

The habitat improvement will help many other species in the Keys besides the butterflies, including migrating birds, according to Emmel and wildlife officials. Songbirds flying south to the tropics for the winter use the Keys as a "staging area" to store up on nutrients for the long flight across open water, while birds returning north in the spring to breed rely on the Keys to recuperate, Emmel said. The butterfly project will help ensure the birds have the natural habitat they need, he said.

The Schaus was nearly extinct in 1984, when Emmel counted just 70 adults. His findings prompted the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list the butterfly as endangered. Emmel spent much of the 1980's tracing the butterfly's plight to two pesticides, Baytex and Dibron, used to combat mosquitoes, findings that spurred a moratorium on Baytex and tight regulation of Dibron. The population began recovering, only to undergo a nearly catastrophic collapse because of Hurricane Andrew in 1992. Fortunately, a UF captive breeding pro-

gram launched before Andrew augmented the 17 post-hurricane male butterflies left in the wild.

Today, following the introduction of 2,000 butterflies, the annual wild population consists of 1,000 to 1,200 adults located in 13 sites stretching from southern Dade County to the middle keys in Monroe County. Urban developments and a lack of habitat, however, separate these sites, preventing the butterflies from reaching each other to mate. Because the butterflies stem from a small population of ancestors, the separation could result in a dangerous lack of genetic diversity, Emmel said. The isolation of the butterflies also makes them more vulnerable to hurricanes or other disasters, he said.

Researchers decided the solution was to connect several of the colonies using recreated hardwood hammock habitat on two major golf courses as well as adjacent public lands. The golf courses, Sombrero Country Club on Marathon Key and Cheeca Lodge on Islamorada Key, agreed to the

project, and researchers began transforming the roughs into native habitat in September 1999. So far, they've planted 300 fire bush plants and 630 pentas plants to serve as adult nectar sources, and 1,500 wild lime trees currently are being grown for the project, Emmel said. The wild limes are particularly important because they are the natural host of the butterfly's caterpillars, he said.

Emmel said the researchers are coupling the habitat improvements on the golf courses with similar improvements on public lands, including planting 500 lime trees on an old federal military site in Key Largo during the past two years. Last spring researchers were overjoyed to discover dozens of Schaus eggs on the trees, he said.

"The Schaus Swallowtail is a flagship species for the whole idea of restoring the Keys to something like they once were," Emmel said.

SHELLY FOY

USGA Green Section Florida Region

2000 Florida Green Photo Contest

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 2000 issue.



2000 Photo contest - Category 1 — Wildlife Down Under. Kangaroos on #17 green, Joondalup Resort, Perth, Western Australia. Photo by Ed Fatica. And we thought armadillos were bad!

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 1, 2000.



University of Florida Turfgrass Research Projects for Y2K

The following list of current and ongoing projects at the University of Florida and the IFAS Research and Education Centers around the state is a reminder that meaningful research takes time and money. These projects are funded by donations from product manufacturers, seed and sod producers, GCSAA, USGA, FTGA and FGCSA sources.

Those oriented toward immediate results often forget that a research project proposal submitted and approved in one FGCSA/FTGA budget year may not get under way for several months or until the next season, depending on the nature of the project. Then the process of replication and documentation takes place followed by tabulation and interpretation of the collected data. The FGCSA board wants you to know the scope of all the research that is under way. The projects are grouped under topics of special interest.

Methyl Bromide Alternatives

- Fumigant Alternatives for the Replacement of Methyl Bromide, Unruh, Brecke, Kinloch & Dusky
- Impact of the Reduction of Methyl Bromide Concentration on Preplant Fumigation, Unruh & Brecke
- Metham Sodium/Chloropicrin Rate Response Study, Unruh & Brecke
- Methyl Bromide Alternative #300 Shank Spacing Study, Unruh & Brecke
- Methyl Bromide Alternative #200 Shank Spacing Study, Unruh & Brecke
- Screening of High Nitrogen Containing Compounds for Use as Soil Fumigants, Unruh, Johnson, & Kinloch

Environmental Studies

- An Evaluation of Nitrogen Leaching from Golf Course Greens and Fairways Irrigated with Reclaimed Water, G. Snyder & Cisar
- Comparative Leaching Properties of Calcium Nitrate, Sartain & Brown
- Comparison of Primo EC and Primo MEC on Golf Course Fairways, Unruh
- Determination of Shade Tolerance Mechanisms in St. Augustinegrass, Trenholm & Nagata
- Dislodgeability and Volatilization of Pesticides Applied to Golf Course Turf, G. Snyder & Cisar
- Envirotron Study of Water and Pesticide Movement Through

