

what you have been doing since my disappearance into mommy land. I'll be sure to brag on your efforts, and I promise to be around for a long time nudging, preaching, using guilt, and generally arm-twisting you all into doing your best to promote and protect environmental quality on golf courses.

There are currently a total of 2177 golf courses across the country in the program. So, Florida makes up 9.2 percent of membership in ACSP for golf courses. We lead the country in fully certified golf courses with 33. Illinois is the next with 18, with New York and New Jersey behind them with 12 each. So we have a lot to be proud of... and a long way to go my friends.

Congratulations to Quail Ridge Country Club in Boynton Beach, which became our newest certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Aug. 24. Check out the ACSP sidebar in this article for the names of the newest members of the program.

Managed Lands Survey

Next follows the results of Audubon International's Managed Lands Survey for Golf Courses Participating in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program

Background and Methodology

In 1991, Audubon International and the United States Golf Association launched the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses (ACSP), an environmental education program designed to help golf courses play a significant role in enhancing and protecting wildlife habitat and natural resources.

The ACSP provides an advisory information service to help golf courses conduct environmental projects and achieve positive recognition for their efforts.

Today, 2,177 courses throughout the United States are enrolled in the program and 256 have achieved designation as Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries by implementing and documenting a full compliment of conservation activities.

What is the result of participation in the ACSP? Do courses that participate achieve the program's desired goal of enhancing and protecting the environment?

To answer these questions, Audubon International conducted an environmental survey to assess the impact of program participation on a number of key environmental priority areas. These included wildlife habitat conservation, water quality, and chemical use and reduction.

In addition, the survey included a brief assessment of participant attitudes related the impact of ACSP participation on golf playing quality, job satisfaction, and golfer satisfaction.

The survey was mailed in April to 2,035 ACSP golf course members. By the closing date of July 10, 284 returns had been received, yielding a 14 percent response rate.

Environmental Outcomes

Wildlife & Habitat Management

Results

The ACSP provides significant educational information and resources to help land managers enhance and protect habitat for native wildlife species. Results of the Managed Lands Survey show that the majority of participants are implementing a variety of measures to enhance and protect wildlife habitats.

Since joining the ACSP...

- 73% added gardens for birds/wildlife
- 79% decreased the amount of managed turfgrass
- 49% removed exotic invasive plants
- 44% currently involved in an ecological restoration project

Wildlife Habitat Results since joining the ACSP...

- 30 acres/course average increase in acres devoted to providing wildlife habitat. From an average of 40 acres per course before joining to 70 acres after — a 75 percent increase

Florida ACSP Status

as of 8/24/00

- 236 Total number of Florida courses in the program.
- 33 Total number of Florida courses fully certified.
- 94 Total number of Florida courses in some stage of certification.

New Members

Grenelefe G&T Resort, Haines City
 Lely Resort G&CC, Naples
 Naples Lakes CC, Naples
 The Strand GC, Naples
 MGGI-Hidden Creek, Navarre
 Presidential CC, North Miami Beach
 IGM-The Major's GC, Palm Bay
 Camp Creek, Panama City Beach
 Patrick AFB, Cocoa Beach
 MGGI-Walden Lakes G&CC, Plant City
 Burnt Store Marina, Punta Gorda
 MGGI-Shalimar Point G&C, Shalimar
 Eagle Ridge, Summerfield
 Old Memorial GC, Tampa
 Vero Beach CC, Vero Beach

Newly Certified

Quail Ridge CC, Boynton Beach

Recertified

Bonita Bay Creekside Course, Bonita Springs
 Bonita Bay Island Course, Bonita Springs
 Bonita Bay Marsh Course, Bonita Springs
 Panama CC, Lynnhaven
 River Hills CC, Valrico
 Tampa Palms CC, Tampa
 TPC at Heron Bay, Coral Springs
 TPC at Tampa Bay, Lutz

- 1,624 feet/course average increase in naturalized shorelines around water features. From an average of 2197 feet per course before joining to 3820 feet after — a 74 percent increase
- 15 acres/course average increase in forest understory allowed to grow. From an average 28 acres per course before joining to 42 acres after — a 54 percent increase



64% maintain an inventory list of plants and wildlife on the property: Before joining, 16%.

