

# Florida Turfgrass Association invites you to join us in celebrating our 50th Annual Conference & Trade Show

Returning to Tampa for our 50th promises to be not only Nostalgic, but beneficial to attendees as we spend three days networking and sharing with other Turf Professionals.

**Monday September 16**  
· Show Set-up · Golf Tournament

**Tuesday September 17**  
· Grand Opening · Prayer Breakfast  
· Awards Luncheon · Tradeshow · Pres. Reception

**Wednesday September 18**  
· Tradeshow w/ Breakfast · Tradeshow Open  
· Keynote Speaker

## September 16-18 Downtown Hyatt Hotel, Tampa FL

### Brand New Venue . . .

- All under one roof
- Outstanding Education Opportunities  
Highest quality educational turfgrass training in FL
- Top-Notch Keynote Speaker
- 50th Celebration (all week)
- Biggest Golf Tournament Ever  
27 holes - 4 man scramble
- Education | Meals | Tradeshow
- Technician's Training
- GCSAA Seminars
- Continuing Education Units Awarded
- Presidents Reception
- Prayer Breakfast
- Vendor Hospitality
- Discount Hotel Rates: \$89  
Ask for FTGA Rate

### Attendees include:

- > Golf Course Superintendents
- > Landscape Maintenance Managers
- > Lawn Care Operators
- > Sod Producers
- > Parks & Recreation Personnel
- > Nursery Professionals
- > Sports and Athletic Specialists
- > Golf Course Designers
- > Turf Architects
- > Pesticide Operators & Managers
- > Turf Management Students
- > Researchers, Extension Directors
- > Equipment Techs
- > And Lots More!

Call Jane at 1-800-882-6721 for more info.

## DOLPHIN COURSE



*Dolphin Course crew.*

**Location:** Key Largo

**Total acreage:** 105 acres. No overseeding.

**Greens:** 5,250 sq. ft. TifEagle. HOC: .120 in. summer; .110 in. winter. Green speeds: 8-8.5 summer, 9-10 winter.

**Tees:** 4 acres Tifway 419, HOC: .350 in.

**Fairways:** 22 acres Tifway 419. HOC: .500 in. summer; .450 in. winter.

**Roughs:** 65 acres each of mixed 419, Ormond and common bermudagrass. HOC: 1.25 in.

**Bunkers:** 72 bunkers FS100 sand and 10

acres of naturalized links areas (coral screenings). Greens bunkers hand raked. Fairway bunkers machine raked with Toro Sand Pros with spring-rake attachments.

**Waterways/Lakes:** 13 acres, 3 lakes.



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custom blending, soil testing, grassing specifications and agronomic program development... just to mention a few.

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Wheels®, 235 LESCO Service Centers® and a variety of direct delivery options. No one makes it easier and more convenient to obtain the products you need...when you need them.

**TECHNICAL EXPERTISE.**

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**VALUE.** Put it all together and what you get is an overall commitment from a company dedicated to meeting your needs. That's called value. And value is what that ride down the fairway is all about. Call 800-321-5325. LESCO is there.



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and plant certified Tifway 419, so we leased a sod harvester and cut out the existing sod on the fairways," VanValkenburg said. The contractor scraped and hauled off the loose sod. Then we encouraged the remaining sprigs and stolons to regenerate and when they produced new growth we treated with a combination of RoundUp and Fusilade.

"After that died off we encouraged it to grow again and sprayed it again.

"Then we added 2-3 inches of sand, some starter fertilizer and ran a heavy-duty tiller generally used to tear up roads (Rototarian) over the surface to mix the sand and organic layers together. All that was graded out and then we grassed the fairways with rolled sod."

The bedrock also presented VanValkenburg with the experience of watching new lakes being built by harvesting the bedrock in 3x4x10-foot stone columns.

Blasting is not allowed.

The columns were plucked out of the lake one at a time after a huge trenching machine crosshatched the lake site with 10-foot-deep trenches creating a checkerboard effect. A large track-hoe then broke off the stone pillars at the base and scooped them out. The cost of the lake excavations was offset by selling the stone to a company called Keystone Products which milled the columns into benches, tables and other rock

products.

Altering the landscape and creating a new look and challenges for the Ocean Reef members is done with the environmental consequences in mind at all times. Ocean Reef has participated in a USGA-funded and University of Florida IFAS-managed project to reestablish the Schaus Swallowtail Butterfly nearly wiped out by Hurricane Andrew. With the tree snails and butterflies as wards of his stewardship, VanValkenburg and staff take care to scout and time their pesticide applications to avoid harming the endangered species under their care. In fact, VanValkenburg notes that when the county or state wants to monitor the endangered species officials come to the golf course to take their counts because that's where they find them taking refuge.

