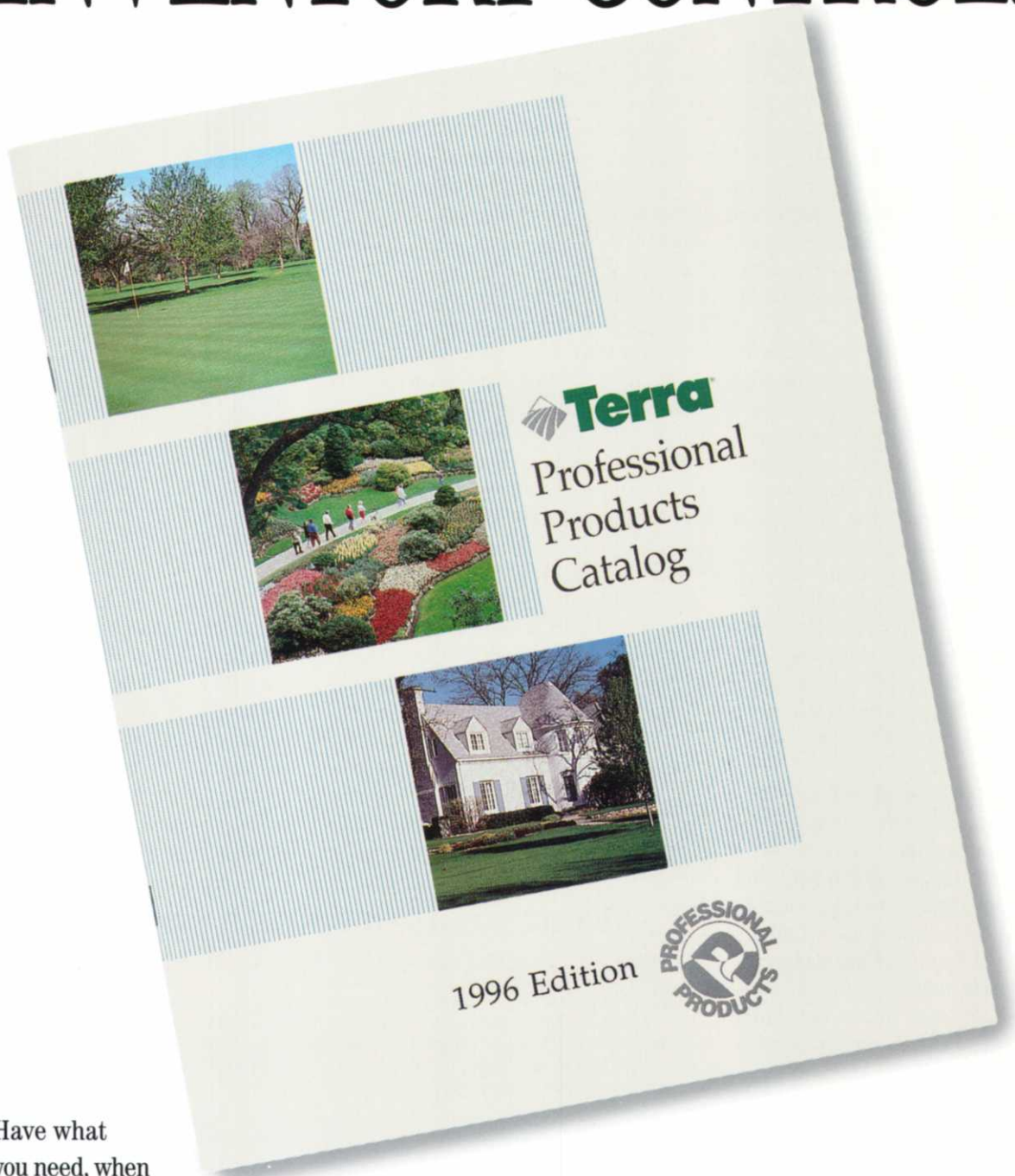
Temperature Modification

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When the temperature of the sidewalk or street is well over 100 F, the temperature at the surface of turfgrass areas will remain around 75 F. It has been estimated that on a block of eight average houses, front lawns have the cooling effect of about 70 tones of air conditioning (the average home-size central-air unit has a three- to four-ton capacity).

