

Hogan's desire to have photos made of every tee shot and approach shot on the course is a testament to the caliber of course Wilson designed. Hogan reportedly called it "one of the finest courses in the world."

Arnold Palmer and Dow Finsterwald applied for conventional memberships to the club after playing it. Wilson was also the original designer of the Bay Hill Club in Orlando.

Forse of Forse Design, Inc. of Hopwood, Pa. is an avid restorationist. He even teaches a GCSAA course on classic courses and master architects. His reputation for attention to detail was a key factor in his selection for the project.

Forse says, "The beauty of what Wilson created and still remains, is very rare. This course and the photo documentation should remain as a historical monument to one of golf's greatest architects."

Bulldozers, backhoes, front end loaders and four dump trucks with turf tires have been rebuilding the greens, bun-

kers and lakes with amazing delicacy and minimal sound. Under the intense study of Forse, it is obvious that the intent of all concerned is to pull off something historic and spectacular. Construction has been moving along at a good pace and the reopening is tentatively planned for Nov. 1.

## From bentgrass to bermuda and beyond

BY JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

In the mid 1980s, the Isleworth Country Club in Windermere was one a few courses in Florida built with pure bentgrass greens. The others were Golden Eagle in Tallahassee, The Plantation at Ponte Vedra in Ponte Vedra Beach, and Loxahatchee in Jupiter. As of last year, all of those courses have converted to Tifdwarf bermudagrass greens except the Plantation course, which still doggedly pursues the holy grail.

Since I had the challenge of managing Isleworth's greens from 1988 to 1991 during the bentgrass years, I was interested in finding out from superintendent Buck Buckner exactly how the conversion took place, and what other changes the club had made. Buckner, who already had a great reputation for his good greens at the nearby Orange Tree C. C., came on board in 1993 to oversee the conversion.

"The first decision — to replace the bentgrass and rebuild the greens to USGA specifications — was a no brainer," said Buckner. "Having bentgrass in Central Florida is a wonderful dream, but just isn't realistic! As you experienced it, Joel, you could have great bentgrass for six to eight months depending on the weather.

"When it got warm and humid, it could get ugly. The club wanted to make sure we had the best possible playing surfaces all year round, so switching to Tifdwarf was the obvious choice."

"The second decision was harder. Af-



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Isleworth's 12th green: rebuilt and regrassed. Photo by Buck Buckner.

ter we got into coring out the greens and rebuilding them, the members began talking about playability issues and the challenge of the course. The course had always been wide open and player friendly.

"Everyone was looking for a little more challenge.

"So we decided to hire golf course architect, Steve Smyers, to look into what could be done to complement the original layout and instill a little more challenge and excitement. So the relatively simple concept of converting the greens turned into a multi-year phased program of improvements and change."

"Isleworth's vision of challenge included good bunkering. Smyers reworked the existing 26 bunkers and added 64 more for a total of 90. I think he did a good job with them," said Buck.

I had to agree. As Buck and I rode the remodeled course, I had a hard time remembering whether some of bunkers were original or new because they seemed very natural in the rolling layout.

Buck added, "In addition to the bunkers, the greens were all reshaped and #17 and #18 were relocated. The 18th hole was shortened into a challenging par 4 and the 17th lengthened into a gambling, go-for-it-in-two, par 5.

"The high left side of the 7th hole was cut and lowered and we used the fill to

***Having bentgrass in  
Central Florida is a  
wonderful dream, but  
just isn't realistic!***

raise the low areas on the 3rd hole. We also moved tees and built new tees to give more variety for playing length and different sight lines.

"Additionally, we have planted a lot of magnolias, maples, oaks and sweet gum to help define some areas and screen others. If you remember that Brazilian silk floss tree on #13, we harvested two seed pods and have planted many of the resulting seedlings around the course."

"The only real difficulty we had during the project was the record rainfall in the summers of 1993 and 1994. It forced us to do more sodding on areas we might otherwise have sprigged .

"All of the changes have been good, and the members seem pleased with the results. The course is still very playable for golfers of all caliber. I think the new changes may have toughened up the course by a stroke or two overall, but I think they're having more fun and excitement each round with the new looks and challenges."

