

barely lit and I could hear the generator running. The guard said he was glad to see me: we need fuel and there is no power! I had a hand pump but it was still in the box and I was not in the mood to read instructions. I remember that a fuel station had power just down the road and got some cans and filled everything up.

Not much I could do as I drove around for the first time. There was no way to get on the course. The rain gauge was filled to the top at 6 inches (got to remember to get a bigger gauge). It's probably 4:30 a.m. and still not a lick of wind, but I knew it wouldn't be too long before the wind started again.

What do you do at this point?

I drove around to see the damage and was amazed at all the water and trees blown over. After all, it had been raining since Thursday (the last time that I cut the greens).

A golf course maintenance employee had come in to work by 5:30 a.m. and the guard turned him away. Lucky for me he was persistent and came over to the fence by maintenance where I could see him. I immediately told the guards to let him in to help me clear some roads where trees had fallen and get pumps started to help with all the water.

By now it is light, the wind is starting to pick up and the general manager is in. Actually, the storm was so bad the night before that he couldn't go home. He grabbed the club's camera and gave me a call to come pick him up. The damage was beyond words. Over 65 tees down just on the golf course and I would say just as many in the property owners' yards.

The real story was water, water, water. We will never know the exact total of the rain but in three days I had already measured over 15 inches. (The three-month total for August, September and October was over 41 inches).

The streets have been cleared, drains checked and opened and power was coming back on in some areas. It was time to go home and get some rest.

Sunday came early and the water was still there. The most important thing for me was to get the greens mowed. I had

To: Mr. Kaplan, Board of Governors

From: W. Craig Weyandt, GCS

Date: October 18, 1999

Re: Hurricane Irene

The purpose of this memo is to bring understanding of the current condition of the golf course and some of the future challenges of the Grounds and Greens Department.

Drainage - In three days, the Yacht & Country Club received over 11 inches of rain. The exact amount cannot be determined because the gauge was overflowing when I arrived at work on Saturday morning. The three-day total adds up to 149,347,000 gallons of water that the CCA had to deal with. Even on the dry holes like No. 11, 16, and 17 there is standing water two days after the rain has stopped.

Some of the problems are getting access to the debris, mowing, and standing up trees that can be saved. The rain accompanied by cart and mower traffic increases the compaction of the soil and turf under these wet conditions. Some areas of the course where water will sit for days can develop scald. Scald is the condition that exists when a turfgrass plant collapses and turns brown under standing water, high temperature, and intense light.

Bunkers - This is the third hurricane (Floyd, Harvey, and Irene) to impact the Treasure Coast area this year. Rain and wind have to be the worst things for bunkers. During Floyd we did not receive that much rain but the wind was fierce and physically removed the sand from the bunkers. Harvey and Floyd hit us with both barrels (wind and rain).

Both wind and rain damage can be obvious. Wind by physically moving the sand but rain has more lasting damage. First the rain washes the sand off the face of the bunkers then in some cases the bunkers are covered with a layer of silt. This silt can change the physical characteristics of the sand (color and texture). In order for the bunkers to play consistently, each bunker will have to be evaluated and necessary action taken. What this adds up to is labor and lots of it.

Trees - No one can miss the amount of tree damage that has taken place with Irene. As a matter of fact this is the most damage the course has sustained in my eight years of employment with the CCA. Sunday morning was the first opportunity that I had to ride the entire golf course and take a count on fallen or damaged trees that would have to be removed. The number even surprised me at 63. This includes the front entrance where three large ficus trees are blown over. One ficus on the north end of the wall will be removed and the two at the front entrance will try to be saved.

Labor - I have come up with a new formula for Hurricanes and the damage they create.

(Hurricane x golf course = Labor). I should say labor to the second power because not only will I have to clean up all the damage created by the storm but I will have to keep up with the daily work as well. The maintenance staff is already behind because of the irrigation project done in-house over the summer.

Now is the time that we normally reserve for grooming the golf course and this clean-up process will delay things even more. We all know of the labor shortage problems and the need for a quality trained staff. Rest assured, nothing will be spared in cleaning up of the course and getting it groomed for the season.