90% conscientiously choose native plants when landscaping: Before joining, 45%.

Water Quality

Results

The ACSP aims to help land managers protect water quality for irrigation, drinking water supplies, and aquatic habitats and wildlife species. Responses to the Managed Lands Survey suggest that managers are taking increasing steps to protect water resources from potential pollutants.

Since joining the ACSP...

51% increased the amount of emergent vegetation in ponds.

56% increased the width of "no-spray zones" around water features.

21% increased the number of drains that are daylighted or emptied into vegetative swales.

12% conduct macro invertebrate testing of water quality. Before joining, 2%.

45% have a contained equipment wash-off area. Before joining, 23%.

Chemical Use Reduction and Safety

Helping members to reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers as well as safely use, store, and handle chemicals is a key environmental priority of the ACSP. Results of the Managed Lands Survey show that people have been able to achieve that goal without sacrificing golf course playing quality or member satisfaction.

Since joining the ACSP...

86% reduced pesticide use.

92% using pesticides with a lower toxicity level

90% decreased chemical use by improving cultural control methods.

66% reduced fertilizer use.

84% increased the percentage of slow-release fertilizers used.

Increased the percentage of natural-organic fertilizers used 78%

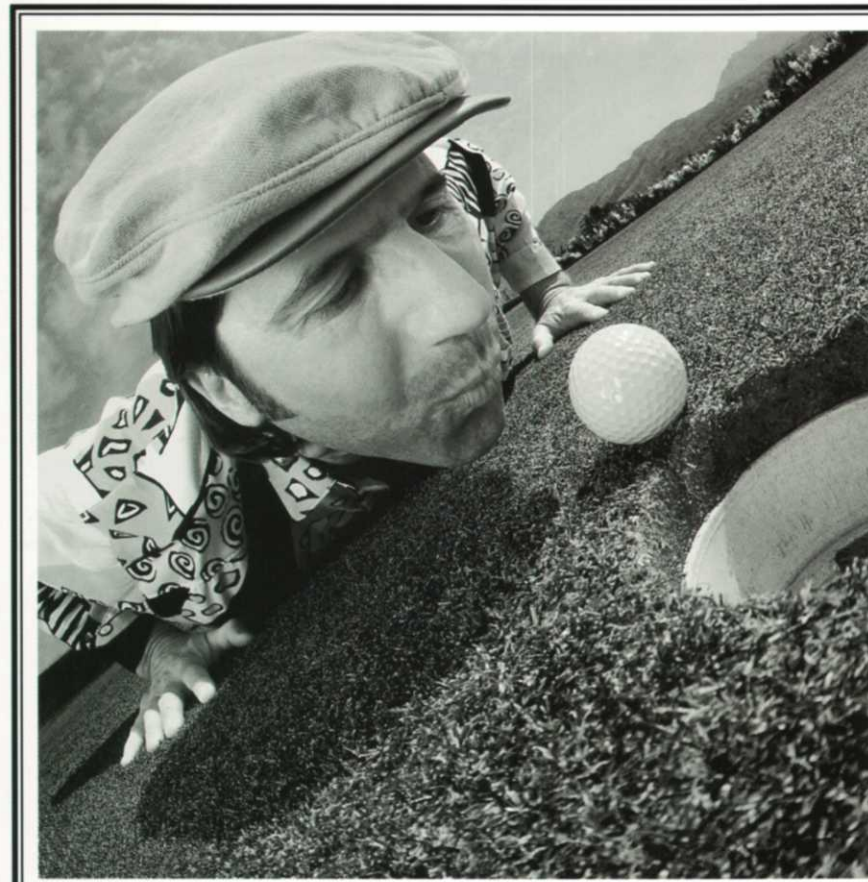
62% have spill containment for pesticide mixing and loading area: Before joining, 30%.

Opinion Results

How has playing quality changed since joining the ACSP? Playing quality improved or remained the same for 99 percent of ACSP participants.