## Super Tips

# Cleaning up fairway clippings presents challenge

BY DARREN J. DAVIS

*Golf Course Superintendent  
Olde Florida Golf Club*

As a golf professional friend of mine often says, "There are many ways to make par." This philosophy certainly holds true in a golf course superintendent's line of work as well. Every superintendent has their own unique way of doing things and often the same task can be completed many different ways.

It is because of this that I believe one of the best methods for a golf course superintendent to advance his knowledge in the field of turfgrass management is through networking with his peers. It is this interaction among comrades that allow us to pick up on little tips or even completely different styles of management that will help us to a better job on our own "turf".

Beginning with this issue, a new feature in the *Florida Green* will be the "Super Tips" section. The "Super Tips" section will provide tips from your peers that might make your job easier or more efficient.

The first "Super Tip" relates to the clean up of "fairway clippings".

One of the challenges golf course superintendents face today is how to mow the large acreage of fairways with little or no distraction to the golfer. Some have chosen to mow the fairways in the afternoon. Mowing when the turf is dry usually solves the problem of the piles of clippings in the fairways.

However, not many golf course superintendent's have this luxury since it would probably be a hindrance or distraction to the golf play. Therefore, we are usually forced to mow fairways in the early morning hours.

Consequently for southern golf course superintendents, who mow fairways without baskets, mowing in the morning re-



*If you have an innovative idea that you feel could help your fellow golf course superintendent, please drop us a line.*



sults in numerous piles of clippings that must be dispersed.

Clippings in the fairways can obviously be a distraction. So what is the answer?

On a recent trip to Dancing Rabbit Golf Club in Philadelphia, Miss., I witnessed a unique solution.

Golf Course Superintendent John Mills had attached a fairway drag net, usually seen attached to the rear of a fairway mower, to a golf course utility vehicle. This allowed the fairway mower the freedom to do his job of mowing fairways without the concern of the location of a net attached to the rear of his fairway cutting machine.

By attaching the net to the bed of a utility vehicle, the employee dragging clippings can drive on only the close-cut fairway area.

Having the drag mat attached to a separate unit (utility vehicle) has several advantages:

- First, it takes only one vehicle and one operator. Therefore, there is not a need to send two vehicles and two operators on the golf course with a chain or hose dragged between them, knocking down the piles of clippings. This certainly saves labor dollars.
- Second, the net displaces all of the clippings with one pass over the area and it does so without dragging the net through the rough that often causes un-



*This one-man drag mat mounted on a utility cart drags only in the fairways and doesn't require a second person, like a hose, rope or chain. Photos by Darren Davis.*

sightly standing up of bermudagrass grain.

- Having the net attached to a utility vehicle also gives the golf course superintendent the freedom of dragging the fairways without necessarily having to cut the turfgrass. This may come in handy on a tournament day when mowing is not an option or if you desired to remove the dew on the fairways prior to fertilizing them.

- Having clipping dispersal as a separate job function also gives the fairway mower the freedom to mow fairways without the concern of the location of the net that normally would be dragging behind his unit.

- Finally, the utility vehicle method allows the net to be folded up and stored in the bed of a utility vehicle in-between dragging of golf holes.

The particular brand of fairway drag system seen at Dancing Rabbit Golf Club, is manufactured by Gold Medal Recreation Products, and is being distributed in Florida by Precision Small Engine in Pompano Beach.

If you have an innovative idea that you feel could help your fellow golf course superintendent please drop us a line at *The Florida Green*, 6780 Tamarind Circle, Orlando, FL 32819, or email us at FLGRN@aol.com.



# Getting to the hearts of the children

*Palm Beach GCSA and  
Jupiter Farms Community  
Elementary School:  
Audubon Expansion*

BY JOSEPH HUBBARD, CGCS  
*Jonathan's Landing Old Trail  
Dickinson Management, Inc.*

**M**ost people do not understand many things in life and no one person has all the answers all of the time. These are givens to our limitations and our domain, and accepted by most.