*Flooded low lying areas like this on the 7th hole of the Y&CC of Stuart make it impossible to get around the whole course to begin clean up and repairs. Photo by Craig Weyandt.*

not mowed the greens since Thursday and things were getting a little too tall. I used three people to clear debris in front of the mower. One little stick left on the green and it would have a scar that could last over a month.

Second came clearing the cart paths. I knew as soon as the sun came out that everyone would want to see the carnage. The one thing you can't move fast enough is the water. People will drive around the puddles not thinking that the turf's wet too. So use ropes, signs, whatever means possible to let them know that things are still wet.

A great help in moving the water was a "mow" pump from Stuart's Pelican Pumps. If you do not have one, they are a must. It looks like a jacked-up flymower but this time the impeller moves water through a 2-inch hose. If you have some place to move the water to... the mow pump will move it. This did not prevent all the scalding of some of the turfgrass but it definitely helped reduce it.

Monday Oct. 18, and overseeding day for me. I had no choice but to go for it. I knew the course would be closed for another day or two and I had better take advantage of it because the last thing anyone will want to hear is that the course is closing again. It was great watering the

seed automatically. Normally syringing the seed takes two or three people and now the computer did it.

As a matter of fact, while the course was closed we did all we could to take advantage of it. We painted tee markers, signs, etc while there was no one around. The first days of the week were spent helping tree services clear the major debris while the last part of the week was spent in the bunkers.

Without even thinking about it we had a plan to deal with the cleanup. Clear the debris, mow what you can, bunkers were last, and thank God we had a blower. I don't know what we would have done without it. The blower took fairways that looked terrible and 2 hours later you would have never known that a hurricane had come through just days before.

The downed trees were not removed all at once. I met with a tree service and developed a plan of what had to be removed and what would be first. Some areas were not accessible because of standing water but always the priority remained of getting the golf course playable. There were so many small trees and palms down that we had to buy a banding tool and make dozens of tree stakes.

The tree company gave me each Monday after the storm to continue clean-up and it took four weeks to finish. This may sound like a long time but the priorities were kept and maybe seeing a down tree in the rough is not such a bad thing.

It is a great reminder to those who did not get to see or feel the storm. There are many things that I would do differently if this ever happens again but one thing I will do the same is communicate.

On Sunday night I sat down and typed out the current status of the golf course for the general manager and board of



*The rough on the Y&CC of Stuart's 6th hole under three feet of water. Photo by Craig Weyandt.*



*This live oak between the 3rd and 4th hole on the Y&CC of Stuart was used for screening errant shots. What kind of price tag do you put on this loss? Photo by Craig Weyandt.*

directors. This memo explained how much rain we had received, how many trees were down, and the basic plan of attack for dealing with the problem. So communication was good but next time I will take more pictures.

When it was all over, the course had been closed for nine days after the hurricane and there are a few less trees but the overseeding came up great, and overall we feel lucky that things were not worse.

## **Flooding Usually Worse Than Wind for Golf Courses**

BY JAMES B BEARD, PH.D.

**T**he hurricane season in the Atlantic Ocean has brought major flooding problems to eastern North America. The high winds associated with hurricanes typically result in the downing and uprooting of trees.

This may result in the need for extensive debris removal from turf areas where tree limbs and various materials torn from buildings and other constructed facilities are strewn.

This wood, metal, and similar debris should be removed as soon as possible in order to avoid interference with mowing operations and potential turf injury by light exclusion.

### **Soil Deposition**

The dimension of hurricanes that can create the most injury to turfgrasses is the very intense rainfall and resultant flooding of turf areas. Recent intense rains on the east coast of the United States ranged from 10 inches (25 cm) to as high as 25 inches (63.5 cm) in less than one day.

The lateral water flow from slopes onto lower areas of the floodwaters results in the deposition of soil, including clay, silt, and salt. Salt deposited on the grass leaves should be washed off as soon as possible to prevent physiological desiccation and death of the turfgrass plants.

The deposition of clay and/or silt creates a fine-textured layer that is prone to compaction and can become relatively impermeable to downward soil water infiltration for years to come. Thus the removal of this soil deposition as soon as possible is very important, especially from high-sand root zones on putting

greens and tees. The thin layer of soil remaining after mechanical removal of thicker layers should be washed off to the extent possible using water that is pressurized and directed through large-volume hoses.