- Modified USGA Golf Green Root-Zone, Nkedi-kizza, Sartain, Prabowo & Godding
- Evaluation of Florida Yards Concept to Reduce Nitrogen Runoff, Cisar
- Evaluation of Integrated Turfgrass Management Practices for Selected Ultradwarf Bermudagrass, Sartain & Kruse
- Evaluation of Sporobolus Viginicus: Drought Tolerance, Trenholm
- Evaluation of Sporobolus Viginicus: Fertility Requirements, Trenholm
- Evaluation of Stress Tolerance in Zoysiagrass Lines, Trenholm & Scully
- Fate of N During Grow-in of a Golf Course Fairway Under Different N Management Practices and "Florida Yard" Concept for Reducing Nitrogen Runoff into Sarasota Bay, G. Snyder & Cisar
- Influence of Cytokinins and Potassium on Drought and Cold Stress in St. Augustinegrass, Trenholm
- Influence of Light Quality and Quantity on Bermudagrass Growth, Miller
- Influence of Silica on Drought Tolerance of St. Augustinegrass, Trenholm, Nagata & Datnoff
- Influence of Silica on Salt Tolerance of St. Augustinegrass, Trenholm, Nagata & Datnoff
- Influence of Silica on Shade Tolerance of St. Augustinegrass, Trenholm, Nagata & Datnoff
- Irrigation Intensities, Sartain & Shaddox
- Mobility and Persistence of Pesticides Applied to a USGA Green - Dislodgeability and Risk Assessment, Cisar

- Monitoring the Losses of N from an Effluent-Irrigated Golf Course, Cisar
- Reducing N Leaching in Golf Course Turf: A BMP Implementation Project, Cisar

Mole Cricket Control

- Activity of Thiamethoxam and a Combination Product Against Mole Crickets in Turf, Unruh
- Control of Mole Cricket and Other Turf Soil Insects with Dursban Two Coat Applied and a Surface Treatment Compared With an Injected Treatment, Unruh
- Efficacy of DeltaGard on Fertilizer Materials for Late Season Mole Cricket Control in Turf, Unruh
- Mole Cricket Control with DeltaGard SC and G Formulations Delivered as a Subsurface or Surface Application, Unruh
- Subsurface and Surface Application Rates of Talstar for Mole Cricket Control in Turf, Unruh

Biological Mole Cricket Controls

- A Cold-Tolerant Strain of Ormia Depleta - Frank
- Dual Action of Steinernema Scapterisci and Larra Bicolor on Six Florida Golf Course - Frank
- Food of Adult Ormia Depleta - Frank & Welch
- North Florida Populations of Larra Bicolor - Frank & Treadwell
- Prey-Finding by Pheropsophus Aequinoctialis - Frank & Lake
- Temperature-Driven Development in Mole Crickets and Ormia Depleta and Larra Bicolor -Frank & Cabrera

Nematode Control

- Biological Control of Belonolaimus Longicaudatus by Pasteuria N. Sp in Turfgrass, Giblin-Davis
- Evaluating Post plant Biorationals for Control of Belonolaimus Longicaudatus in Turf, Giblin-Davis
- Evaluating Sting Nematode Resistance in St. Augustinegrass and Bermudagrass, Nagata & Scully
- Evaluation of Hybrid Bermudagrass Dwarfs and Ultradwarfs for Tolerance to the Sting Nematode, Belonolaimus Longicaudatus, Giblin-Davis
- Field Efficacy Of Telone II For Plant-Parasitic Nematode Control in Bermudagrass, Giblin-Davis

Laboratory and Field Studies on DiTera against *Belonolaimus longicaudatus*, Giblin-Davis
Turf Molecular and Morphological Database for Nematode Identification in Florida and the Caribbean, Giblin-Davis