Managing 36 holes of golf in this unique environment takes a lot of care and attention far beyond one person's ability to cover all the bases and VanValkenburg considers himself to be extremely lucky to have a dedicated staff to help run the operation.

"I remember when I got a chance to prove myself under Jim Ellison at Bay Hill and Adam Yurigan at Johns Island. I try to provide that same experience for our managers. I look for that spark of initiative and the willingness to work hard and improve oneself. I try to judge the depth

of talent and commitment of the individual by what he shows me every day. Then it's up to me to provide him with the resources to get the job done right and to turn him loose to make mistakes; to learn to make decisions on his own; and to back him up when they goof. I guess I must be doing something right because we have a great team in place right now."

***The bedrock also presented VanValkenburg with the experience of watching new lakes being built by harvesting the bedrock in 3x4x10-foot stone columns.***

The course looked flawless in our ride-through and VanValkenburg showed me specimens of the native hardwood hammock environment including some surviving mahogany trees, gumbo limbo, lignum vitae, Jamaica dogwood, green buttonwood, ironwood, torchwood and under story plants common to the Keys.

I didn't unlock any real deep, dark golf maintenance secrets on this island trip, but it sure made me appreciate the differences in turf-management techniques that come into play depending on the location - from an old citrus grove in Lake County to a tropical paradise down in Key Largo.

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**The spring transition aid...**TranXit will change the way you manage overseeded turf, and provide the highest level of *Poa annua* control available. Specially designed for Southern turf programs, TranXit is the ideal spring transition aid in overseeded turf grasses. **Apply four weeks prior to the desired date for removal of overseeded turf...** Applications during spring transition will eliminate existing *Poa annua* infestations, and provide gradual stress-free removal of ryegrasses and *Poa trivialis*. **No delayed green-up...** In both overseeded and non-overseeded bermudagrass, TranXit will not delay green-up or cause injury to the desired grass. TranXit will also control "volunteer ryegrass" and unsightly "walk-offs" from overseeded areas. **It contains the active ingredient rimsulfuron...** No other herbicide labeled for turf application contains this active, or can deliver the combination of *Poa annua* control and transition management that TranXit provides.

**Do not apply TranXit directly to bentgrass or to putting greens.**



Purchases of TranXit GTA support the GCSAA's 'Investing in the Beauty of Golf' endowment campaign.



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# OCEAN REEF CLUB

**Location:** Key Largo

**Ownership:** Member owned

**Playing policy:** Private

**36 Holes:** Dolphin Course - 6,467 yards, par: 71.

Harbor Course - 6,090 yards, par 71/70.

**Designed by:** Dolphin - Robert Von Hagge &

Bruce Devlin with Mark

Mahannah. Opened in

1960. Greens, tees and

cart paths redesign by

Ted McAnlis in 1993-

95. Complete renova-

tion and regrassing in

2000 & 2001 with

design by Chip Powell

and construction by

Reed Berlinsky. Harbor

- Original design by

Robert Von Hagge &

Bruce Devlin. Opened

in 1974. Greens and

tees redesign by Ted

McAnlis in 1992.

**Management:** Paul

Astbury, club president;

Jim Johnson, green

chairman; Hank

Henrich, golf chairman

and director; Tom

Hilliard, director of

golf; Jim DeMallie, golf

professional; Lee Van

Valkenburg, director of

golf course mainte-

nance.

**Special circumstances:**

Lack of soil depth. Only

2-3 in. above bedrock.

Reverse osmosis. water

increases sodium

replacement of calcium.

Year-round germination

of goose grass. Very

strict county codes for

tree trimming and

removal.

**Communications:** Bi-

weekly department

meetings; weekly staff

meetings; monthly

meetings with green

committee, golf com-

mittee and department

managers.

**Cultural/Fertility/IPM**

**programs:** We scout pest activity and life cycles

for proper timing of pesticide applications. By

hitting the correct window, we have had great

success using Merit for mole cricket and grub

control.

**Environmental management:** Schaus

Swallowtail butterfly, Florida tree snail, both

sensitive to the timing of mosquito control and

tree trimming. Working with an environmental consultant for master planning the anticipated renovation of the Harbor Course.