### **Submersion Injury**

Flooding that persists for an extended period of time can cause the death of certain turfgrasses. Complete submersion under water can result in soil oxygen depletion within a matter of hours. This may result in death of the root hairs and subsequent yellowing of the turfgrass plants due to a nitrogen or iron deficiency.

Ultimately, death of the turfgrass plant may occur by one of several mechanisms, including (a) a build-up of certain toxic compounds, such as ferrous and sulfide ions formed by reduction of anaerobic soil conditions, (b) the accumulation of toxic organic compounds, such as methane or carbon dioxide produced by the decomposition of soil organic matter, and (c) the accumulation of toxic by-products within the plant tissue under anaerobic conditions.

The relative degree of injury to turf-

grass from submergence varies depending on the (a) turfgrass species, (b) submergence duration, (c) submergence depth, (d) water temperature, and (e) light intensity.

Submersion at high water temperatures of 86°F (30°C) can result in death of the fine leaf fescues (*Festuca spp*) in one day, whereas creeping bentgrasses (*Agrostis stolonifera*) may survive more than 60 days submergence at low water temperatures of 50°F (10°C).

Accordingly, it is important to use submersion-tolerant turfgrass species on sites that are subject to frequent flooding.

The extent of injury from submergence increases with increases in the depth of water coverage. Grasses with leaves extending above the water surface are able to survive much longer than if totally submerged. Also, grasses under stagnant or standing water are more likely to be killed than when under flowing water.

However, one of the most important factors in the degree of injury that occurs during flooding is the actual water temperature. The extent of death increases dramatically as the water temperature increases from 50°F (10°C) to 80°F (27°C).

Thus, submersion early in the year at cooler water temperatures is less likely to cause turfgrass injury than submersion later in the summer when water temperatures are high, and especially when also exposed to cloud-free, full-radiant sunlight levels.

**Injury Assessment**

Once the debris is collected and any soil deposition removed as completely as possible, the next step is to assess the extent of damage to the turfgrass, which may appear as a totally brown canopy. Individual plants of the desired turfgrass species from numerous locations under flooding should be lifted out and examined carefully.

Cut a horizontal cross section through the grass crowns and the nodes on lateral stems to determine if they are white, firm, and healthy, or brown, mushy, and dead. This will be an indicator of the

amount of turfgrass recovery that can be anticipated.

Numerous multiple samplings are critical to get a representative assessment. Then the decision must be made whether replanting of critical turf areas will be required to repair the damage. Removal of any dead turf plant material and thatch from the surface is important to avoid a future organic layer problem.

If soil deposition has occurred, fairly intense core cultivation will aid in disrupting the clay or silt layer that has developed. The usual establishment procedures can then be followed.

*Credit: Turfax, Sept-Oct 1999; Vol.7, No. 5*

*To subscribe to Turfax contact; Ann Arbor Press, 121 South Main Street, P. O. Box 310, Chelsea, MI 48118. Phone: (800) 858-5299; Fax: 734-475-8852; E-mail: turfax@aol.com*

*Editor's Note: Dr. Beard's article is presented as a cautionary warning of the unseen and possible long term effects from the flooding associated with this very active tropical season. Rainfall amounts exceeding 40 inches have been recorded during the 1999 hurricane season from July to October. Many portions of peninsular Florida experienced effects from Hurricanes Floyd, Harvey and Irene. Golfers and owners should be prepared for tentative turf conditions until enough time and good weather can help heal the turf damage. Weakened bermudagrass now covered with overseeding may still be weak in the spring during transition.*

**Golf Not the Only Agribusiness to Feel Irene's Wrath**

**E**arly damage estimates are in, and Hurricane Irene packed an estimated \$400 million punch, devastating South Florida's fall crops.

Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Bob Crawford has requested the governor's assistance in seeking an agri-

culture disaster declaration from USDA Secretary Dan Glickman.

Preliminary reports indicate that Dade County alone may have suffered losses of more than \$230 million in vegetable, tropical fruit and nursery crops.