How has your overall job satisfaction been affected by joining the ACSP? Job satisfaction improved for 64 percent of ACSP participants.

How has golfer satisfaction changed? Golfer satisfaction remained the same or improved for 99 percent of ACSP golf courses.



Results have a way of weeding out the amateurs.

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The Politics of Chemicals

BY DAVID G. CASSIDY

Editor, *Turf Magazine*

If anyone had any doubts before, it should now be obvious that with the recent restrictions announced on chlorpyrifos products (known to most people by the most common trade names Dursban and Lorsban), the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) is more about politics than science — more about elections than facts — more about what is expedient than what is right.

I have the EPA's press release announcing the restrictions on chlorpyrifos on my desk, and the headline alone makes me want to vomit. The headline reads, "Clinton-Gore Administration Acts to Eliminate Major Uses of the Pesticide Dursban to Protect Children and Public Health."

I've written before on how despicable it is for us to allow our politicians to use our children as pawns in their political agendas, so I'll leave that part alone. The first three words of this headline tell us all we need to know about what's going on here: "Clinton-Gore Administration . . ."

Why do you think Mr. Gore's name has all of a sudden become part of the story? The answer is the same as that to the question, "Why do you think the EPA decided to use the FQPA to go after the single most used and well known insecticide in the world?"

Haven't got the answer yet?

Well, the same answer could be used to answer the questions, "Why did the EPA ignore the testimony of over 200 individuals, each attesting to the benefits and safety of Dursban? Why was 35 years of safe use ignored, while an old study

about neurological effects in rodents held up as proof of the need for these restrictions?"

Still need the answer? Here it is: The presidential elections. This action and its timing is all about Mr. Gore solidifying his support in the environmental community. More importantly for Mr. Gore, having the EPA attack such a well known chemical (notice the use of the trade name in the headline, as opposed to the more correct use of the chemical name, which would not have made such a big splash) helps to get him support in the less-reactionary-yet-environmentally-concerned suburban homeowners.

Here are a few of the other gems you can find in the EPA press release: "Today's action will also significantly reduce residues of chlorpyrifos on several foods regularly eaten by children."

What residues? Do we have a "residue" problem? (the answer is "no, we don't"). Also, where is the study that shows which foods are "regularly eaten by children?"

EPA administrator Carol M. Browner is quoted as saying, "Now that we have completed the most extensive scientific evaluation ever conducted on the poten-

tial health hazards of a pesticide . . ." What "evaluation?" I've been looking for four weeks and can't find evidence of any studies conducted on Dursban by the EPA for the FQPA. I ask Administrator Browner, were these supposed studies more "extensive" than the evidence offered by 35 years of safe and effective use in this and over 80 other countries?

Here's another: "Exposure to these kinds of pesticides can cause neurological effects." Notice the careful wording. It doesn't say "neurological harm" or "damage." What the heck is a "neurological effect?"

I would also like to remind the EPA and the Clinton-Gore Administration that we are talking about a pesticide here, not a food supplement. It is *supposed* to kill things. When used correctly, it kills things that can cause disease and death. Yes, even sickness and death in children.

Since you won't find them in any of the EPA materials I've seen, here are a few facts about Dursban and the new rules that I have come across:

- One of the most widely used homeowner applied pesticides in the world, will no longer be available for homeowner use in the USA after existing stocks have been depleted.

- This action is not based on any new study or new information. Dursban has been around for over 30 years and is the most tested pesticide on the market. Nothing new has been added to what we already know about this substance.

- There is not one case — not one — of any person, child or adult, being harmed by the proper use of Dursban. (In a *Seattle Times* article following the EPA announcement, William O. Robertson — for 30 years the director of a Poison Control Center — offered that he could not recall a single incident of a Dursban-caused illness).

- There are thousands of people who rely on this product to safely and effectively protect themselves and their families from such pests as fire ants, cockroaches, stinging insects, fleas, spiders and ticks, not to mention the protection from termites. (In the same *Seattle Times* article, Mr. Robertson says that they see very few incidents of pesticide exposures

of any kind, but they do see numerous cases of insect bites and bee stings. He estimates that for every call they receive about pesticide exposure, they receive 100 about insect bites.)