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The purpose of this association shall be...

BY ROBERT KLITZ, CGCS

Article II, Section 1B of the South Florida Golf Course Superintendent's Association Bylaws states that, "The purpose of this Association shall be to improve the position of the Golf Course Superintendent by providing a cooperative effort to collect, disseminate, and preserve scientific and practical knowledge for the more efficient and economical maintenance of Golf Courses in South Florida."

On a cold and windy January day in Coral Springs this cooperative effort by South Florida superintendents was displayed at the new Tournament Player's Club at Heron Bay. Chuck Green, superintendent at the new Mark McCumber-designed layout, had invited some area superintendents out to view the new property and offer their comments and suggestions. The superintendents who visited were current SFGCSA President Dale Kuehner, CGCS, from Colony West; Bill McKee from Oak Tree CC; Steve Kuhn from High Ridge CC; Ed Miller from Williams Island CC; and myself, representing Deer Creek.

One of Chuck's biggest challenges during last summer's construction was the excessive rainfall, totaling more than 90 inches, which coupled with difficult soil conditions to create a tough construction situation. In mid-January Chuck's last significant challenges included scraping the organic material out of the bunkers and trucking in more bunker sand, and the planting and renovation of many landscaped areas.

Chuck started working at Heron Bay in April 1995. Chuck's assistant, Deanna McAtamney, had worked with Chuck for several years at TPC at Eagle Trace before moving up the street to Heron Bay.

The TPC at Heron Bay includes 195,000 square feet of Tifdwarf greens, 390,000 square feet of tees, approximately 45 acres of 419 fairways, and over 16 acres of sand bunkers. The 45-acre practice facility includes 16 acres of fairways and a 120,000-square foot practice tee. Total acreage of 419 bermudagrass is 215. In

1997 a 400-room hotel and conference center will be opening adjacent to the golf course. The golf course maintenance facility is currently in a renovated farmer's maintenance building. The new maintenance facility will be built adjacent to the second hole in the fall of 1996.

The anticipated opening of the new TPC at Heron Bay is scheduled for May 1996.

During our visit the course was recovering well from the extended periods of cold weather we experienced this past winter. The fairways, tees and rough were in playable condition with good color and turf density. Several suggestions were made concerning the greens conditions in relation to rolling and Hydroject aerification. The discussions concentrating on greens grow-in practices were particularly interesting considering the number of years of construction experience that were onsite at that moment.

This informal meeting of area superintendents provided an excellent opportunity for me to document the spirit of the SFGCSA. We are just a group of people who share the same interests, responsibilities and challenges but have been able to keep developing relationships in our area to help each other through some of



Dale Kuehner, CGCS, Ed Miller, Steve Kuhn, Bill McKee and host superintendent, Chuck Green (left to right) discuss grow-in progress and problems at The TPC at Heron Bay. Photo by Bob Klitz, CGCS.

our more challenging situations. Bill McKee, Ed Miller, Mark Richard, CGCS, and Carlos McKeon are just a few of our members who have called on each other to help in times of need and received support from their fellow members. If you are not doing this in your chapter now, give it a try. You will probably benefit as much from the experience as the superintendent you go to visit.

What's important to employees?

A survey was made of a cross-section of 25,000 employees from the U.S. industry and government organizations. They were asked to list and rank the items that they would like to have more of in their work. The items were ranked from 1 (most important) to 10 (least important) by these employees. The first ten items are shown below in random order. **Please rank them the way YOU think the employees ranked them.** (The survey was conducted a second time using different employees from different locations and the results came out the same both times.) *Editor's Note: The employee rankings can be found on page 74.*

YOUR RANKING	EMPLOYEE RANKING
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- Understanding and help on the job with personal problems.
- Promotion and growth.
- Full appreciation of work well done.
- Job security.
- Higher wages.
- Feeling "in" on things at work.
- Tactful discipline.
- Better working conditions.
- Loyalty to fellow employees.
- Interesting work.