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DIMENSION ^b	H	M	H	M	H	M	M	M
TEAM ^c	H	M	M	M	M	M	NR	NR
RONSTAR ^d	M	H	NR	M	M	NR	NR	NR
SURFLAN ^e	H	H	H	M	MH	M	H	H
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The 17th hole, a 142 yard par 3 is part of a six acre manmade wetland . Photo by Daniel Zelazek

***Wildlife is a big deal
at this urban bayside
golf course, which is
currently in pursuit of
attaining certification
in the Audubon
Cooperative
Sanctuary Program.***

ter quality is much improved along with the habitat for wildlife.”

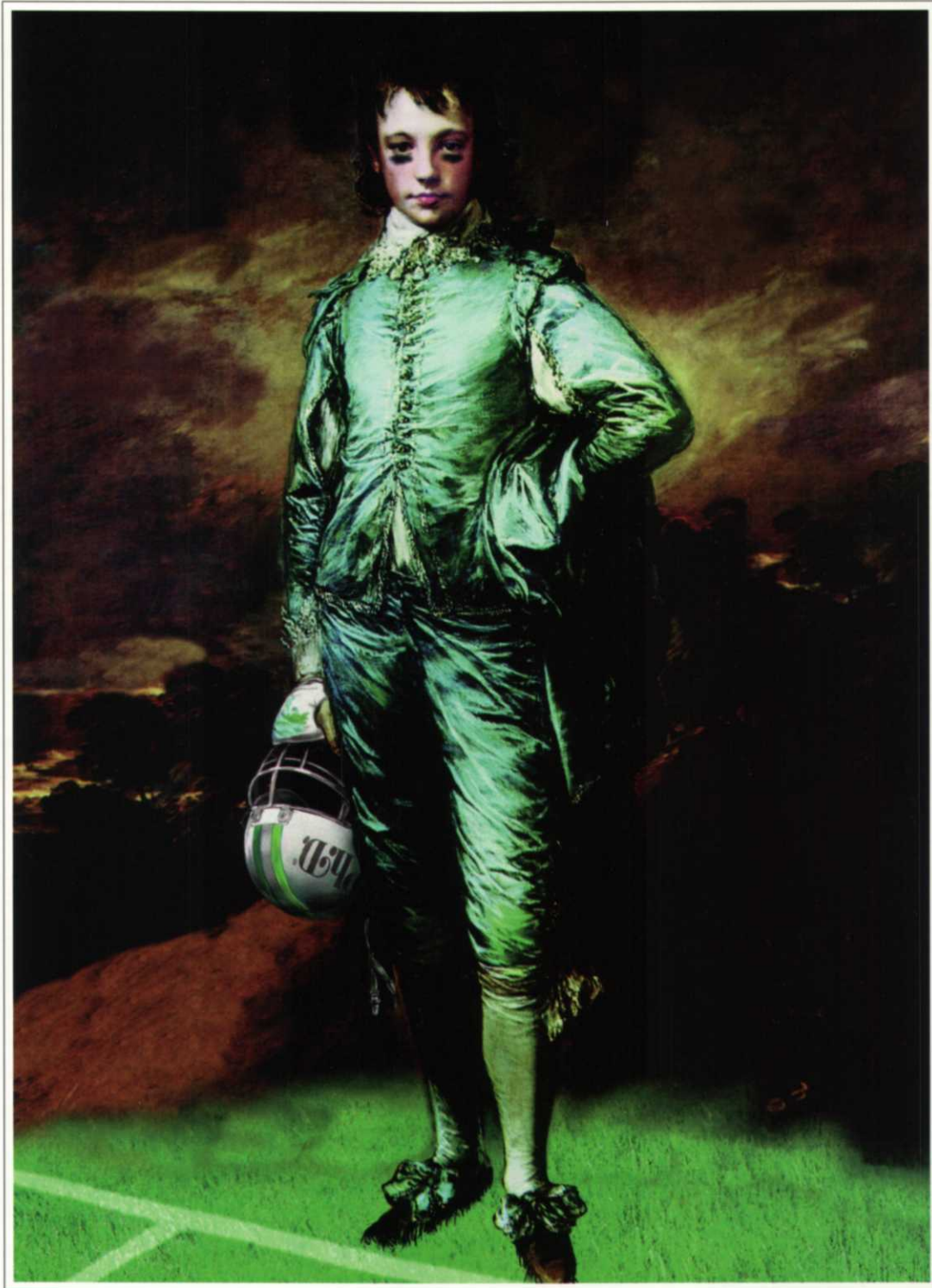
Wildlife is a big deal at this urban bayside golf course. As part of the public outreach in the ACSP certification program, Lewis has a wildlife log book at the counter in the pro shop. Members and players are encouraged to log any sighting of wildlife seen during their rounds. Others can leaf through the book and see what sightings have already occurred.