- Over 200 individuals testified in EPA hearings on the benefits of Dursban; everyone from lawn care operators to homeowners and even a kid who was bitten by a brown recluse spider.

- All studies (over 3600 to date) show that Dursban does not travel to ground water, and that it breaks down on site (through microorganisms and UV radiation). After it dries, tests repeatedly show it does not transfer.

- Dursban has never been shown to be carcinogenic to humans.

- The much reported info that Dursban has been shown to cause neuro-problems in rats is not new information. Forget the fact that there is much evidence that the rat study does not transfer to humans. To replicate the dosage given to the rats in that study, you would have

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to do an indoor application of Dursban over an entire home every three minutes over 500 times in a row. If you did that with Cheez Whiz it would probably kill you.

So, the facts are that there is no new information about Dursban. No one has been harmed by it. It is not harmful to the environment. And yet, we can thank "Clinton-Gore" for protecting our "chil-

dren." I hope we can all remember to blame "Clinton-Gore" for the pain and suffering experienced next year by all the people (including the "children") who will be bitten by brown recluse spiders, stinging wasps and lyme ticks.

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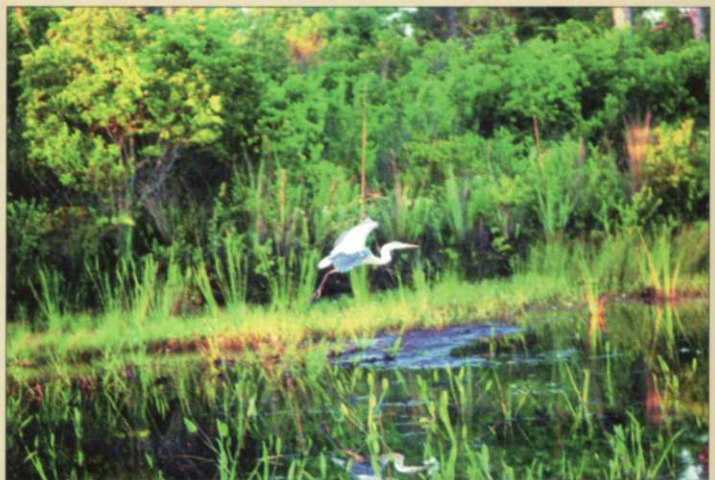


**Editor's
Choice**
*Best overall
photograph*
*Birdbath by Mike
Hamilton, Foxfire
C.C.*



6th Annual Florida Green Photo Contest

The winners this year were chosen for a combination of technical quality and originality. Mike Hamilton continues to be in the right place at the right time to shoot the most intriguing photo to capture his second consecutive Editor's Choice Award.



Wildlife

Includes mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians.

Left, 1st Place: The Sentinel by John Stach, Olde Hickory G. & C.C. Above, 2nd Place: The Habitat at Valkaria by Lyne Page, The Habitat G.C.



Formal Plantings

Includes annuals, shrubs, trees, entrance and tee signs.

1st Place: Formal Tee by Mike Hamilton, Foxfire C.C.

Native Plantings
Includes aquatic vegetation, grasses, shrubs, trees and wildflowers.



Above, 1st Place: Build It And They Will Come by John Stach, Olde Hickory G. & C.C.

Left, 2nd Place: Sun Catchers by Lyne Page, The Habitat G.C.





Scenic Hole Layout
*Includes sunrises, sunsets,
frosts, storms and any other
golf hole view.*

*Above, 1st Place: The Day Begins
by Mike Hamilton, Foxfire C.C.*

*Right, 2nd Place: The 18th Hole
by John Stach, Olde Hickory G &
C.C.*



Call For Articles

This is a call for articles for the 2001 issues of the Florida Green.

Contact Joel D. Jackson, Editor for more information. Phone: 407-248-1971. Fax: 407-248-1971. E-mail; FLGrn@aol.com. All slides and photographs should include identification of persons in the picture and the name of the photographer.