Yet, when these same people are shown the beauty of natural creations such as trees, streams, insects, flowers, mountains, wildlife, etc. the unification of their resolve to strip away those constraints becomes limitless. Their energy is renewed and their thirst for the knowledge of everything about that environment to be explored is all consuming.

Passion is sorely lacking today for almost any cause, but watch the eyes of children as they wonder in awe when they see an animal from the wilds brought to a school, or as they watch National Geographic specials on TV. They are totally mesmerized by the creatures before them which in turn brings an avalanche of questions.

It is learning in its purest form and can develop that passion at a young age. As I studied the pamphlet, Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP) for Schools, that Audubon International had sent out, the children's eyes and eagerness to be involved came to my mind.

When you are a superintendent in the golf industry it is very easy to "live" your job and to not be absorbed in the lives of your children day in and day out. The long hours and the heavy demands can weigh you down (Although, you would be hard pressed to find one superintendent who would give it all up).

However, when something of this nature mirrors so close with what you are trying to achieve at your golf course,

## Project Naturescope: Children Exploring Their Environment

Five years ago an on-going environmental effort was launched at Jupiter Farms Community Elementary School, which eventually was named *Project Naturescope*. Its initial intent was to utilize the pine flatlands of our campus to carve out a nature trail.

That first year far surpassed that goal when we succeeded in establishing two nature trails and a butterfly garden on our campus without cost to our school.

That first year 60 science students shared their efforts, along with the efforts of their parents, local scout troops, local nurseries and teachers, as they invited the entire school to attend the first of what have become annual Earth Week Tours of our natural areas and butterfly garden.

Project Naturescope has grown into a cooperative effort that continues to utilize student and community talents, as well as occasional assistance from students from the agriculture department of Jupiter High School.

It has operated solely on donated plants and materials since its inception, yet has succeeded in bringing to our school a \$1000 grant from the Community Foundation and \$250 grant of native trees from the Florida Nurserymen's Association.

Last year, recognizing the need to expand our efforts to include several areas on campus that had been sorely neglected by county landscape crews, Project Naturescope students removed approximately 20 badly diseased trees and shrubs and heavily pruned overgrown areas on campus.

These efforts were quickly recognized by Ray Bridges, School Board landscape and grounds supervisor, who offered us unlimited use of the county nursery in Delray Beach. JFES was given approximately \$750 worth of landscape plants, used to replant several areas on campus.

At this time we have been approved for adoption by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Palm Beach County through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System. We are one of two schools in Palm Beach County chosen for work we have already done in the area of environment science as well as school site.

We hope to receive help soon for acquiring gardening tools and much needed materials. As Project Naturescope continues to grow, more grant opportunities will be available to our school through the Audubon Society of New York State, perhaps to assist in the construction of the environmental center.

As 15 parents, 60 students, and two teachers converged last spring to celebrate Earth Day with a massive schoolwide Earth Day Clean-up, the success of Project Naturescope couldn't have been more evident.

Student "managers," trained all year to appreciate their environment, moved from area to area on campus, removing litter, weeding, pruning, and planting. That same day our application for the President's Environmental Award from the EPA arrived.

-Dianne Hermanski,  
Project Naturescope Coordinator and  
Third grade teacher  
Jupiter Farms Elementary



*Naturescope coordinator Diane Hermanski and Buzz Jaskela of Florida Landscape Design discuss the master plan for Project Naturescope. Photo by Joe Hubbard.*





One of two nature trails established during the first year of Project Naturescope. Photo by Joe Hubbard.

there can be no other recourse than to get involved with your child's school or any school close by that is making an effort to better the world around them.

One such school is Jupiter Farms Community Elementary School located in the northern part of Palm Beach County, west of Jupiter. It is noted for its rural area, with many horse owners, trainers, dirt roads, wildlife, natural uplands and wetlands.

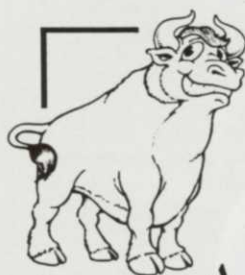
The school is located in the heart of Jupiter Farms or "The Farms" as it is respectfully called. With an average of 870 students in attendance, grades kindergarten through fifth, 41 teachers try to expand the potential of each child to be an example of community effort for everyone's benefit.

