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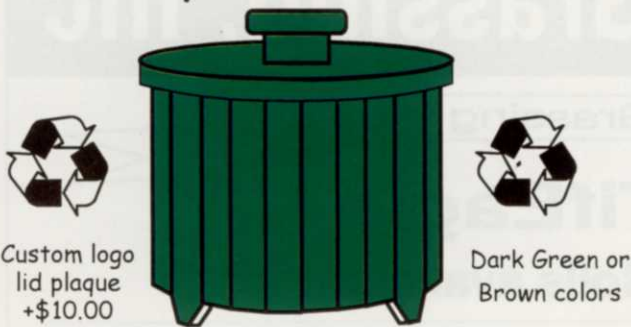
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like myself, there was usually an opening to the green where the higher handicapper could lay up on his approach and then chip and putt for par or bogey. Indian Creek seems to be a hallmark of classic architecture. Heroic birdies, difficult pars, challenging bogeys.

The restoration story continued as we toured the coral and keystone clubhouse. In 1998 Pantaleo and his crew, under the direction of landscape architect Buzz Jaskella, had just completed a complete rehab of the clubhouse landscape.

"The magnificent architecture of this beautiful old building was being dwarfed and hidden behind spreading Sheffleras and ficus trees," Pantaleo said. "Jaskella had us rip out everything and we started from scratch to open up the view of and from the clubhouse.

"We came back in with trees and foliage that wouldn't spread and grow so tall to hide the building ever again. In the pool and courtyard area, we removed several large ficus trees and now the

members have a view of the Miami skyline across the bay.

"We only have two people dedicated to landscaping, so in selecting the new plant material we wanted something that was classy, but not so labor-intensive. We have intentionally limited the amount of annuals that have to be changed out frequently, but use plants that provide variety and interest in growth habit and color. We also were able to rehab the clubhouse irrigation system and put it on the weather station and central controller to help monitor ET and watering cycles."

A quick tour of the interior of the clubhouse yielded hallways filled with photographs of Indian Creek over the years, snapshots showing the changes and maturity of the club. The history said the building sprawled over several acres and it seemed like I was touring a small hotel as Joe took me from the card room and ballroom to the kitchen and the offices. I met the club president, the

green chairman, the head pro, the head chef and even visiting PGA pro Dudley Hart. We enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch in the dining area overlooking the starting tees and finishing holes of both nines.

After lunch it was back out on the course to see up close some of the unique challenges Pantaleo faces to maintain this veritable 300-acre island park for which he is responsible.

Being responsible comes naturally to Pantaleo. He earned a BS degree in business management and an MS degree in human resources with an emphasis on sports business. Pantaleo is a devoted sports nut. On his radar screen he could see a career as an athletic director. He came to his turf management career through the side door at the Dade County Parks and Recreation Dept.

"I was doing an internship in the pro shop at Greynolds Park G. C. during my master's degree studies at Biscayne College," he said. "I started getting interested in what was going on out on the

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Indian Creek Country Club

Location: Miami Beach, Florida.

Ownership: Member Owned.

Playing policy: Private Members and Guests.

18 holes. 6,662 yards. Par 72. Course/Slope Ratings: Blue Tees - 72.1/130; White Tees - 70.1/128; Gold Tees - 68.3/123; Red Tees - 70.7/120.

Design and Construction: William F. Flynn, architect. Clubhouse designed by Maurice Fatio; construction by Toomey and Flynn. Dick Wilson reportedly worked for Flynn on this job. Opened: 1929

Management: Joe Somers, club president; Robert Post Fordham, club manager; Tony Morosco, head golf professional; Wayne Beckner, green chairman; Joe Pantaleo, golf course superintendent.