HANDS ON TOPICS: Share your best practices and tips for these upcoming topics. Slides or photographs are encouraged.

- **Winter 2001** - Personal Financial Planning
- **Spring 2001** - Fertility Programs
- **Summer 2001** - Utility Vehicles

• **Fall 2001** - Computers as Management Tools

SPOTLIGHT: People and events making news in Florida. From award winners to chapter tournaments and other accomplishments. Send in your story.

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

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: General management topics beyond turf. Examples: Education, facilities, personnel, computers, training, etc.

INDUSTRY NEWS: News items of interest to Florida superintendents from allied associations in the turf/ horticulture industry.

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. Also reports of practical on-course testing.

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

STEWARDSHIP: Superintendents are invited to submit ideas and articles about environmental issues and initiatives at their courses.

Wanted: Slides and photographs to help tell the stories!



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My tenure as president of the Florida Turfgrass Association came to an end Aug. 15 at the annual Conference and Show. I want to personally thank Darren Davis and the entire Florida GCSA Board for their ardent support over the past year, and new FGCSA President Cary Lewis for offering me the post of FTGA Committee chairman to continue strengthening the cooperative bonds between the two associations. I am very proud that golf course superintendents

are the largest and most active segment of the FTGA, and I hope it always stays that way.

Though I've said it before in this column many times, it bears repeating that it is in the best interests of all superintendents to align ourselves with other turfgrass professionals for the increased political clout we can muster together, and for the talent and energy that these other

professionals can bring to bear on our mutual problems. One only needs to see new FTGA President Erica Santella of TruGreen-ChemLawn in action at a regulatory meeting about fertilizer or pesticide applications for irrefutable proof. I think it fair to say that neither the FGCSA nor the FTGA has had a significant accomplishment based solely on the associations' strength and reputation — strong individuals have made things happen, but neither association has yet really come of age.

If these comments seem unimportant to you, then I don't think you've been paying attention to what's going on in the golf and turf industry. Why is it that management companies are proliferating? Why are there no increases in the number of rounds played in the U.S. since 1988 despite the fact that about 5,000 new golf courses have opened for play? Why does the public still think that golf courses are bad for the environment? Why does the EPA interpret risk analysis data differently from the manufacturers? Why are there anti-golf and anti-science groups

destroying turfgrass research plots? Why did the National Audubon Society *censure* and *sue* Ron Dodson's Audubon International for trying to work with golf courses through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program?

We are still a weak and fragmented group of professionals who are more reactive than proactive because the vast majority of our peers choose not to help those of us who are trying to help shape and secure our futures as golf and turf professionals. Perhaps the time has come to consider following the lead of the Seven Rivers GCSA and make membership in FTGA mandatory for membership in one of the chapters of the FGCSA, just as chapter membership is necessary for membership in the GCSAA. You are helping yourself, your peers, and your industry just by joining, even if you have little time to participate.

Our cooperative efforts have helped move the University of Florida turfgrass program toward preeminence in the country. We are cooperating with other professional turfgrass-related associations on advisory boards and future cooperative trade shows. We have just begun an ambitious fund-raising program targeting golfers spearheaded by Don Benham and UF's Dr. Terril Nell. We recently created a Best Management Practices committee to clear up ambiguous and/or conflicting BMPs for turf, but even more significantly, to engage regulatory agencies in the creation of BMPs so that a united front can be maintained against the local and regional Napoleon and Hitler politicians who pop up on a regular basis.

I am especially encouraged about the potential benefits to our industry by working with regulatory agency representatives on this new BMP committee. I have always espoused the opinion that we need to educate the general public about our industry to reverse our generally poor environmental image, but the costs to do so have always been prohibitive. I now feel that we may be able to accomplish as much by educating and working with the regulatory agencies, a task within our abilities and budget.

There is no "us" and "them" in regards to the FGCSA and the FTGA — each association has its own mission, but both associations share the same goals. More superintendents need to realize this. 🦋

*Time to
come
together*

**Mark
My Words**



Mark Jarrell, CGCS