Biological & Organic Studies

Bacterial Populations and Diversity within New USGA Putting Greens, Elliott, Guertal, Kloepper & Skipper
Compost as the Organic Matter Component in a USGA Golf Green Root-Zone, G. Snyder & Cisar
Density Dependent Regulation of *Belonolaimus longicaudatus* by *Pasteuria N. Sp.* in Turfgrass, Giblin-Davis
Description of a New Species of *Pasteuria* that Parasitizes the Sting Nematode, *Belonolaimus longicaudatus*, Giblin-Davis
Effects of Osmoregulators on *Gaeumannomyces graminis* in Solid and Liquid Media, Elliott
Evaluation of Compost Sources and Rates for Suitability in Roadside Turfgrass Growth, Miller
Evaluation of Composts for Disease Management and Enhance Quality of Golf Course Greens, Datnoff, Cisar & Snyder
Genetic Evaluation of the Soil borne Fungal Pathogen *Gaeumannomyces graminis*, Elliott
The Effect of Composts in Topdressing on Disease Incidence on Turf Performance, and Microbial Activity, Cisar

Weed Control

Annual Blue-Eyed Grass Control, Brecke & Unruh
Annual Grass Control with Dimension + Ronstar in Bermudagrass, Brecke & Unruh
Annual Grass Management Systems with Corn Gluten in Bermudagrass, Brecke & Unruh
Broadleaf Weed Control, Brecke & Unruh
Broadleaf Control with Sulfentrazone and Carfentrazone, Brecke & Unruh
Control with Corn Gluten in Bermudagrass, Brecke & Unruh
Effect of Mowing, Interval on Torpedo, grass Control with Drive in Bermudagrass, Brecke & Unruh

Herbicide Tolerance of Bermudagrass Breeding Lines, Dusky, Brecke & Scully

Herbicide Tolerance of St. Augustinegrass breeding Lines, Dusky, Brecke & Nagata
Annual Grass Weed Control Strategies in Bermudagrass Production and Maintenance Programs, Dusky & Brecke
Lawn Burweed Control - Spring, Brecke & Unruh
Nitrogen Fertilization Effect on Torpedograss Control with Drive in Bermudagrass, Brecke & Unruh
Nutsedge Management in Bermudagrass, Brecke & Unruh
Pennant Formulation Evaluation in Bermudagrass, Brecke & Unruh
Pennant Tolerance in St. Augustinegrass, Brecke & Unruh
Poa annua Control in Non-overseeded Bermudagrass, Brecke & Unruh
Poa annua Control in Overseeded Bermudagrass, Brecke & Unruh
Post emergence Annual Grass Control in Bahiagrass with Envoy, Brecke & Unruh
Post emergence Annual Grass Control in St. Augustinegrass with Envoy, Brecke & Unruh
Post emergence Herbicides, Weinbrecht & Miller
Pre-emergence Annual Grass Control in Bermudagrass, Brecke & Unruh
Rates, Tank-mixes & Timing of Post emerge Herbicides for Torpedograss, Weinbrecht & Miller
Small Flowered Alexandergrass Efficacy Following Various Combinations of Timed Applications of Sulfentrazone and Carfentrazone in Bermudagrass, Brecke & Unruh
Sulfentrazone and Carfentrazone in Centipedegrass, Brecke & Unruh
Sulfentrazone and Carfentrazone in St. Augustinegrass, Brecke & Unruh
Torpedograss Control with Drive, Brecke & Unruh
Weed Control Strategies in St. Augustinegrass Production, Dusky & Brecke
Yellow Nutsedge Control in Bermudagrass with Sulfentrazone and Carfentrazone, Brecke & Unruh

General Insect Control

Chinch Bug Biology, Control and Resistance Studies, Nagata & Cherry

Control of Turf Pests in Addition to Nematodes with Curfew Soil Injected on Fairways, Unruh
Effects of Bait Concentration on the Efficacy of Spinosad Bait Applied as a Broadcast Application in Range and Pastures, Unruh
Efficacy of Distance Fire Ant Bait for Control of Red Imported Fire Ants, Unruh
Insecticide Tests to Control Chinch Bugs, Cherry & Nagata
Phytotoxicity of Talstar Impregnated Fertilizer Products to Warm Season Turf, Unruh
Resistance of St. Augustinegrass to Chinch Bugs, Cherry, Nagata & Datnoff
Response of Red Imported Fire Ants to Reduced Rates and Concentrations of DE-105, Unruh