**Waterways/Lakes:** All water hazards are tidal with an average TDS of 15,000 ppm. Water quality is enhanced by using aeration bubblers and

**Leadership:** Tod Evans, superintendent; Michael Davies, first assistant; Robert Loria and Brian Flowers, second assistants; Miguel Diaz, head mechanic; David McFarling, first assistant mechanic; Santos Cua, second assistant mechanic; Reynaldo Ramirez and Confessor Torres,

pest control technicians; Abelino Garcia, irrigation technician; Elizabeth Palma, administrative assistant. Walter Thompson, landscape supervisor.

**Total staff:** 43 full time, Avg. weekly hours 40 ST with 4 OT. **Total acreage:** 105 acres. No overseeding.

**Greens:** 5,250 sq. ft. TifEagle. HOC: .120 in. summer; .110 in. winter. Green speeds: 8-8.5 summer, 9-10 winter.

**Tees:** 4 acres Tifway 419, HOC: .350 in.

**Fairways:** 22 acres Tifway 419. HOC: .500 in. summer; .450 in. winter.

**Roughs:** 65 acres each of mixed 419, Ormond and common bermudagrass. HOC: 1.25 in.

**Bunkers:** 72 bunkers FS100 sand and 10 acres of naturalized links areas (coral screenings).

Greens bunkers hand raked. Fairway bunkers machine raked with Toro Sand Pros with spring-rake attachments.

**Waterways/Lakes:** 13 acres, 3 lakes.

**Total acreage:** 97 acres

**Greens:** 4,800 sq. ft.

Tifdwarf. HOC: .175 in.

summer; .150 in. winter.

Off-type mutations in

greens need higher cut.

Green speed goals: 7.0

summer, 8.0-plus winter.

**Tees:** 2.5 acres Tifway

419 & Tifgreen 328

HOC: .450 in.

**Fairways:** 25 acres 60% Ormond and 40% common bermudagrass. HOC: .625 in.

**Roughs:** 65 acres each of mixed 419, Ormond and common bermudagrass. HOC: 1.25 in.

**Bunkers:** 51 bunkers FS100 sand and 2 acres of naturalized links areas (coral screenings).

**Waterways/Lakes:** 20 acres, 8 lakes.



*Ocean Reef looks good thanks to the support by key staff. From left, front row: landscapers Augustine Agiatas, Tiu Gaspar and Oswaldo Perez. Back Row: Walter Thompson, landscape supervisor; assistant mechanics David McFarling and Santos Cua and head mechanic Miguel Diaz. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

oxygen diffusers. No display fountains used due to salt spray effects.

**Irrigation:** Water source for both courses.

Floridan Aquifer - saline water treated by reverse osmosis plant. Pump station: Flowtronex VFD, 1800 GPM. Toro Osmac controls with Site Pro. Toro 670 double-row heads. Dolphin - 550 and Harbor 435.

## Lee VanValkenburg, CGCS



**Originally from:** Attica, New York

**Family:** Single. Mother Ardyth VanValkenburg, brother Peter and sister Beth Mullen

**Education:** AS Business Administration, Genesee Community College; 1988 GCSAA Certified Golf Course Superintendent

**Employment history:** 1995-present Ocean Reef Club (36 holes) and 1992-95 Card Sound & Ocean Reef (54 holes), director of golf course maintenance; 1985-92 Card Sound GC (18 holes) superintendent; 1978-85 Johns Island Club (36 holes) assistant superintendent; 1977-78 Bay Hill Club (27 holes) spray technician; 1976-77 Rio Pinar CC crew; 1975-76 Stafford GC crew; 1969-75 Attica GC crew.

**Professional affiliation and awards:** CGCS; Class A member of the GCSAA, FGCSA, and South Florida GCSA; Member of the FTGA and USGA. Certified pesticide applicator with State of Florida.

**Getting into the Business:** I grew up next door to the Attica Golf Club. My grandfather, father and uncle all worked there and so did I. My mother would send Lady, our collie, over to the course to find me for dinner.

**Mentors:** My father Irving VanValkenburg - his love and dedication to the game instilled in me a desire to become involved in the golf industry. Robert Simmons, my first boss. Working with Bob with his down to earth approach made me love the profession. Adam Yurigan - Adam is the man who taught me the profession. He gave me the chance to learn by making me make decisions and some mistakes and being man enough to face the heat. How many guys are willing to do that? J.J. Curran and Lou Wozak, - they were both good friends and mentors here at Ocean Reef.

**Philosophy/Accomplishments:** Refuse to lose. You can always find a way to get it done. My greatest accomplishment or satisfaction is seeing guys who have worked for me go out and be successful - Bryan Singleton, Mike Osley and Chuck Calhoun and most recently Tod Evans moving up to La Gorce CC in Miami.