In Palm Beach, Broward, Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River counties, preliminary surveys put losses at an estimated \$170 million.

Hurricane Irene dumped 15-20 inches of rain and had winds in excess of 80 mph when it tore across South Florida in mid-October.

Surveys are ongoing in Monroe, Collier, Hendry, Glades, Okeechobee, Osceola and Brevard counties.

Commissioner Crawford estimated that over 650,000 acres under production had been impacted by the storm. Crop losses ranging as high as 85 percent on more than 30,000 acres of tropical fruits and winter vegetables in a six-county area have been reported. In Dade County vegetable losses are estimated between 95-98 percent.

Nursery stock losses in the impacted area amount to an estimated \$215 million. In the Indian River citrus growing area, early loss estimates range from 15-20 percent on 225,000 acres.

"South Florida farmers supply the nation with more than 50 percent of its winter vegetables," Crawford wrote to Governor Bush. "It is imperative that all efforts be made to assist the hard-hit farmers in re-establishing this important production as quickly as possible."

Commissioner Crawford is asking for a declaration of an agricultural disaster for the six hard-hit and contiguous counties to authorize all financial assistance available under federal programs.

*Editor's note: I share this information about our brothers and sisters in agriculture not to minimize the recovery time, effort and damage to the hundreds of golf courses in South Florida, but to reiterate Craig Weyandt's sentiments, "It could have been worse!"*

*Credit: Florida Fertilizer and Agrichemical Association's November 1999 newsletter*



# If It Was Only About Delivering Quality Products, We Wouldn't Have Turf Specialists On Board.

A good relationship between a superintendent and a supplier begins with quality products. But that's not where it ends. As a golf course turf professional, you have every right to expect and receive more. **Convenience, selection, service, technical expertise and value** should all be part of the package. And with LESCO™ they are.

We arrive at your door with a fully-stocked LESCO

Stores-on-Wheels™ offering **fertilizer, pest management products, golf course accessories, and seed.** What could be more convenient?

Every LESCO Stores-on-Wheels is operated by a trained turf professional who has a vested interest in the success of your course. Our turf specialists and regional agronomists appreciate the challenges you face and are fully prepared to offer turf

management and product use recommendations.

With turf experts on board and a highly qualified team of support personnel in-house, LESCO remains dedicated to providing superior customer service and delivering more than just quality products.

Call us at 800-321-5325. We'll show you.

**LESCO™**



LESCO is a trademark of LESCO Inc. LESCO Stores-on-Wheels is a service mark of LESCO, Inc.

# NOW is the Time to Thank Your Mentors

## Taking the High Road Was Dietsch's Greatest Lesson

BY JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

Perhaps the beginning of a new millennium is a time for all of us to look back and thank those people who helped us get to these places in our lives and careers where we can look forward with hope and promise to a new age.

For me it is a long-overdue time to pay tribute and honor to the person who set me on the path which led me to the golf industry which has been so good to me and my family.

My mentor in this profession was William H. Dietsch, Jr. Bill was a golf course architect who never got the accolades and headlines that he deserved. He did however, earn the admiration and respect of those whose lives he touched. Bill is listed in *The Golf Course*, the seminal work on golf course architecture by Geoffrey Cornish and Ronald Whitten.

Bill was one of my heroes in the golf business. Not only for the obvious reasons that I learned the hands-on part of working on a course from him, but for an even greater lesson he taught me. From him I learned to always take the high road in business.

He was a model of honesty and integrity in a business that could lend itself to wheeling and dealing. He staked his reputation on his work, and those who hired him reaped the benefits of his work ethic. He was a perfect model for a young person being exposed to the golf industry.

There were others who appreciated Bill's way of conducting himself in the business. Here's just a couple of comments about Bill's performance:

"...Bill's professionalism and attention to detail were traits that impressed me. But I was not the only one who appreciated his sincere and diligent pursuit of excellence in his work. He did not have a big ego. What he had was a tre-



Bill loved to go fishing! William H. Dietsch, Jr. Friend and mentor (1928-1999).

mendous pride in the work he performed for a client.