Disease Control

Dwarf Bermudagrass Tolerance to Rubigan, Brecke & Unruh
Effect of Biologicals and Fungicides to Control *Pythium* in Bermudagrass Golf Greens Overseeded with *Poa trivialis*, Datnoff & Cisar
Effect of Fungicides and Surfactants to Curatively Control Fairy Ring on Golf Course Greens, Datnoff & Cisar
Effect of Heritage and Daconil on Grey Leaf Spot Development, Datnoff & Nagata
Effects of Nutrition and Host Plant Resistance on Grey Leaf Spot Development, Datnoff & Nagata
Effects of Selected Cultural Treatments on the Incidence of *Gaeumannomyces graminis* root infection of Centipedegrass: Soil pH., Unruh & Lawson
Screening St. Augustinegrass for Resistance to Grey Leaf Spot Caused by *Pyricularia grisea*, Datnoff & Nagata

Nutrient Management

Accuracy of NIRS Instrumentation for Determining Tissue Concentrations of Ca, Mg, P, and K, Miller
Comparative Evaluation of Milorganite as a Nutrient Source for Turfgrass, Sartain
Comparative Evaluation of Sulf-N 45 on Cool and Warm-Season Turfgrass, Sartain



Comparative N and Fe Release Properties of Micromate NS Iron, Sartain

Comparison of Slow-Release N Sources on Turfgrass, Sartain

Comparison of Sybron Organically Based Products with Conventional Fertilization and Evaluation of Their Influence on the Incidence of Dollar Spot, Sartain

Comparison of Viking Ship Products in Turfgrass Production, Sartain

Effects of Nutrition and Modification of Host Plant Resistance to Gray Leaf Spot Fungi and Chinch Bugs, Nagata, Datnoff & Cherry

Effects of Types and Rates of N on the Growth and Quality of Turfgrass, Sartain

Evaluation of Green Technologies Products on Turfgrass, Sartain

Evaluation of Nitrogen Sources for Quality & Longevity, Miller

Evaluation of Sirflor as a Slow-Release N Source for Turfgrass, Sartain

Using NIRS for Nitrogen Scheduling on Two Dwarf-Type Bermudagrass Cultivars, Miller

Using NIRS to Predict Nitrogen Concentrations in Bermudagrass Using a SPAD Chlorophyll Meter to Predict Nitrogen Concentration in St. Augustinegrass, Miller

Utilization of Nutri-Grow on Golf Course Putting Green Turf, Unruh

Turfgrass: Breeding and Evaluations

A Study to Screen Tall Fescue Germplasm for Heat Tolerance, Dudeck & Duncan

Collection and Evaluation of Florida Bermudagrass and Zoysiagrass Germplasm, Scully

Cultivar Development of St. Augustinegrass, Nagata, Unruh, Dudeck & Cisar

Development of Centipedegrass Cultivars, Nagata & Scully

Effects of Seed Treatment and Media on Germination of 'NuMex Sahara' Bermudagrass, Dudeck

Evaluation of Various Cool-Season Grass Species, Mixtures, and/or Blends for Overseeded Winter Ground Covers Under Golf Course Fairway and Putting Green Conditions, Dudeck

New Grasses: NTEP Test on Ultradwarfs, Cisar

NTEP Cultivar Trial: Buffalograss, Unruh

NTEP Cultivar Trial: On-site Putting Green Bermudagrasses, Unruh

NTEP Cultivar Trial: Zoysiagrass, Unruh

NTEP Overseed Trials at Grand Cypress Country Club, Dudeck

NTEP Studies Involving Bermudagrass, St. Augustinegrass, and Zoysiagrass, Dudeck

Out-State Trials of Superior Bermudagrass Selections Under Golf Course Fairway Conditions in North, Central, and South Florida, Dudeck

Screening St. Augustinegrass Germplasm for Winter Hardiness at Blairsville, GA, Dudeck & Duncan

Tissue Culture of St. Augustinegrass, Nagata

UF Breeding Program Cultivar Trial: Dudeck Bermudagrass, Unruh

UF Breeding Program Cultivar Trial: Nagata St. Augustinegrass, Unruh

UF Breeding Program Cultivar Trial: Scully Bermudagrass, Unruh

UF Breeding Program Cultivar Trial: Scully Zoysiagrass, Unruh

UF Breeding Program Cultivar Trial: Scully Centipedegrass, Unruh

Ultra Dwarf Bermudagrass Studies in North Florida, Dudeck

Water & Soil Studies

Deficit Irrigation of Turfgrasses, Miller

Erosion Control Along Florida Roadsides, Miller, Black & Kidder

Influence of Basic-H on Water Use Efficiency Under Turfgrass Culture, Sartain

Investigation of Coated Sands for Use in Putting Green Construction, Sartain & R. Snyder