Tana McBride, a beverage cart hostess at the club, helps Lewis by making a point of looking for and document wildlife sightings. She also helps protect the resident critters by informing the maintenance staff of nesting sites, especially of the waterfowl.

Lewis is constantly looking for out-of-play areas that can reasonably be converted to native grass beds. He also encourages the naturally salt-tolerant paspalum grasses to grow in the roughs around the brackish water lakes, saying they make a decent turf at the taller rough height of cut.

Bird boxes and osprey platforms have also been added to the course and Lewis says one platform has yielded four pairs of fledgling fish hawks so far. The course is also the site of an official annual Audubon Society Bird Count, although Lewis says he wishes they would come out a little earlier. He says they are missing another 30 to 40 percent of the population. Hey, the early birder gets the count!

Legendary!



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Views of the Vinoy

PHOTOS BY JOEL JACKSON

The Renaissance Vinoy Resort is a wildlife sanctuary on Snell Island in downtown St. Petersburg. Already listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Vinoy is working to become a Certified Wildlife Sanctuary in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System. Below, right, wood storks pose near a wood duck next box. Herons, mallards and cormorants were also approachable. However, the resident African gray parrots, roseate spoonbill and iguana were too camera shy to be photographed.

Right, superintendent Cary Lewis, CGCS shows off a unique air hose station outside the clubhouse for cleaning off golf shoes. He says it does a better job than traditional brushes.



In the clubhouse grille room, a scale model of the golf course under glass serves as the bar top. The unique visual aid stimulates and helps illustrate the recounting of golf rounds at the 19th hole.



Vinoy beverage hostess Tana McBride acts as a wildlife spotter for Lewis and his staff. She reports sightings of new species and the location of nesting sites so the mowing crews can avoid them.



A wildlife log book in the pro shop enables golfers to document sightings of birds and other wildlife. The book keeps members involved in the Audubon program and helps meet the outreach requirements for certification.



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This formerly sandy soil waste bunker between holes #3 and #4 is being converted to a crushed oyster shell material. This crushed material, similar to coquina gravel, provides a better playing surface to hit from and requires less maintenance for grooming. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Lewis has experimented with many of the new biological and organic products, trying to find materials that will allow him to use the most environmentally friendly products as possible.

“Some of the materials show promise, but most still take too long to control a pest or disease if a serious outbreak occurs. But we are definitely in a trend of using less pesticides by improving our management of the soil. I firmly believe in sub surface and slit injection methods of applying needed pesticides to reduce surface contact with golfers and wildlife and to put the chemical directly where the pests are. This makes them safer to use and more effective.”

Lewis says his primary pest problems are mole crickets and weeds.

“Chipco Choice has been a great tool for combating mole crickets. It’s the best thing to come along in my time. Weeds are another story. This course is so old

and has so much weed seed buried in the soil that we are challenged to keep them under control. We follow spring and fall preemergent herbicide programs and do selective post-emergent spot spraying as needed.”

The biggest agronomic problem Lewis faces is the high sodium content of the soil. With its 75-year history of salt water flooding and tidal action plus the 400-800 ppm of sodium in the irrigation water, Lewis must constantly be on the lookout for signs of sodic reactions in the soil.

“We installed an acid injection unit on our irrigation system and found that by adding small amounts of calcium nitrate and sulfate via the dual head injector, we could almost create a “liquid gypsum” effect to help tie up the sodium in the soil. Our biggest challenge comes during the dry spells when the sodium settles out of the soil solution. When the

rains come they naturally flush the sodium out. We also aerify and apply granular gypsum to help keep the sodium levels manageable.”

Keeping the course in good shape not only requires Lewis and his staff to focus on the grass and the soil, but also on the golfers. Since the Vinoy is a private resort, Lewis has the dual role of keeping members and resort guests happy. Lewis works closely with Director of Golf Randy Mosley to assure that the course is kept open as much as possible to serve both groups.

“Randy has previous private club and resort experience so he knows the challenges we face,” Lewis says. “We touch base almost daily so we know what’s happening with play and maintenance at all times. Randy is very good at creating gaps for us when we absolutely need to do critical maintenance.

“While his focus is understandably

member-guest satisfaction and service, he also knows that maintenance has to be a priority to achieve that. When we disagree on an issue, we close the door, sit down and discuss it, and when the door opens we are on the same page and support each other.

"Since there is no greens committee per se, I meet quarterly with the members' Ambassador Committee to discuss course conditions, projects and any other issues they might have. We do everything in our power and budget to accommodate their ideas and concerns since they are the core group of our clientele."

"Actually, the private membership and resort golf combination works pretty well. Most of the members like to play in the mornings and most of our resort golf is business outings in the afternoon after meetings."