"...his work is exemplary and he is able to transform ideas into reality accu-

rately and within the budget parameters. Of particular importance is his willingness to listen to our opinion and give it proper consideration. Mr. Dietsch is a credit to his profession and can provide all the required services to conceive, plan, and construct golf courses. I recommend his services highly.

THOMAS J. COX

Executive Vice President  
Pasadena Y&CC, 1976

"...While completing the construction of the 10 greens (Miami Springs GC), I was able to work closely with Mr. Dietsch. I was thoroughly pleased with his cooperative manner, diligence and personal overseeing the work and the ways he assisted in the work being done. He was on the job over 90 percent of his time; always concentrating on having the work absolutely perfect."

PAUL TURCOTTE

Superintendent of Golf  
City of Miami, 1981

I first met Bill when I was in high school. I worked for him one summer when he was building the Apollo Beach GC south of Tampa in 1959-60. I cut my teeth on the golf course business before

## A Solid Foundation

Bill received a solid foundation in golf course design and construction supervision, especially in greens shaping while working 12 years for legendary golf course architect Robert Trent Jones from the mid 1950s to 1967. Some of the courses that bear Bill's mark:

- Upper Montclair CC, NJ
- Green Spring Valley Hunt Club, Garrison, Md.
- Wilmington CC (South) Wilmington, Del.
- Arcola CC, NJ
- Birmingham CC, Ala.
- Chattahoochee CC, Ga.
- Apollo Beach GC
- Country Club of Miami (East & West)
- Ponte Vedra GC 9 hold addition
- The Homestead Hotel (Cascades Course - Lower), Va.
- Otter Creek GC, Ind.
- Offutt AFB (SAC HQ), Neb.
- Turtle Point CC, Ala.
- Broadmoor Hotel GC (West) Col.
- Fountain Valley CC, Virgin Islands
- The Highlands CC, Mich.
- Corpus Christi CC, Tex.
- River Bend CC, Ga.
- Fairfield CC, Conn.
- Albany CC, NY
- Bellereve CC, Mo.
- Tuxedo Park GC, NY

## Impressive Body of Work

Bill performed either golf course design and construction, supervision, remodeling, consulting or maintenance services on the following courses while owning his own business. D - design; SC - supervised construction; R - remodel/redesign; CO - consulting; M - maintenance.