The Palm Beach Chapter of Florida Golf Course Superintendents, proudly adopted the school into the ACSP for Schools program in 1997. We wanted to help make a difference in the kids percep-

tion of the environment by broadening their window of knowledge further than the classroom. Many people do not realize what scope of stewardship superintendents must elevate to in understanding the natural environment of our properties and what it takes to *protect* it at all costs. With the help of volunteers, teachers, various clubs and nurseries, this type of responsibility and love for the environment is what we hope to instill in our children.

With the support of Diane Hermanski, third grade instructor and Naturescope Coordinator (*see sidebar*), principal Marilyn Weisgerber and assistant principal Lela Tolbert, our plans for this school are to start upgrading some of the sorely neglected areas on campus.

Buzz Jaskela, of Florida Landscape Design, and I had an opportunity to identify these areas on our recent visit with Hermanski. A master plan for phase development that Jaskela will help design,



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will enable the school to become an important environmental base for the Jupiter area, while eventually achieving certification with the ACSP for Schools.

There are plans already in the works for several of the 59 acres that encompass the school property. Building a state-of-the-art environmental center in the southern section of land by the wetlands will enhance the ACSP program to another level.

Jupiter Farms' close proximity to superintendent Mike Ballard's course, Cypress Links Golf Club and to my course, Jonathan's Landing Old Trail Country Club will enable us to have a "hands on" relationship with the school. Several other superintendents, including Chip Fowkes at Frenchman's Creek, have expressed a desire to be involved in the development of this program and can help in making presentations to the community on our progress.

According to Audubon International,

the concept of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System was to create an international program designed to help landowners preserve and enhance the environmental quality of their property.

Schools in the program protect and learn about our natural heritage through stewardship projects that enhance wildlife habitat and conserve natural resources on school grounds.

Rather than focusing on field trips or environmental studies of exotic places and wildlife species, the program provides information and guidance to help schools turn part of their grounds into natural areas that attract wildlife.

This program encourages the school to develop an outdoor classroom and adopt indoor conservation projects such as water and energy reduction, recycling and composting.

"By creating a sanctuary at the school, students build a lasting relationship with their environment and are empowered

with the knowledge that their actions do make a difference," explained Joellen Zeh, staff ecologist for the Audubon International. "We welcome Jupiter Farms School's commitment to environmentally responsible property management and environmental education.

By joining and participating in the ACSP, the school will be involved in projects that enhance wildlife habitat and conserve natural resources for the benefit of the community, while offering students engaging environmental education projects.

These projects may include: placing nesting boxes for cavity-nesting birds such as bluebirds and purple martins; using native plants in gardens to attract butterflies, hummingbirds and songbirds; conserving water and energy; composting; and recycling.

"The Cooperative Sanctuary System benefits both people and the environment," said Zeh.

**ACSP FOR SCHOOLS**

***Palm Beach GCSA makes natural link with Kidstown***

BY JEFF KLONTZ

*Country Club of Florida*

The Palm Beach Golf Course Superintendents Association wants to make a difference in environmental education. With funds from our annual Futures of Golf Tournament, we adopted Kidstown Learning Center into the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP) for Schools.

Kidstown Learning Center in Boynton Beach has children from infants to 12 years old. The teachers plan to educate students about the environment they live and play in. The Audubon program will enhance children's value to belong with nature and will teach them to respect the earth's natural resources.

Paula Poupore, owner of Kidstown Learning Center, was very interested in working jointly with the PBGCSA to



*Using funds from their annual Futures of Golf Tournament, the Palm Beach GCSA helped Kidstown Learning Center build a butterfly garden, aviary, caterpillar garden and a vegetable garden.*

incorporate the Audubon program into the curriculum at the school.

The first step was creating a plan.

Since the property was under construction, we enlisted Buzz Jaskela, a landscape architect, to help create a plan of action that would incorporate all aspects of the school program developed by

Audubon International. Before drawing up this plan, we met with teachers to get their input into projects they would like to see developed for the children.