Investigations of Soil Amendments for Nutrient and Water Retention, Miller

Soil and Turfgrass Tissue Analysis Correlation, Sartain & Higby

Sports Turf

Cold Tolerance Evaluations of New St. Augustinegrass Cultivars, Miller

Correlation of Soccer Field Conditions to Player Perceptions, Miller

Correlation of Soil Moisture and Surface Hardness, Miller

Evaluation of Perennial Ryegrass for Spring Transition on Athletic Fields, Miller

Evaluation of Shoe Cleat Design on Turf Wear and Traction, Miller

Evaluation of Soccer Fields for Performance Standards, Miller

Soil and Tissue Analysis Correlation Stabilization of Athletic Field Soils Using Enkamat, Miller

Techniques for Evaluation of Traction on Athletic Fields, Miller

Dry Fertilizer
Bulk Liquid Fertilizer



GREEN-WAY

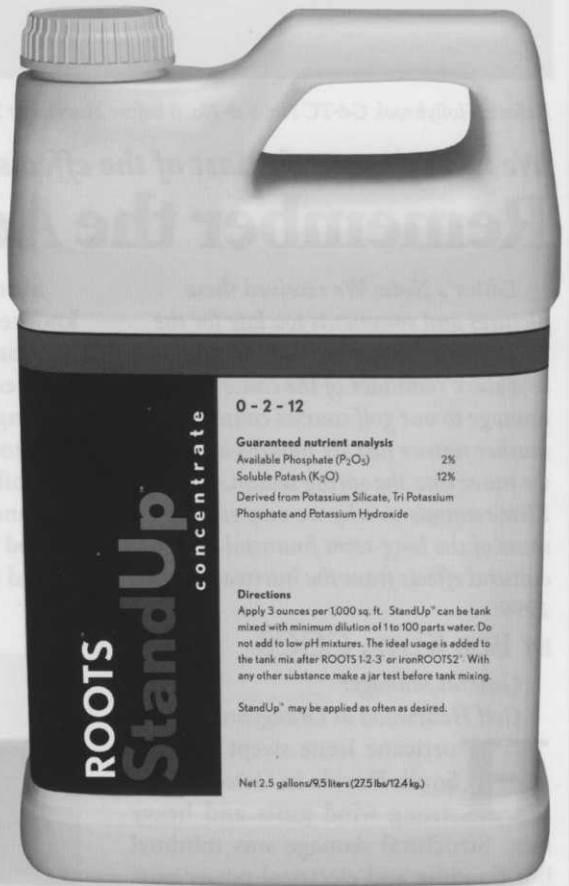
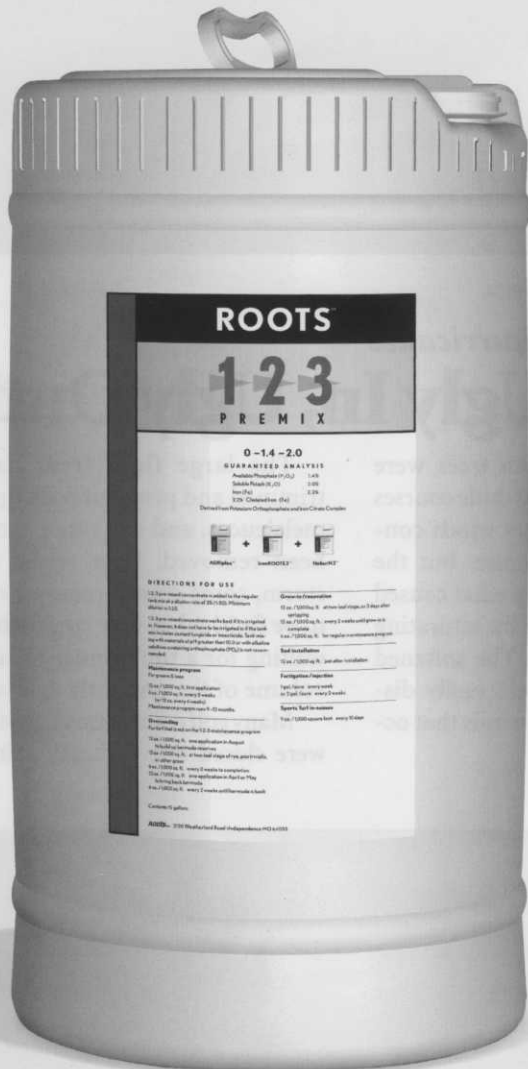
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Before: Hollybrook G&TC No. 5 & No. 6 before Hurricane Irene. Photo by Jim Goins.

