

The unflappable (shuttle bus) driver proceeded to take us all the way back to the hotel in reverse against traffic in time for us to catch the next bus

Clift and Barnes played their left and right positions true to type. Almost like caricatures!

The voice of common sense in the person of developer Kim Richards was the voice of mainstream working Americans asking for sensible laws and regulations, accountable legislators — not bureaucrats — making the regulations, and clear compliance rules and requirements before passage of the laws.

The event was a little too theatrical to be stimulating. Most of these political pundits are celebrities and not true sounding boards of the real world.

On Sunday night, the FGCSA hosted another great reception and about 450 Florida superintendents, spouses and

suppliers got together to compare the week's progress and gambling losses. Many thanks to the sponsors for helping to make the reception a success.

Then there are always those special incidents and adventures that add a little color and excitement to each conference.

One morning as we were enjoying some clever repartee with our jovial shuttle bus driver, the forward gears of the transmission failed about three blocks from our hotel. The unflappable driver proceeded to take us all the way back to the hotel in reverse against traffic in time for us to catch the next bus. He gave a running commentary of the non-existent oncoming traffic and gave us all a start when we bounced over a speed bump

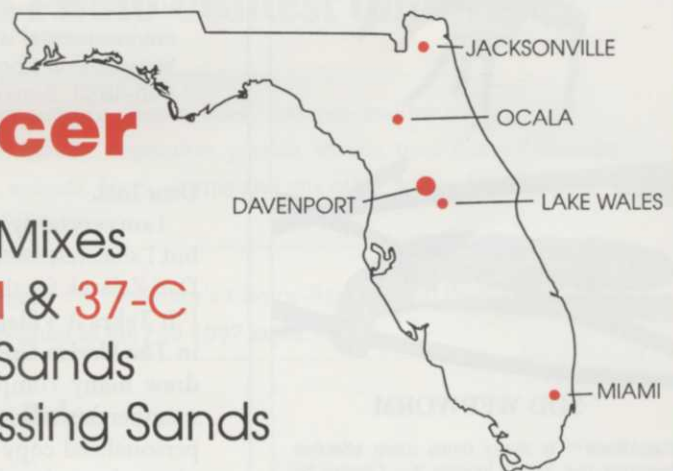
as he claimed a collision was imminent.

Two days late and several dollars short, our own Marie Roberts gave me a little casino insider tip: Find the change makers in the slot machine areas and ask them where the loosest slot machines are located in the casino. You should reciprocate with a tip if you hit. Marie did! In fact her good fortune inspired a verse from Irene Jones (See "Vegas Revenue Revue," page 90).

In terms of the cash that I brought to gamble with, I guess some might say I left Las Vegas a loser. In terms of what I saw and heard about our profession and our association, thousands of winners left Las Vegas, excited about carrying on the traditions of the game of golf.

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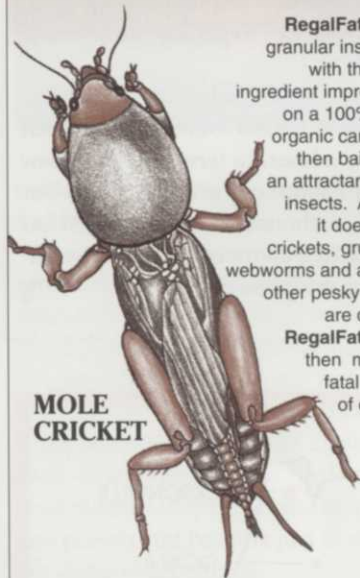


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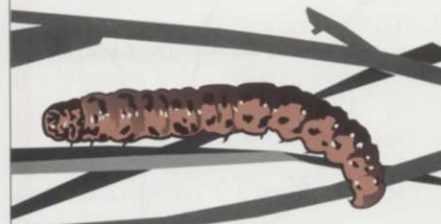
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Call For Articles

This is a call for articles for the 1997 Summer and Fall issues of the Florida Green. Deadline for the Summer issue is May 16, 1997 and for the Fall issue is August 15, 1997.

Contact Joel D. Jackson, Editor for more information. Phone: 407-248-1971. Fax: 407-248-1971. E-mail: FLGrn@aol.com

Hands On Topics

Summer - Managing Your Irrigation. Superintendents are invited to submit articles that discuss topics related to, but not limited to, equipment, scheduling, system improvements, water sources, permits, conservation, problems and solutions, hand watering, surfactants and fertigation considerations. Slides and photographs are encouraged.