Major Renovations: Ron Forse, golf course architect. Buzz Jaskela, landscape architect. Construction by MacCurrach Golf Course Construction, Co.; Dale Wittig, Laser Turf, Inc for tee tops. Following a master plan for restorations. Completed so far: Greens complexes including putting surfaces and bunkers; tees; clubhouse landscaping and irrigation; clubhouse building. Future projects by priority; (1) Fairway regrassing; (2) Fairway bunkers; and (3) Native grasses in deep roughs, treescaping and native landscape accent beds.

Acreage under management: Total property 300 acres. Golf turf acreage: 150 acres.

Greens: 4 acres. Average size: 7,500 sq. ft. Turf type: Tifdwarf. HOC (inches) = 9/64 to 1/8. Overseeding: None. Green Speed Goals November to May: 9.0+.

Tees: 3 acres. Turf type: Tifway 419 . HOC = 3/8. Overseeding: None.

Fairways: 60 acres. Turf type: Mixture of Ormond, common, Everglades, etc. HOC: 9/16. Overseeding: None.

Roughs. 84 acres. Turf Type: St. Augustine and mixture of old bermudagrass varieties. HOC: 1 3/4. Overseeding: None.

Waterways/Lakes/Ponds: No ponds or lakes. Property surrounded by Indian Creek and Biscayne Bay. Maintain a small beach area which was once a seaplane landing area.

Irrigation: Source: Potable water. Equipment: Syncroflo VFD Pump Station with horizontal flooded suction. Controls: Rainbird Nimbus Central Control with additional Freedom hand-held controller. 700 Rainbird 900 and 950 heads on greens, tees and fairways only. Fertigation system with pHairway injection system.

Staff: Total including Supt.22. Marcus Prevatte, assistant superintendent (started Feb 1999); David McWilliams, foreman; Ivan Capeles, chief mechanic; George, assistant mechanic; Paul Henry, Spray tech; Elissee Tassy, irrigation tech; Ariel Perez, arborist; Jean-Claude Jean Pierre and Calixte Lubin, landscapers.

Communications: Monthly column in club newsletter during season; weekly staff meetings with crew; Grounds Committee meeting monthly during season. "I write the agenda and run the meeting;" Board and Finance Committee meetings as needed. Meet regularly with peers for golf outings and to share information.

Cultural Practices: Aerify: Greens-3x/yr, 5/8" tines; Tees- 2x/yr, 5/8" tines; Fairways-3x/yr, 3/4" tines. Spray Program: Greens biweekly as needed with Primo @ 2-3 oz/A; Orthene or Seven @ 4 lbs/A; Micro nutrients @ 1-2 gal/A; Wetting agent @ 1 qt/A. Tees monthly as needed with Primo @ 10 oz/A; Orthene @ 4 lbs/A; Wetting agent @ 1 qt/A; Iron @ 1-2 gal/A. Fairways monthly with Primo 10 oz/A April to October. Fertility Program: Greens biweekly granular 1:0:1 blend Nov-April and 1:0:2 blend May-Oct. Supplemental fertigation. Tees: Fertigation mainly with occasional granular as needed. Fairways: Six week interval with granular Nov-March. Rest of the year fertigation only. Roughs: Fertigation only.

Weed Control: May-Aug MSMA/Sencor timed with moist conditions for grassy weeds. "Manage" as needed for sedges. "Escort" as needed for spurge and other broad leaf weeds. Biggest challenges: Alexandergrass, goosegrass, sedges, spurges on Tifdwarf greens slopes.

Mole Cricket Control: Average 10 -20 acres of infestation each year. Treat with Orthene and baits.

Equipment: Greens -Toro 1000 walkmowers (8) and a Jacobsen Greens King IV w/groomer attachment; collars-Jacobsen 22-inch walk mower; slopes-Toro 3400. Tees-Jacobsen Greens King IV and a Jacobsen 22-inch walk mower for rectangle cut; Fairways-Toro 6700 (2); Roughs-Jacobsen Blitzer (2) and a Jacobsen Turf Cat w/72-inch mulching deck.