Within 30 days, we had a plan of action that included a butterfly garden, aviary, caterpillar garden, and a project the teachers expressed the most



interest in — a vegetable garden. The PBGCSA also had a special interest in some burrowing owls that were located on the property, and this was also included in the plan.

Our first project, in June, was to recreate the burrowing owl habitat on the property. The owls had relocated to a vacant lot due west of the school. Damian Flaso, superintendent at Villa Delray, Steven Bernard, superintendent at Emerald Dunes, Jim Cassells and myself, helped build and install two perches to be placed on the west side of the building.

We also started two burrows in the ground. This future habitat area is within 20 feet of the building, and the children will be able to watch the owls from the classroom. This required the relocation of some existing cocoplum and the removal of a black olive tree that did not survive the original landscaping.

***Within 30 days, we had a plan of action that included a butterfly garden, aviary, caterpillar garden, and a project the teachers expressed the most interest in — a vegetable garden.***

Phase two of the plan was accomplished in July.

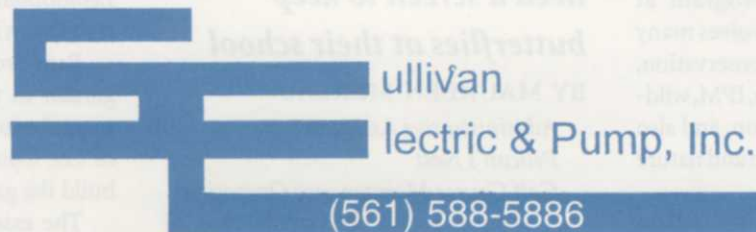
An aviary was created at the far southeastern corner of the property. An area of high maintenance that required weed-eating on a routine basis, the lawn maintenance crew was happy to see us remove the sod and replace it with native plant material.

Karl Schmidt, superintendent at Atlantis Golf Club, Steve Hamilton from Hamilton Grading, Jim Cassells, Buzz Jaskela, Leonardo Flores, assis-

tant superintendent at Country Club of Florida, and myself, installed the garden that included plants such as Beauty Berry, Wild Coffee, Porterweed, Bottle Brush and an Orange Geiger Tree.

Sue Shaw, assistant director of Kidstown Learning Center, and teachers helped to get the children involved by showing them how to plant, fertilize and water the plant material.

The plants were all donated by Boynton Botanical in Boynton Beach.



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*The project took three hours to complete*

The compost was donated from Atlas Peat and Soil. Jim Cassells donated a recycled birdhouse, and we plan to add a birdfeeder and birdbath.

The project took three hours to complete. We want to thank all of our volunteers and suppliers that helped to make this bird aviary a success.

**Next phases begin soon**

In the near future, we will start the other phases of the project, including a butterfly garden, vegetable garden and caterpillar garden.

Paul Popore would like Kidstown Learning Center to be the first fully certified Audubon School Sanctuary in Palm Beach County.

With the help of the PBGCSA, we plan to accomplish this within two years. We would also like to help other schools get involved in the Audubon school program.

The Audubon school program at Kidstown Learning Center involves many other areas related to water conservation, recycling, energy conservation, IPM, wild-life enhancement and education, and also includes an outdoor classroom and nature trail.

The success of the program depends on teacher participation, and children who want to learn more about the environment. The PBGCSA will continue to act as volunteers, specializing in native plantings and soil amendments.



*The butterfly garden at the Spring Creek Elementary School becomes a reality through the involvement of the school, community and Pelican's Nest Golf Course.*

**Butterfly Extreme**  
*Kids learned they didn't need a screen to keep butterflies at their school*

BY MAUREEN MERLAU

*Administrative Assistant*

*Pelican's Nest*

*Golf Course Maintenance Operations*

The most recent fifth grade class of teacher Pam Schroeder at the Spring Creek Elementary School in Bonita Springs introduced a question after raising butterflies and releasing them September '96.

"Why can't we keep them here?" was

what the children wanted to know.

Pam responded there might be a way. It took some convincing that the garden doesn't need to be screened in to keep the Lepidoptera around. According to Pam, it's a lesson in "build it and they will come."

Pam brought the idea of the butterfly garden to the attention of the environmental education mini grant department of Lee County and requested money to build the garden.