We haven't seen the last of the effects of last fall's hurricanes

Remember the Adage: Ugly In, Ugly Out!

Editor's Note: We received these pictures and comments too late for the last issue. They are included in this issue as a stark reminder of the chaos and damage to our golf courses caused by mother nature just six months ago. As we move into the spring season, Bob Klitz reminds us why we may still see some of the long-term financial and cultural effects from the hurricanes of 1999.

BY BOB KLITZ, CGCS

*General Manager
Golf Hollywood at Orangebrook*

Hurricane Irene swept through South Florida in October with strong wind gusts and heavy rain. Structural damage was minimal but flooding and electrical power outages were widespread throughout the south Florida area.

Rental cars were unavailable after the storm due to the number of vehicles damaged by flood waters that rose quickly during the early evening hours. Vehicles that had been parked in front of homes or in driveways were submerged quietly in the night as the heavy rains pounded relentlessly. One area golf course had its entire fleet of cars submerged in water that reached over the seat cushions of the carts.

More than three dozen trees were knocked over on the two 18-hole courses at Orangebrook. The gusty winds contributed to the trees' demise, but the soaking rains are probably what caused the more serious damage by saturating the soil in the root zone. The softened soil and soaked roots were easily dislodged by any significant winds that occurred that evening.

The large ficus trees have been trimmed and propped back up, and the melaleucas, and any other exotics have been removed. Four weeks after the storm, some stump removal still needs to be finished. A very large debris pile is waiting for a tub grinder to reduce the volume of the unsightly debris.

Many golf courses throughout the area were closed due to heavy rainfall. The





After: The same two holes immediately after the hurricane. Photo by Jim Goins.



One area golf course had its entire fleet of cars submerged in water that reached over the seat cushions of the carts.

This submerged irrigation controller on Hollybrook's No. 4 is a reminder of the not-so-obvious damage and destruction to electrical and mechanical course maintenance systems which have affected course conditioning. Photo by Jim Goins.



...the haunting reminder of Hurricane Irene will return for a visit during spring transition.

Hollybrook's hole No. 11 was inundated with flood waters from Hurricane Irene, as shown by photo far left. Adjacent photo shows the hole before the hurricane. Saturated soils and the spread of weed seeds will have a lingering effect on turf quality until the next full growing season is behind us. Photos by Jim Goins.



two-day rainfall total at Orangebrook was at least 20 inches. October had already been a very wet month and combined with 30 inches of rainfall from June 1999, this has been one rough summer. Construction projects, cultural programs, and weed control programs have all been hampered by this summer's weather.

As we scurry around to cover our problems with winter overseeding, we cringe at the thought of spring transition, remembering the adage: Ugly in, ugly out. The water levels have receded, the winter snowbirds are here, but the haunting reminder of Hurricane Irene will return for a visit during spring transition.

Extensive tree trimming, replanting and removal placed a tremendous strain on course budgets and work priorities. Many 1999 projects were postponed to deal with course cleanup. Photo by Bob Klitz.

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Textron Raving Fans Award

Golf Ventures, Inc., of Lakeland, was honored by Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products with a Raving Fans Award for 1999, Second Place. The Raving Fans Award, which is based on consumer satisfaction surveys, recognizes outstanding achievement and excellence in customer service. The presentation was made at a dealer meeting during the recent Golf Course Superintendents of America Conference and Show in New Orleans. A special guest at the ceremony was golf legend Gary Player, who participated in the presentation.