Fall - Renovations and Rebuilding. Superintendents are invited to submit articles relating to renovation and rebuilding projects. Topics may include the decision-making process, planning the project, construction techniques, problems and solutions, in-house vs. outside contractors and impacts to the maintenance and members. Slides and photographs encouraged.

SUPERINTENDENT'S JOURNAL: Personal observations or experiences related to any phase of the turf management profession.

HEADS UP: General management topics beyond turf. Examples: facilities, personnel, computers, training, etc.

OPINION: Exactly what it means! Articles voicing a personal point of view on any topic concerning Florida superintendents.

RESEARCH: A section reserved primarily for university and technical authors to report on research results within the turf industry.

RUB OF THE GREEN: Articles and anecdotes with a humorous twist.

TURFGRASS TRIVIA: Facts and tips that promote the benefits of turfgrass and golf courses.

STEWARDSHIP: Superintendents are invited to submit ideas and articles about environmental issues and initiatives at their courses. Contact Shelly Foy, Stewardship Coordinator, for more information. Phone: 561-2620. Fax: 561-546-4653. E-mail: 102677.257@compuserve.com

Letters to the Editor

Dear Joel:

I am very tardy in writing this letter, but I sincerely want to thank you and Dan Zelazek for the wonderful article ["It Takes A Village," Summer 1996] in *The Florida Green*. The journalism drew many compliments from our membership after they received their personalized copy of the article. The photos have also all been blown up to 20" x 30" and hung in the clubhouse.

A special thank you also goes to the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association for allowing The Hamlet and me to be a feature article.

Both Dan and you are a credit to your profession and your hobbies. Thank you again.

Robin Goodell
Golf Course Superintendent
The Hamlet

We appreciate the kind words. The superintendents tell the stories. I just listen and put them in print so the experiences can be shared. As for Daniel, he sees our courses in a special way and captures them on film for us to enjoy again and again. Thanks for letting us know we were successful at showing and telling The Hamlet's story.

Note: There are 11 local chapters of the FGCSA. The cover story feature is rotated among the chapters. The Fall cover story is always dedicated to the course and chapter of the incoming president. Otherwise, the board of directors of each chapter nominates and selects the course and superintendent to be featured.



1997 Photo contest - Category 4 — Scenic Hole Layout, Frosty Morn on Disney's Osprey Ridge GC. Photo by Joel Jackson

3rd Annual Florida Green Photo Contest under way

Category 1 - Wildlife on the Course: includes mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians.

Category 2 - Course Landscape: Formal Plantings: includes annuals, shrubs, trees, entrance and tee signs

Category 3 - Course Landscape: Native Plantings: includes aquatic vegetation, grasses, shrubs, trees and wildflowers.

Category 4 - Scenic Hole Layout Shots: includes sunrises, sunsets, frosts, storms and any other golf hole view.

Prizes

- 1st Place (\$100) and 2nd Place (\$50) in each category
- Editor's Choice-Best Overall Photo - \$100.
- All winning entries published in the Fall 1997 issue.

Easy Rules

1. Color prints or slides. Only one entry per category.
2. Photo must be taken on an FGCSA member's course. Photo must be taken by an FGCSA member or a member of his staff.
3. Attach a label to the back of the print or slide which identifies the category, course and photographer. **DO NOT WRITE DIRECTLY ON THE BACK OF THE PRINT.** Each photo shall be attached to a sheet of 8.5 x 11 lined paper. Line up the photo with the vertical and horizontal lines to square the photo on the page. Attach the print to the paper using a loop of masking tape on the back of the photo. Slides must be easily removable for viewing.
- 4 A caption identifying the category, course and photographer should be typed or printed on the sheet of paper below the print or slide.
5. Judging will be done by a panel of FGCSA members not participating in the contest.
6. Mail entries in a bend proof package to: Joel D. Jackson, 6780 Tamarind Circle, Orlando 32819. No entries accepted postmarked after August 15, 1997.

UF's turf program: Slowly but surely...

Using my column in a quarterly magazine to make reports of my activities on behalf of the FGCSA and FTGA is like choosing the Pony Express over e-mail. Nevertheless it chronicles our progress and ensures that every Florida superintendent is aware of what's happening, even if the information is old news by the time it is read in *The Florida Green*.

A couple of significant developments have occurred in our quest to persuade the University of Florida to enhance support of their turfgrass program.

An outside review of the program, suggested by Jan Beljan at our big meeting with UF officials last April, was completed on February 21. I'm confident the final report will have been completed and distributed by the time this magazine is in your hands and that the report will make recommendations which IFAS will utilize to expand and improve the turf program.