The subject of golf and golfers brings us full circle to the history of the Vinoy. Recently named again by *Golf for Women*

West Coast Chapter

History: The Florida West Coast Golf Course Superintendents Association was founded in 1949 and is second only to the South Florida GCSA in longevity. Like their South Florida counterparts their activity ebbed and flowed as distance separated the major golf regions around the state in the early days.

Founding members: Harvey Meeks, Bill Meeks, Harvey Phillips, Bernie Felton, Pete Chuta, Doed Bolesta, Pop Hall, Colonel Frank Ward, Tim Johnson, Walter Rich, Hans Smizzen and Gus Thomas.

Activities: This year the FWCGCSA will host its 37th Annual Bud Quandt Research and Benefit Tournament. Proceeds from this tournament go to benefit turf research, student scholarships, the Moffitt Cancer Institute and All Children's Hospital. The event was named in honor of Charles "Bud" Quandt, former superintendent of the Pasadena Yacht & C. C. who was an instrumental leader and guiding force for the chapter in the 70s and 80s.

Honors and Awards: West Coast members who have served the state with distinction include FGCSA past presidents Don Delaney (84); Reed LeFebvre (87) and Cecil Johnston (89). Cary Lewis, CGCS, is the current president of the FGCSA. Recipients of the FGCSA's President's Award for Lifetime Service Award include Bud Quandt (90); Harvey Phillips (91) and Don Delaney (93).

Officers for 2000-2001: President and external vice president, Eric Joy; internal vice president, Whit Derrick; secretary/treasurer, Jim Sharpe.

Membership: 76 Class A, B, & C members in a total of 198.

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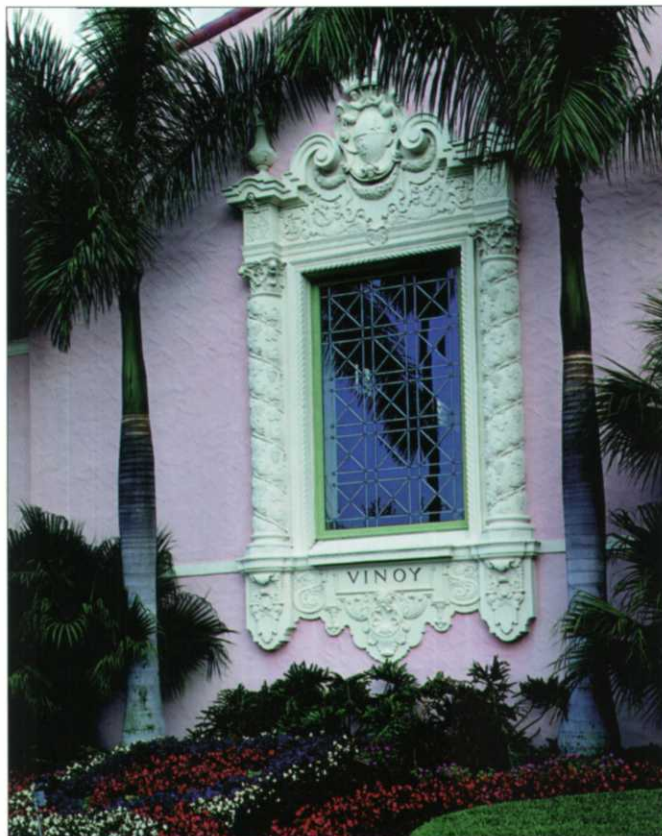
Many out-of-play areas like this location between the 3rd tee and fairway have been converted to native grass beds to reduce irrigated areas, fertilizer and pesticide applications and labor hours to mow. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Magazine as one of the top 100 courses friendly to women, the Vinoy has other ties to women's golf.

