

## 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.

- Fall 2001 - Computers as Management Tools
- 2002 - Calling for topic ideas from all chapters.

**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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**W**hat's up with all these new "turfgrass" or "sports turf" management programs popping up all over the state?

By my count we have four community colleges and three universities offering some type of turfgrass management program, plus there are several others where short courses and/or related technical training is available.

Combine these with the hundred or so other programs around the country and you might have as many as 3,000 graduates each year looking for jobs in golf course management.

If you do the math, you have to conclude that this is not good for the recent graduate looking to secure a job, nor for the veteran superintendent trying to hold onto one in a tight economy. The 400-plus new

golf courses opening up each year in this country, combined with the small number of retiring superintendents, does not come close to the number trying to enter the profession.

While there really is nothing superintendents can do individually — or as an association — to stop this proliferation, we can act as advisors to these programs so they are serving the best interests of the community and our industry rather than their own needs to attract students and cash in on a popular field. The administrators of these programs should be held accountable if they are flooding the market with graduates who can't secure a job.

This isn't the first time this issue has surfaced. It started about 10 years ago when Lake City Community College, based on the success of its excellent golf course management program, announced plans for an expansion of the

program to try doubling the annual number of graduates. Past FGCSA president and good friend Kevin Downing led the charge then and was successful in persuading Lake City officials that the industry couldn't support such growth. Palm Beach Community College was also given guidance to modify its proposed program at about the same time. Kevin has continued his cautionary efforts, recently bringing the matter up with both the FGCSA and the GCSAA, and continuing to work with and advise Lake City C.C.

Many reading this are probably thinking, "What's the big deal? Isn't education a good thing for our industry?"

Well, yes, of course it is, as long as those running the programs are in tune with industry needs and are honest about the job market for those enrolled in their program. Few people who have the ability and determination to go to college are going to settle for jobs as career assistants, spray techs, or irrigation specialists, but that may be all that is available to them for many years following their graduation.

Every graduate expects to eventually become a superintendent. How long will that take, and how long will your career last when you eventually reach the top? Will your entire career as a superintendent span 20 years when you fully expected to do this for 40 or more years?

Will you never get that dream job because your application was just one of 200 the selection committee had to sort through? Don't you want to feel the security of being a unique and highly qualified professional, instead of a dime-a-dozen "maintenance" guy that an employer would feel no compunction about replacing, since there are so many others willing and able to take your job?

Irony — true irony — would be losing your job to that 20-something graduate from the college whose advisory board you sit on, and who attended on a scholarship given by the association in which you are an officer.

## How Many Turf Schools Is Enough?

### Mark My Words



Mark Jarrell, CGCS



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I would never attempt to equate honoring members of our profession to the purpose of our national Memorial Day, but it does strike me that we do often neglect to take a moment to recall and remember those individuals and groups who pioneered the way for the status we enjoy in today's golf industry.

As the faces of our ranks grow younger every year and participation in the various local associations is flat or declining, I wonder sometimes if the younger generation fully appreciates the time and effort made by their

predecessors, and I wonder what will be the fate of our profession if they fail to get engaged in their associations beyond earning a paycheck.

On this Memorial Day I want to remember those who went before me. Those who guided my early footsteps, provided inspiration and leadership, fought the battles, and sacrificed time and effort so I could enjoy working in a robust, respected and satisfying profession.

**South Florida GCSA** - It all began with them in 1939. They

were the first group of superintendents to organize and hold formal meetings. They held on through the depression and the war years and reorganized in the 1970's. They started the *South Florida Green* magazine in 1975, and unselfishly helped it transition to our statewide publication, the *Florida Green* in 1980.

**Dan Jones** - The first time I met Dan was in the late 1970s. He was the speaker at one of our Central Florida Chapter meetings. His topic was "Professionalism and Image!" See, image isn't just a current initiative. Superintendents have been fighting for respect for a long time. It's an ongoing initiative that takes your involvement. Dan and his wife Irene also wrote, edited and assembled the *Florida Green* magazine for 14 years. They turned their home into a publishing house long before desktop publishing was invented. Dan is our editor emeritus and will always hold a place in our magazine's masthead.

**William H. Dietsch, Jr.** - Bill was my first boss in the golf business. I was a high school senior working on the Robert Trent Jones-designed Apollo Beach Golf Course. I learned my first lessons in golf history, design and maintenance

from Bill. Later I would work with him as his field assistant when he started his own design company. From him I learned ethical business practices. We were life-long friends despite the 10-year age difference. Through Bill I also met Ralph White who worked for Southern Grassing. Ralph became my connection to the rest of the turfgrass industry.

**Dr. G. C. Horn** - University of Florida's Granville Horn put the Florida turfgrass industry on the map. Besides matriculating from the Southern Mill Creek Company's week-long turfgrass boot camp run by Dr. Horn, I got to ride with him on his consultation visits at Disney's Lake Buena Vista Club, when I was an assistant superintendent. My personal on-site, hands-on, turf tutor. What a helpful experience in my growth as a turf manager.

**Tim Hiers, CGCS** - Tim was the first president of the Florida GCSA. He leads by example. He walks the talk and became our leader for pro-activism on issues facing our profession. His advocacy for doing the right thing whether it's environmental stewardship, maintenance-building design or cutting-edge cultural practices always inspired me to do better.

For the retired superintendents out there, thank you for carrying the torch for the rest of us back in the days when you had to enter the clubhouse through the back door.

To my contemporaries, thanks for making the journey with me to this point. Throughout our careers we have probably witnessed the most sweeping changes in golf course management. We have tried to honor the traditions established by the pioneers, while advancing our profession into the new millennium.

To the next generation of superintendents - As you fill the ranks replacing those who went before, you are inheriting more than a job title and a salary. The history of the profession is now your history and your bloodlines run all the way back to Scotland and Old Tom Morris.

Your status is the product of decades of evolution of the profession. You are the descendants of a special breed of person who works with their hands, but has elevated the position of superintendent from journeyman to professional. You have stepped into very big shoes that have walked long hard miles to bring you to this place. Honor their journey and make your own contributions to the future through service to your associations.

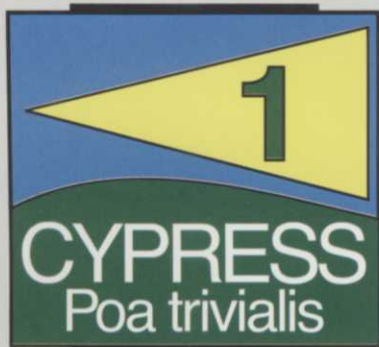
# Memorial Day

## Green Side Up



Joel Jackson, CGCS  
Editor

It's hard to  
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and Cypress  
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**"Best average weekly ground cover"**

estimates of all Poa trivs in test-University of Fla, Gainesville 1997-98 putting green trials highest seed count of all Poa trivs - University of Florida. - 1997-98.

Stardust

**"Highest density"**

1995-96 overseeded greens University of Arizona

**"Highest percent ground cover"**

University of Florida. 1995

**"Highest mean ball speed scores"**

1994-95 overseeded Bermuda greens--University of Arizona.

**"Best monthly/seasonal turf color"**

of all Poa trivs overseeded on tifway Bermuda--University of Fla. 1994-95.

**"Highest seasonal average"**

of all Poa trivs"--putting greens evaluation--1997-98 Mississippi State University.

Cypress

**"Highest mean for turf color"**

1996-97 putting green overseeding trial, Clemson University.

**"Highest quality rating"**

of all entries in the 1996 Bermuda Triangle Research Center, Palm Springs, California.