The existing ground cover was inadequate and unsuccessful at attracting butterflies. In February 97, the students' continued enthusiasm and interest, along with a go-ahead from the mini grant department to research the building of a butterfly

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garden, prompted Pam to contact the school's sponsor for the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program.

The Maintenance Operations for Pelican's Nest Golf Course in Bonita Springs was very much interested in supporting the answer to the children's question of how to keep the butterflies at the school.

Jim Leiseberg, superintendent at Pelican's Nest, agreed to coordinate and immediately begin to build the butterfly garden in order to accomplish its completion April 22nd in honor of Earth Day 97. Jim contacted landscape architect Dave Salko of the firm WCI, who designed and provided the landscape plans for the 2,000 sq. ft. garden complete with a mulch walk path.

There were 20 different species of ground covers and trees donated and delivered by two local landscape suppliers, as well as 12 hours of their labor to support this school project. Pelican's Nest donated 120 hours of labor. The irrigation system and the perimeter fence were refined, and the garden was coordinated and developed.

Several teachers at Spring Creek used the appearance of the garden as an opportunity to

enhance the learning process at school as they acclimated their curriculum to the butterfly garden.

It was overheard at many a bus stop, discussions about the elaborate process of how butterflies evolve, as well as debating the times involved for what stages of metamorphosis. Teachers encouraged participation in the associated contests involving butterflies, and over 500 student entries were received for naming the garden.

Students sold T-shirts to raise money to help fund the garden at the school and also competed in poetry, poster and T-shirt design contests. For three days, more than 300 students from pre-K to fifth grade were plucked out of class to work with Jim and several other Pelican's Nest staff to help prepare the soil and plant the nectar and host plants for the butterflies.

Teachers had to be on their toes scheduling student help, and monitors were kept busy attempting to inhibit sneaking back into the garden to work during afternoon exercise and outside time to avoid over stimulation of the plants.

Some students couldn't work in the garden enough. It was evident that participation in the garden's completion was very important to Spring Creek Elementary students.

A few butterflies had already swooped down to check out the garden by the time the students gathered to dedicate and name Butterfly Extreme on Earth Day as projected. The butterfly poems were read, the contest winners were cheered, T-shirts were awarded to merit their talents, and the butterfly garden awaits the children each morning as they get off the bus to go into school.

Not only is the a garden successful learning resource and daily reminder of their part in its beauty but it will provide acknowledgment to students who are privileged to read in the butterfly garden as a reward for academic achievement.

Last year Jim Leiseberg and the golf course maintenance staff appropriated money collected from can recycling to provide Spring Creek with three *Field Guides to Birds* and materials to build a bird feeder and supply seed throughout the year.

Jim foresees a continued participation

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in conjunction with the school and its association with The Cooperative Sanctuary program.

On June 27, 1997 I received a phone call from Pam about the goings on at Butterfly Extreme. The host plants had successfully nourished the eggs and larva, and provided shelter for the pre-emerged butterflies. The timing was impeccable.

School ended for the year on June 12, and the butterflies emerged between June 5 and June 10 as though they were a gift to the children.

Pam was checking the garden, although she has the summer off, and couldn't resist calling me today to tell of the caterpillars again on the host plants. The Queen and Monarch butterflies had returned to lay their eggs and the cycle is repeating.

Butterfly Extreme has established itself as a butterfly garden. The children will be pleased and they will most likely have an increased interest in and appreciation for the butterflies upon their return to school in the fall. 

## Certification Update

### Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses

The certification process for golf courses has been updated to lessen the turnaround time for reports. These changes will better define the program and encourage more participation.

1. The Resource Inventory and Environmental Plan have been combined.
2. There have been questions added to the certification workbook, and some questions have been reworded for clarification.
3. Minimum requirements have been established for all categories, and checklists are provided to ensure your request is complete.

These changes were effective June 25, 1997. If you have not received this information, call Audubon International, (518) 767-9051 to request the updated forms.

- Remember, when you join the program, you will receive the Resource Inventory/Environmental Plan. You will not receive the certification workbook until you have returned the Resource Inventory/Environmental Plan.



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