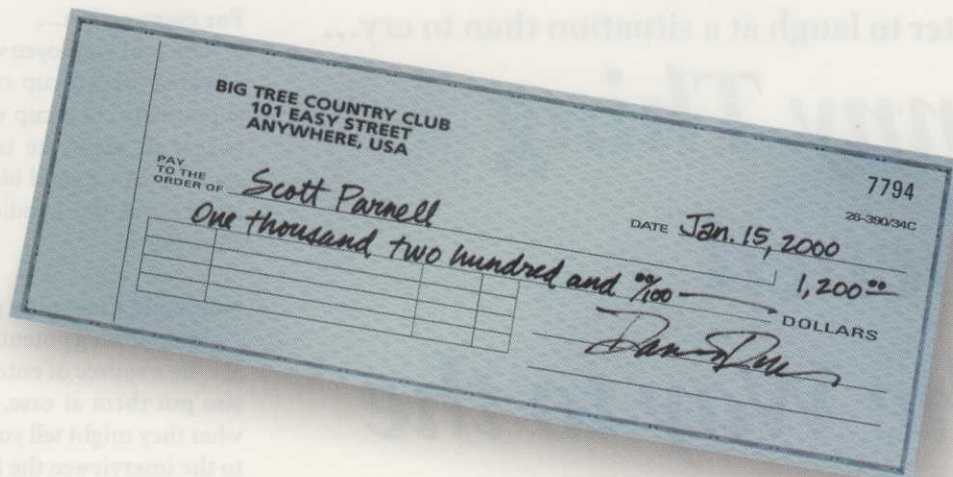
Pictured from left are Carl Burtner, CEO TTCSP; Michael McLaughlin, Golf Ventures VP operations; Player; Don Delaney, Golf Ventures VP sales; Phil Tralies, president TTCSP



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It's usually better to laugh at a situation than to cry...

A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Clubhouse

BY DOUG ABBUHL, GCS

*Seminole Golf Course & Club,
Tallahassee*

One of the best stress relievers is laughter. Granted its hard to laugh when you have algae on your greens, a tournament around the corner, or your only greens mower just went to that big shop in the sky.

Being responsible for large areas of highly maintained turfgrass can be very stressful for superintendents. Nature can at times be less than cooperative, and golfers may not always be understanding. That being said, it is very important to keep a sense of humor as you approach each day. For example:

Follow that duck

It is crucial when training new employees to cover all of the important points. While training an employee in the art of walk-mowing greens with straight lines, I mentioned picking out an object and heading toward it. However, I failed to mention that the object should be a stationary one. It seems the person picked out a swimming duck on the lake as his object, and needless to say, the mowing stripes weren't straight that day!

Disappearing pond

Then there was the time my fairway

mower came back to the shop to advise that the pond on our number-six hole was "gone!"

Hmmm, how can a pond disappear? Turns out a sinkhole developed under the half-acres pond and emptied in about five minutes.

That was one the EPA couldn't blame me for the dead fish.

High-flying turtle

How about the world's highest flying turtle? We had a backup pump for our irrigation pond, where water could be pumped from a lower-level lake up to the holding pond. It seems that the suction pipe was damaged at the lower lake and water was backfilling down the stand pipe.

After making the needed repairs and the lake level down eight feet, it was time to turn on the pump and recharge the holding pond. Unaware that a very large turtle had been sucked down the stand pipe, we started the pump.

Water came out of the pipe for about five seconds and then stopped. I rowed over in a boat to take a peek down the stand pipe, when all of a sudden this large turtle shot out of the pipe about 50 feet into the air!

I wasn't injured, but wondered afterwards how the accident report would have read: High speed turtle impacts worker in face!

For every action...

Once an employee was working with a spring-loaded cup cutter that would supposedly cut a cup with the pull of a trigger. It seems he tried it on frozen ground. Not a good idea. He pulled the trigger and the handle hit him in the chin. Ouch!

Not really a morning person

Interviewing potential employees can also be a source of entertainment. Once you put them at ease, you never know what they might tell you. After stressing to the interviewee the importance of an early start to get the course in shape for golfers, this guy looked me right in the eye and said, "You know, I'm really not a morning person." Well, thanks for coming in.

A mind of her own

Then there's the old Buckner satellite controller that has been hit so many time by lightning that it looks like an R2D2 unit in a Star Wars battle. It's hard to get parts for the old girl and she acts possessed.

My irrigation man calls her "Christine," the possessed car in the Stephen King novel, because she jumps through the stations with time on them and stops at the ones zeroed out. Sometimes all the lights come on at once and then go dead. That's one scary controller.

Emergency landing

Last fall, a pilot in a Cessna 172 was close to landing at the nearby airport when he lost power. He couldn't make it to the airport, so he put it down on the driving range. Imagine the look of terror in the ball picker's eyes as he saw the plane heading straight for him.

My assistant called me on the radio, "Doug, we've got a plane on the range." Yeah, right. Just then about 20 vehicles pulled into the parking lot - police, fire, FAA, TV, radio. Talk about a circus.

So like I said, its important to keep a sense of humor because you never what the next day might bring. Ah, the life of a golf course superintendent is never boring.