We owe a great deal of gratitude to the Review Team. These gentlemen took a week of their time to come to Florida and thoroughly examine the University of Florida's Turfgrass Program.

Hats off to Dr. Bruce Clark of Rutgers, Dr. Karl Danneberger of Ohio State, Dr. James Fiescher of Clemson, Dr. Keith Karnok of Georgia, Dr. Michael Kenna of the USGA, Gordon LaFontaine of the Michigan Turfgrass Association, Gene

Maples of the Turfgrass Council of North Carolina, and our own Ralph White representing the FTGA. They worked their tails off and left no stone unturned in their quest for the facts.

Thanks are also due Jeff Ball, David Barnes, Roy Bates, Jeff Hayden, and Dale Kuehner for their participation and contributions.

The other development regarding the UF Turf Program is actually a disappointment. Our efforts to hire a Turfgrass Coordinator have suffered a setback. Seventeen candidates applied for the position. The field was narrowed to five, then to two, and when one of those accepted another job we were left with one applicant.

The candidate was not offered the job, not for any glaring deficiencies, but because of the extremely high personal as well as professional qualifications we have placed on this position offering.

Honestly, I'm not that disappointed in this turn of events. I think it makes more sense to wait until the review is finalized before a coordinator is hired to lead the program. I also think we can fine tune the job description and position announcement to attract an illustrious candidate. The most disappointing thing is that it will probably take another six months or more before a coordinator can be hired due to the required protocol.

Compared to industry, the wheels at the university – any university – turn very slowly, but the potential benefits are worth the wait.

Mark My Words



Mark Jarrell, CGCS
Assistant Editor

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Breaking news: Groundhog Fired.
Punxsutawney Phil found guilty of taking illegal contributions to alter winter weather!

The famous furry weather prognosticator was accused of accepting illegal contributions to his retirement fund from Florida weather forecasters in return for spending a night in the Spring is Sprung bedroom of his burrow. In consideration for the illegal donations, the groundhog agreed to say that he saw his shadow in December which completely eliminated winter in Florida this year.

After only one or two piddly frosts and one day in January when it did get legitimately cold, this has been the warmest winter I can remember in my 54 years in Florida.

So what am I complaining about? Well, it's pretty darn hard to grow a good stand of winter grass when you're not having winter.

After years of learning that we'd better overseed to stay green and playable during the heavy winter golf traffic, we have a year when we could have saved all that time and money. Maybe some folks will decide to not overseed as much next year. It's always a gamble isn't it? Maybe that's why we were in Las Vegas this year – to remember what it's like to win some and to lose some.

It was so warm this past fall that the bermudagrass never slowed down so we could get the ryegrass established. We found out how puny the ryegrass was when it did get cold and the bermuda turned purple and tan. Then it warmed back up and got dry and breezy. Now we sit and watch the ryegrass say bye-bye a little more each day.

Not a bad thing for transition in general – it's just a little earlier than usual.

I have enough pessimist in me that I am worrying that a late season cold snap might zap us around the March full moon. Then we will take a lot of flack from the same people who have been playing golf all winter in shorts instead of sweaters .

I don't mean to be grinding too big an ax over this pleasant weather. I'm just bummed out because I bought some neat long-sleeved polo shirts and sweaters to wear this year and it hasn't been cold enough to get my money's worth. I also bought tens of thousands of dollars worth of seed this year. I didn't get my money's worth out of that either. There are lot more people bummed out about that.

For Pete's sake, whatever you've got out there – rye or bermuda, keep the Green Side Up!

More late breaking news: It was only a matter of time before the artistry of Daniel Zelazek reached beyond the pages of the *Florida Green*. Zelazek, *Florida Green* cover photographer since 1981, has teamed up with businessman and scratch golfer, Lawrence Mueller, to launch a new venture called Signature Golf Images by Z.

The PGA Tour has agreed to display and sell Daniel's large format lithographs of TPC golf holes at their TPC tournament locations. Currently available are 36 x 28 inch lithographic prints of the famous 17th island hole and the picturesque 11th hole at the TPC Stadium Course in Ponte Vedra. The prints are also available directly from the PGA Tour. For more information contact TPC Headquarters at (904) 273-3235. Good luck, Z!

Green Side Up



Joel D. Jackson, CGCS Editor

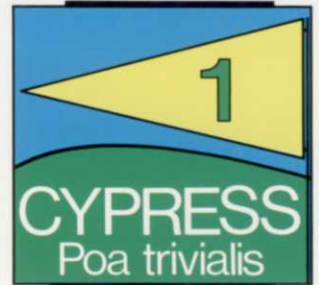
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