**Advice to new superintendents:** Identify the talent on your team, explain exactly what is expected of them and give them the means to accomplish what's expected. Coach and guide them so they can begin making decisions on their own. This only works if you're a good judge of talent.

**Memorable moments:** After Hurricane Andrew, we housed and fed many of our associates, who had basically lost everything. We were cut off from the mainland and most communications for a week. People got on edge. One day two guys almost came to blows over what day it was. I defused the situation by tossing a newspaper on the table and said, "You might be wrong today, but you'll be right tomorrow!"

**Hobbies and interests:** Fishing. Still dating. Reading. That's all I have time for.

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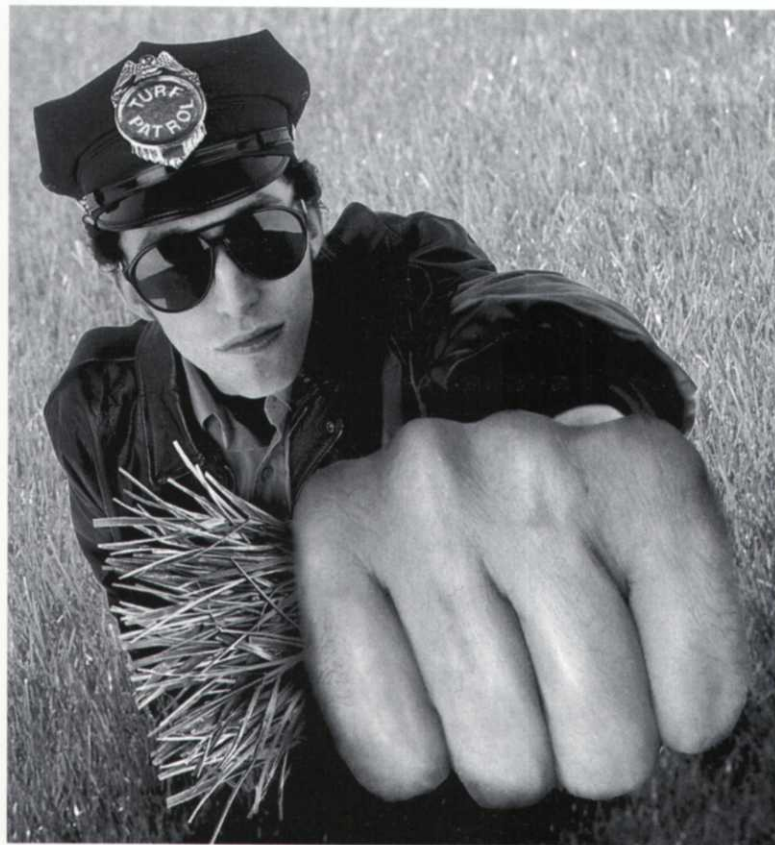


# We Need Your HELP!

See the 'Call For Articles' at the bottom  
of the Masthead on Page 3 to learn how.



Ocean Reef Harbor Course No. 4 tee platform in the mangroves. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.



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## HARBOR COURSE



Harbor Course crew.

**Total acreage:** 97 acres

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## FUN FACTS



*It's plain to see why his fishing tackle is VanValkenburg's most prized possession.*

Here are some things you might not know about our cover story superintendent:

1. Car: 1995 Camaro Z-28.
2. The last good movie I saw: As Good As It Gets.
3. I stay home to watch: Sports and nature shows.
4. The book I've been reading: "First, Break All the Rules."
5. Favorite meal: Mom's homemade spaghetti.
6. Favorite performers: The Rolling Stones, Rodney Dangerfield.
7. Prized possession: All my fishing tackle.
8. Personal heroes: Joe Torre, Colin Powell.
9. Nobody knows that I: Wanted to become a paleontologist. Working in this fossilized coral bedrock, I guess I am one.
10. I'm better than anyone else when it comes to: Anticipation, thinking and planning ahead.
11. If I could do it over: Maybe I would have married a woman instead of a golf course.
12. I'd give anything to meet: Our President.
13. My fantasy is: September 11, 2001 never happened.
14. The one thing I can't stand: Lack of planning ahead.
15. If I could change one thing about myself: I'd try to be more relaxed.
16. My most irrational act: Staying in Homestead for Hurricane Andrew.
17. My most humbling experience: Early in my career, driving a tractor into a tree in front of everyone at the clubhouse and getting exiled back to the push-type rotary mower detail for the season.
18. The words that best describe me: Humorous but intense.