This photo of the 358-yard fourth hole shows the opening to the green for the bump and run player. The old traditional course designs always had risk and reward shot values. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

course and started asking superintendent Jim Walker tons of questions. One day he hands me a book on turf management and tells me to read the chapter on bermudagrass. That's how it all started.

"I have high expectations, so when I got into this business, I made it a point to take classes and seminars to learn as much as I could about turfgrass and golf course operations. Much to the dismay of many of my peers, I bombarded them relentlessly with questions about how and why they did things. Just ask them. If they see me coming, they try to hide."

When Pantaleo was placed in charge of the Key Biscayne G.C. back in 1984, he learned that they would soon be hosting the Gus Machado Open, a Senior PGA Tour event.

No one in the Dade County Parks system had ever prepared for a tour event before, so Pantaleo started making phone calls looking for information. Eventually, Ray Hansen suggested Pantaleo call Paul Latshaw at Augusta to see if he could work on the volunteer staff at the Masters. Luckily, he landed a fairway

mowing job at Amen Corner and managed to get two years experience of tournament preparations.

This commitment to excellence and a willingness to ask questions and aggressively seek information has guided Pantaleo throughout his career. After beginning with Dade County 16 years ago, it brought him to Indian Creek after stops at Key Biscayne, TPC Eagle Trace, Ft. Lauderdale C.C. and the Delaire C. C. in Delray Beach.

That's how Pantaleo got to Indian Creek and now as we rode down the 10th hole after lunch, my first question concerned the soil and growing conditions. Dredged-up bay bottom didn't seem like the ideal medium for growing turfgrass under exacting conditions.

"Actually we have very few problems with the soil and drainage," he said. "Only during extreme high tides and persistent rains do we get some standing water problems in a few low areas."

"The high cation exchange capacity values and finer soil texture hold our applied nutrients and make them readily

available to the turf and trees. We have been very successful with our tree-transplanting ventures. We do get some dry spots around the greens where that "draped over" short cut extends beyond the green's well profile, and we have foot and equipment traffic. But those are like any sensitive area on any golf course that a superintendent has to be aware of.

"The one concession we make to the soil type is that we don't aerify the greens surrounds at the same time we do the putting surfaces. We don't want to mix any of the marly, shelly native soil into the green's profile, so we aerify the collars and slope areas 3 weeks after we do the greens and the holes are healed over.

"Some of the bunkers also show some of the native coquina and crushed shell content as the native soils works up into the bunker sand. On the plus side, the finer material does help to keep the bunkers on the firm side."

With 300 acres to maintain including golf course and roadway, mowing is a major factor in the maintenance plan. A combination of walking and riding mow-



Unique to the Creek

We have a large amount of short-cut turf. We have the largest fairways I've ever seen and we have no rough around the greens which is an interesting feature. 124 bunkers, many large in size pose a huge labor undertaking with raking, edging, weeding, and sand plowing. Wind on this nearly seaside course poses a challenge not only to the player but the turf manager as well with blowing sand, dry spots, turf stress, tree and shrub debris cleanup.

Built on a small mangrove island in Biscayne Bay in 1929, this is a six-month-a-year club — November to May. While the course is technically open all year, the amenities and service virtually close down for all practical purposes after May 1.

The course conditioning expectations are also relaxed as we focus on project work. Tony Morosco, the head pro here is also the head pro at the Weston CC in Boston and most of the caddies all have summer jobs on northern courses. There are 41 resident homes on the island. It remains one of the few clubs in Florida which has a residence for the superintendent on site.

Joe Pantaleo

ers is used to groom the greens surrounds. The slopes are mowed with a lightweight five-gang mower. No riding mowers are allowed between the bunkers and the putting surfaces. Triplexes are used to tie in the slope cut on the approaches, but walking mowers finish off the collars to prevent wear on the native soil surrounds.