**CC of Miami**, 200 bunkers, (East & West Courses), Miami. (R)

**Arawac GC**, (9 holes), Nassau, BWI (R)

**Coral Springs CC**, Coral Springs (D & CO)

**Calder Race Track**, Ft. Lauderdale (CO)

**CC of Miami**, (18 hole South Course), Miami (D & SC)

**Delray Dunes CC**, (18 holes) Delray Beach (Co-design & SC)

**Torrey Pines GC**, San Diego (CO)

**Fountainbleu CC**, Miami (SC)

**Oriole G & TC of Margate**, (18 holes), Margate (D & SC)

**Lakeview GC**, (18 holes), Delray Beach (D)

**Villages of Oriole**, (9 holes), Margate (D)

**Town & Country Real Estate**, (18 holes), Winter Haven (D)

**Tamiami GC**, (18 holes), Miami (D). \*\*

**Pines GC**, (9 holes), Hollywood (R & SC)

**Mariner Sands CC**, (18 holes), Stuart (SC)\*\*

**Pasadena Y&CC**, (18 holes), St. Petersburg (R & SC)\*\*

**Still Hollow GC**, (18 holes), Lehigh Acres (D)

**Sunrise Lakes CC**, (9 holes), Sunrise (D & M)

**Villages of Oriole**, (18 holes), Delray Beach (D & SC)

**International Gardens CC**, (18 holes), Miami (D & SC)

**Duck Key Land Sales, Inc.** (9 holes), Duck Key (D)

**Development Corp of America**, (18 holes), Clearwater (D)

**College of the Virgin Islands**, (9 holes), St. Thomas (R)

**Bay Beach GC**, (9 holes), Ft. Myers (R)

**W.B. Homes Inc.**, (9 holes), Sunrise (D, SC & M)

**Rolling Hills CC**, (9 hole addition), Davie (D & SC)

**Miami Springs GC**, (10 greens), Miami Springs (R & SC)

**Cypress Lakes GC**, (18 holes), West Palm Beach (D & SC)

**Meridian GC**, (9 holes), Lantana (D)

**Beachview GC**, (9 hole addition), Sanibel (D)

**Lake Worth GC**, (back 9 holes), Lake Worth R & SC)

**Negril Hills GC**, (18 holes), Jamaica (CO)

**Qingdao and Jimo Projects**, China (CO)

**Holiday GC**, (9 hole addition), Panama City Beach (D, SC & M)

**San San Resort** (9 holes), Port Antonio, Jamaica (D & SC)

\*\*I worked with Bill on these projects 1971 - 1973.

triplex greens mowers and utility vehicles were invented and I learned the lore of the golf business as he told stories about the many projects he had been on while working with Robert Trent Jones, the leading architect of the time.

Some 10 years later, I would find myself in a straw hat wearing a hatchet on my belt, tromping through the bushes as Bill's assistant after he started his own golf course design business. I worked with him on three projects, but the fuel crisis of 1973 put a hold on a lot of construction projects. He carried me on the payroll for several months and helped me land a maintenance position at Pembroke Pines. And the rest is history.

I will treasure all my memories of working with Bill and just keeping in touch over the years with him and his

wife Rosemary. He could tell some tall tales and we had our fair share of laughs. Bill was an outdoorsman and he loved to fish. I'm glad I got the chance to take a few trips to some of his secret spots in Biscayne Bay, the Keys and his "snook hole" on the Little Manatee River.

This past September a mutual friend of many years, Ralph White called to tell me that Bill passed away from cancer. Many of you may never have heard of Bill Dietsch, but his hand touched a lot of golf courses, and in so doing has also in some small way touched your lives.

Thank you, Bill, for sharing your wit and wisdom with me. You helped make me a better person and a successful superintendent. To all of you, take some time and call or write your mentor and thank them while you still have a chance.

*Thank you, Bill, for sharing your wit and wisdom with me. You helped make me a better person... To all of you, take some time and call or write your mentor and thank them while you still have a chance.*

**I**'d like to add my two cents to the management-company controversy, which is about a nickel more than it's worth.

As I see it, management companies are a natural by-product of the evolution of the golf course maintenance industry, and technology is the catalyst. The "art and science of greenkeeping" began a shift in emphasis from mostly "art" to mostly "science" during the 60s thanks to television's coverage of golf's finest venues. Golfers' higher expectations set in motion the irresistible forces of technological innovation which began the transformation of

"greenkeepers" into professional golf course superintendents. The coming of age of the environmental movement during this same period accelerated the pace of this transformation, as targets were placed on golf courses as enemies of "the environment." Turfgrass programs around the country proliferated and the

curriculum became more technical and scientific.

As a golf course superintendent whose career has spanned more than 26 years, I can attest to our profession's technical evolution and an acceleration in this rate of change. Golf course superintendents as a group are extremely knowledgeable, dedicated, and innovative, but the diversity of disciplines for which we're now accountable makes it impossible to be proficient in all of them. Superintendents are not all cut from the same cloth. It has been my observation that most have strong agronomic backgrounds, but from there the diversity of talent branches off in many directions. Some of us are excellent with people, some have mechanical aptitudes, some have design skills, some are horticultural geniuses... it depends on the superintendent's training, personality, and personal interests. Job security and survival, however, depend upon the golf facility's wants and needs, and their perception of the superintendent's ability to provide for and satisfy those wants and needs.

Management companies have recognized and capitalized on this reality. The legitimate ones offer a diverse pool of expertise that can be applied in an efficacious manner to more than one facility. This is the theory, anyway, and it can work at the low-end club without a qualified superintendent, and the high-end club whose qualified superintendent cannot meet all the club's expectations. Most superintendents, naturally, would prefer that the club allow him to hire a qualified staff and utilize contract services to fulfill all requirements, but that decision is out of his hands. It really doesn't matter whether it was a sound decision or not at this stage.