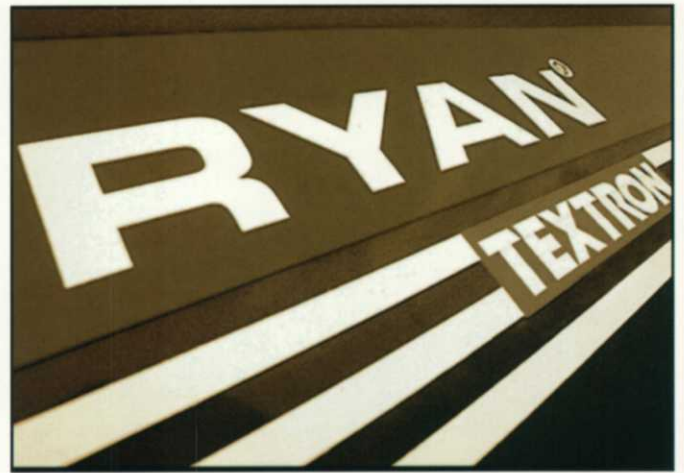
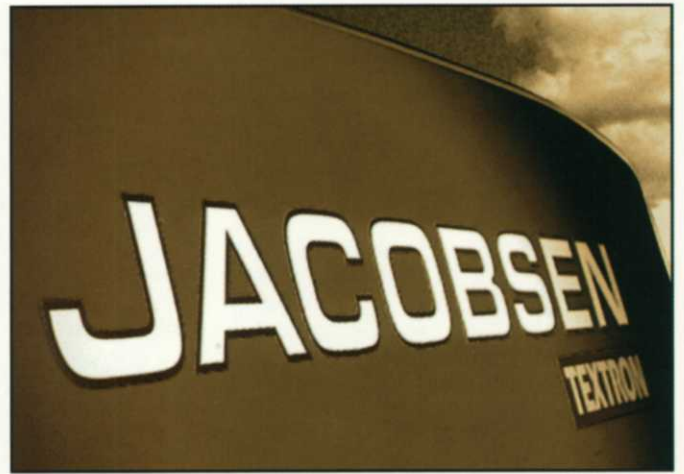
In the clubhouse is a room called the Polywog Room, named for the local women's group who founded the St. Petersburg Women's Open Golf Championship. The Greek prefix "poly" and "wog," the acronym for Women's Open Golf, constructs the name.

The event was one of the tournaments on the tour that later became the Ladies Professional Golf Association Tour. Legendary stories contend that famed area resident and lady golfer Babe Zaharias gathered colleagues in this room for some of the earliest organizational meetings for what is now the LPGA.

The Boom Era of Florida gave rise to many historic sites around the state, but perhaps none as eloquent as the Renaissance Vinoy Resort. It's nice to know that our new president is responsible for helping to preserve this landmark in time.



The 1925 Mediterranean Revival-style architecture of the Vinoy Renaissance Hotel is reflected in this unique window treatment. The hotel reopened in 1992 after a \$93 million dollar renovation and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.



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The Changing Face of PDI

Editor's note: By now all Class A, B and C GCSAA members should have received a set of the revised PDI recommendations. (See the Meeting and Time line schedule at the end of this article.) This article shows some of the questions raised nationwide by PDI and the responses and changes implemented by the MSRG. The PDI issue was discussed at the FGCSA board meeting in August, and each chapter was asked to come to its own decision concerning the PDI and to take the consensus of the individual chapter to Lawrence for the September GCSAA Delegates meeting.

BY CHUCK BORMAN, CAROLINAS GCSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AND HANNES COMBEST, GCSAA DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

The MSRG has struggled for almost three years with developing a classification system that will provide us a means to better market ourselves in the industry.

-BRUCE R WILLIAMS, CGCS
CHAIRMAN
Membership Standards Resource Group

As we have seen in the last two issues of *Carolinas Green*, the GCSAA Professional Development Initiative has generated much comment and debate within the association. This article will inform you of changes to PDI that have been recommended by a cross-committee meeting of the GCSAA's Education, Certification and Career Development committees in Lawrence on April 15-16.

Along with the above-mentioned committees, the Membership Standard Resources Group was in attendance to discuss the MSRG's proposal and the feedback received to date from members.

The 80 committee members present were asked to review, revise, and define the MSRG recommendations, define ongoing requirements and identify specific responsibilities for committees.

Bruce R. Williams, CGCS, chairman of the MSRG, led the two-day cross-committee meeting and began with a summary of the process the group was using in communicating this

information to members. By the time this group met, the MSRG had made more than 70 presentations and several themes were recurring as questions or comments: required formal education; mandatory use of HR Web; required validation of self-assessment; required pesticide license; a need for better definition of ongoing requirements; ensuring continuing education is affordable and accessible; and grandfathering issues, particularly relevant to Class C members.

During the next two days, each of these issues was thoroughly discussed.

According to Williams, the meeting was very productive.

"The MSRG has struggled for almost three years with developing a classification system that will provide us a means to better market ourselves in the industry. This meeting provided valuable feedback to the prototype we developed and I believe the final product will be much stronger because of it."

Following are the outcomes related to this meeting and these issues:

Formal education

Some members expressed that no formal education should be required or if one was required, an alternative path should be developed to give opportunities to those individuals who were not able to obtain a degree.

Outcome: the participants of the cross-committee meeting recommended that a two-year turf degree be required but that an alternative path to meet this requirement be developed. This alternative path should be stringent and should include continuing education, service and tenure.

Mandatory use of HR Web

This issue was raised in three ways during the presentations: 1) the security of the HR Web; 2) employers will misuse the information on the HR Web; 3) why should we mandate this tool. Some people during the presentations expressed the belief that the HR Web is not secure; that people will be able to obtain individual competency profiles without permission.