The tees now sport an old, classic rectangular cut accomplished by using a triplex to do most of the mowing and a walk mower to groom the clean-up pass and the square corners. To maximize the teeing ground area, Pantaleo had Laser Turf, Inc. level and rebuild the tees, which was also part of the master plan.

The big job is the 60 acres of fairways and 84 acres of rough. Two Toro 6700, seven-gang mowers cut the fairways three times a week. Pantaleo helps keep the fairways tight and the clippings yield minimized by using an aggressive Primo program from April to October. He fertilizes sparingly with granulars during

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the winter and uses only fertigation in the summer to prevent over-feeding and unwanted growth. The fairways are a mixture of Ormond, common and 419 from repairs and sodding over the years. Regrassing the fairways is the number-two priority in the restoration plan

The roughs not only have the bermudagrass mixture, they also contain St. Augustine. This throws in a weed control glitch since chemicals used on St. Augustine are not necessarily compatible with those used on bermudagrass and vice versa. It takes a whole week's worth on mowing to go over the roughs just once in growing season.

In order to reduce the amount of time and money spent maintaining out-of-play rough areas, the club is experimenting with some native grass now to see if they like the look. The same goes for some of the accent beds around the tees. Exotic, high-maintenance plants are being replaced on a trial basis with native grasses and perennials.

Beyond the mowing challenge, one of Pantaleo's next worries is containing and removing the mutated and or contaminated spots in the greens slopes. The slopes were grassed with Tifdwarf to accentuate the short game. Trying to keep such large areas trouble free during construction and planting was difficult. Now each year, Pantaleo and his staff replace nearly 14,000 square feet of turf, trying to eliminate the intrusive grasses. They have their own nursery area from which they cultivate and harvest new Tifdwarf each summer.

There's another item Pantaleo must get rid of each year. Simple everyday yard trash! With 300 acres of trees and shrubs, there are lots of limbs and leaves and stumps to cycle each year. In one corner of the golf course is a well-screened "lay down" area where the tree debris is collected. Sometime during the year, Pantaleo contracts a landscape company to come in and grind up all the organic debris into a usable mulch that he spreads

back out onto the golf course. The ultimate recycling job.

"There used to be a \$10,000 line item in the budget for trash removal until we started this program," he said. "We feel good about saving the money and being responsible stewards of our property."

Another area where environmental progress has been made is in the selective use of a grass variety to save water and reduce labor. During the restoration of the greens complexes, Forse and Pantaleo got permission from the board to restore a couple of fairway complexes to their original design.

Two were selected which needed drainage work anyway to solve standing water problems. After the reconstruction, El Toro zoysiagrass was used to sod the fairway bunker faces and immediate surrounds. The grass thrives at the 1-1/2 to 2-inch rough cut and it doesn't require as much fertilizer and water, which is sometimes hard to deliver properly to bunker edges.

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Afternoon shadows begin to lengthen across the green and fairway of the 16th hole. Tree and shade management is a key part of the turf maintenance program at Indian Creek. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

South Florida Chapter

History: The granddaddy of all of the Florida chapters, the South Florida Chapter was organized in 1939 as the South Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association. Jimmy Blackledge was the first president. It spawned the Tri-County GCSA which later split to become the Palm Beach and South Florida associations. In 1973, the South Florida GCSA began an association publication called *The South Florida Green* with Mike Barger at the helm. In 1975, Dan Jones stepped in and took over the editorship. Four years later, in 1980, after the entire state mobilized into the Florida GCSA, the magazine was named the official voice of the FGCSA and the name changed to simply *The Florida Green*. So, we all owe the founders of the South Florida GCSA a debt of gratitude for getting it all started 60 years ago.