There are a few things a superintendent can do to protect his job:

- 1) Keep all senses attuned to your club's needs and develop strong lines of communication with the decision makers. As Dan Jones was fond of saying, "You've got to give them what they want even if they don't know what that is."
- 2) Take advantage of educational opportunities that are pertinent to your club's particular needs and that address your personal deficiencies. Prove to your club that you are a valuable asset in many diverse fields and they will find it difficult to seek your replacement. Note that the larger management companies require attendance by their superintendents at educational venues like chapter meetings and FTGA conference and show.
- 3) Support those trade organizations like FGCSA and FTGA that support university research, as they are the ones most likely to develop products and practices to save your club money. Economics may not be the reason for all decisions to switch to a management company, but it is at the heart of most of them.

Management companies are not a passing fad or a blip on the radar screen — they are a reality of golf course maintenance moving into the new millennium. You can fight them, join them, or coexist with them — just think long and hard about your strategy. Just remember that General Custer thought he had those Indians right where he wanted them just before the battle of the Little Bighorn!

## From Art to Science

### Mark My Words



Mark Jarrell, CGCS President, FTGA



# HERE. THERE. EVERYWHERE.

HOW'S THAT FOR APPLICATION GUIDELINES?



On greens. On tees. On fairways, roughs, flower beds, transplants — even in your divot mix. Milorganite delivers outstanding results for a uniform playing surface. No other fertilizer is easier on plants or simpler to use. Milorganite's slow release, organic nutrients won't burn or cause a flush of growth. Plus, it's high in micronutrients such as iron to promote dense, vigorous turf. And Milorganite resists leaching, for a sound environmental profile. So call your distributor today, or call Milorganite's turf professionals direct at **1-800-304-6204**. It's easy.



**W**hat's the old saying, "Everything old is new again?" I hope so. It's been tough enough listening to the media hype, alarmists, survivalists and the four horsemen of the Apocalypse go on and on about what's going to happen when Y2K chimes in.

If you're reading this, then I guess they were all wrong. Of course I read someplace that one mathematician figured out that the 1,000 years since Christ's death actually took place in 1997, which wasn't exactly as catchy a sound bite as Y2K.

It's pretty amazing to be part of a change in centuries, to say nothing of millennia. Maybe at my age it just seems significant. There's a whole generation of crumb crunchers and rug rats that won't even

notice as long as their Nintendo Play Stations are Y2K compliant.

I hope you checked out your irrigation computers and they just kept humming along, or beeping or whatever. At any rate, it seems like the biggest headache associated with the year 2000 will be to find some sort of catchy handle. The years 00 to 09 may indeed be a challenge, but I have faith in man's ingenuity to solve even that one.

What I'm more concerned with is the evolution of our social graces as we rocket into 2000 and beyond. The developments in technology in the coming years may revolutionize the way we manipulate information and machines, but people still need to practice professionalism and good, old-fashioned manners.

The item that sparked my concern as we mount the millennial threshold is such a simple thing that I almost hesitate to mention it, but at

the same time, it makes me wonder where we're headed.

Last August at the Florida Turfgrass Conference in Gainesville, nine turf students were given scholarships to aid them in their education. Four months later only two of them have written thank-you letters to the association.

I'm sure they said "Thank you" to the presenter at the podium that night, but they also have an obligation to the hundreds of members who worked to put on fund-raisers to raise that money and those who sat through committee meetings on budgets and awards that resulted in allocating those scholarships.

Their thank you's should be a matter of record in the association's minutes and publications, so everyone knows their efforts are appreciated. I don't want to chastise these youngsters too harshly for perhaps a lack of understanding or momentary lapse in etiquette, but there is a lesson to be learned.

Professionalism starts when you learn to say "please" and "thank you" at home.

Work habits and personal conduct begin during these embryonic days of a career. Might as well learn to do it right early on and build a good reputation from the start. I can remember listening to a motivational tape by Arnold Palmer. One of the things he talked about was how his parents taught him proper table manners at an early age.

Wise words from the son of greenskeeper whose father had to use the back door of the clubhouse. Arnold now owns that golf club and has been a Presidential guest at many a state dinner.

It just goes to show you never know where your road may lead you. No matter what the destination or what millennium you're in, good manners will help you along the way.

# Millennium Stew

## Green Side Up



Joel Jackson, CGCS Editor