Activities: The South Florida chapter hosts two important annual events: the **South Florida Turf Expo**, which funds over half of the technician salary at the FGCSA research green. The planning and construction of the research green, built at the University of Florida Research and Education Center in Ft. Lauderdale, was spearheaded by the South Florida chapter. Named for legendary superintendent Otto Schmeisser, the green has been the site for many research projects and turf evaluations by IFAS faculty. The other event, **The Missing and Exploited Children Tournament** supports the work done on behalf of abused children in the Dade/Broward area. In addition to these major events, the South Florida Chapter carries out an aggressive monthly meeting schedule to provide education and networking opportunities for its members.

Current officers: Jim Walker, Palmetto G.C., president; Gilly MacGregor, Westview C.C., vice president; Bryan Singleton, Riviera C.C., secretary/treasurer; Jim Goins, Hollybrook G & T. C., external vice president.

Membership: 191 total members for 1998-99.

It is a win-win solution so far.

A tour of Indian Creek wouldn't be complete without a visit to the superintendent's residence adjacent to the maintenance complex. Once a fixture at many of the exclusive private clubs built during bygone days, only a handful of courses in south Florida still have superintendent residences.

Located in the interior of the golf course behind the 7th green, Pantaleo lives in a house that has its own share of Indian Creek history as room additions were added over the years to accommodate superintendents and their families. The daughters of the legendary superintendent Otto Schmeisser grew up here and often helped mow fairways in the summertime.

Pantaleo invited me to bunk overnight and we shared histories of our own golf experiences far into the night.

A lot of Florida history is to be learned and appreciated at Indian Creek: from real estate development in the "boom" days, classic golf course architecture once lost and now found again, to the stories of the lives of the people who have inhabited this island in the stream.

A problem as common as goosegrass shouldn't promote a panic. But it did.



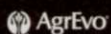
Here in Florida, a goosegrass escape isn't exactly front page news. But when a super who I've dealt with for years called me in something close to panic because his goosegrass treatment was leaving ugly brown spots, it got my attention. Seems the problem was caused by an old fashioned herbicide that he'd used for years. I suggested he change to an Illoxan® Herbicide postemergent program to control goosegrass right through the year. He liked the idea, incorporating it into his IPM program. Even sent me a goose call in the mail, just in case the problem should ever reoccur. Fortunately, it hasn't.



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Superintendents and Suppliers

Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products conducted a series of "New Equipment Road Rally Days" in January to bring new equipment into the field for hands-on inspection by potential customers. Here Travis Tresca (far left) and Jim Headley, Textron's Regional Sales Manager (2nd from right) go over Ransome's Enviro Jet unit with a group of Disney superintendents and assistants. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Relationship Between Superintendent and Suppliers is Crucial

Behind the scenes at every golf course, one of the most crucial relationships in the success of that operation takes place. It is the working relationship established between the superintendent and the vendors and suppliers who service that golf course.

These relationships range from very formal arrangements dictated by purchasing department policies and national account agreements to the informal handshake and phone call transactions where a man's word is his bond.

Superintendents who don't plan

ahead and keep track of inventory and expect a supplier to bail them out on a moment's notice are just as unprofessional as a supplier who promises things he can't deliver and tries to sell a product without really knowing if it's a good fit for his customer. Each side of this partnership need to respect the other's valuable time and should make or cancel appointments promptly so no one wastes time waiting for the other or traveling out of the way to make a call that can't happen.

Following good business ethics is still the best way to go for your job security and personal integrity. Fortunately the old stories of purchasing kickbacks and gratuities is becoming a thing of the past in our business.

The background and training of suppliers has changed over the years from

purely sales and marketing types who may or may not have had an agricultural background to a sales force made up of many ex-superintendents. While that change has many positives in terms of the salesperson understanding your problems, ex-superintendents must learn the business side of the equation.

I think it takes a special person to be able to go from being a superintendent to an effective sales person. The ideal personality profiles for those two occupations aren't always interchangeable.

Superintendents partner daily with suppliers for the conduct of normal business at the course. They also rely heavily on the support of industry to help finance turf research through the support of scores of state and local events. We owe the excellent network of distributors and companies throughout Florida