

Fun Facts

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

Car: 1970 Dodge Challenger. A red convertible with black interior.

The last good movie I saw: Titanic

I stay home to watch: American Musclicar, U of Tennessee football or Lady Vols basketball.

The book I've been reading: Mopar Musclicar

Favorite meal: filet mignon, pecan pie and anything chocolate.

Favorite performers: Elvis Presley, Celion Dione and Shania Twain.

Prized possession: My grandfather's pocket-watch.

Personal heroes: My father, a model of loyalty and hard work.

Nobody knows that: I'm afraid of heights, but love to go on roller coasters.

If I could do it over: I would have taken the assistant superintendent job offer from David Court.

I'd give anything to meet: Pat Summit, U. of Tennessee's Lady Vols basketball coach.

My fantasy is: To win the lottery and retire.

The one thing I can't stand is: People who think they know everything.

My most irrational act: Too many to list.

My most humbling experience: Not being able to say goodbye to my dad when he passed away.

The words that best describe me: I want everything to be perfect.



Jim Goins, CGCS shows off an African tulip tree in full bloom. Photo by Joel Jackson.

programs also have to be worked into the maintenance schedule. So priorities and expectations have to be taken in the context of the weather and the workforce.

As for seasonal cultural practices, Goins uses both solid- and hollow-tine aerification procedures on the greens, tees and fairways. He says, "We start out in the spring around May with the hollow-tine aerifiers before the rainy season sets in, then later on we switch to solid

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tines to avoid having muddy cores to clean up. After the thunderstorm season going into fall, we make another pass with the hollow tines to get ready for our heavier play in the fall and winter."

The mention of winter generated a question on overseeding. "Goins said, "We used to overseed the greens and tees each winter, but we never did the fairways and rough. With the new greens and mild winters in 2001, we backed off but after this coldest winter in a long time, we will be overseeding again next year to protect the putting surfaces and to give us a growing (rather than dormant) surface to manage during the winter months."

The all-important verticutting and topdressing program at Hollybrook also follows a seasonal pattern beginning in May with a vigorous verticutting and followed every three or four weeks with light verticutting during the warm growing season. Goins uses both belt-drive and spinner-type topdressers ideally every two weeks to manage the thatch and keep the putting surfaces smooth. The spinner-type Dakota spreader can cover most greens in two passes on a light setting.

Goins has seen a lot of improvements in Hollybrook as he approaches almost a decade of service to the club. Like many superintendents he found his way to being a GCSAA Certified Golf Course Superintendent through hard work, practical on-the-job training and continuing

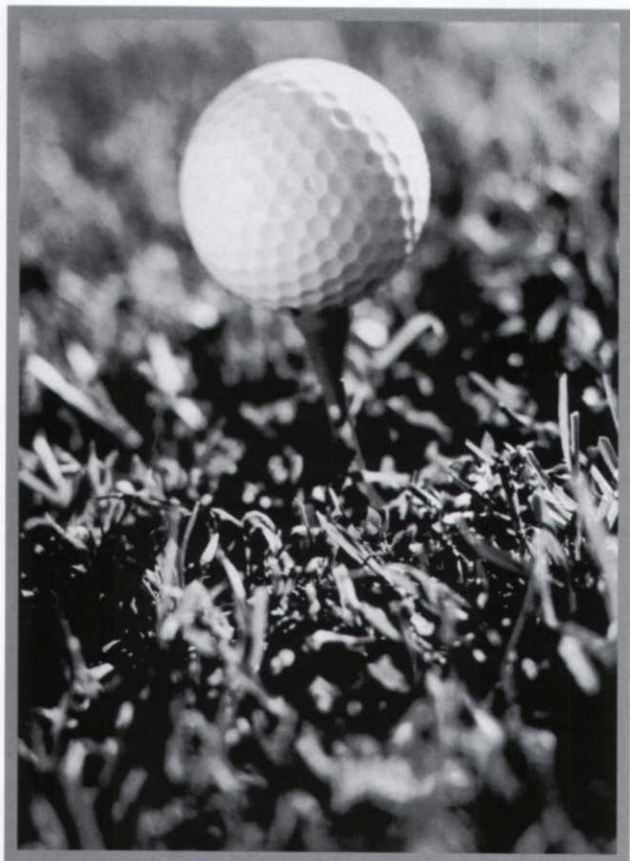


The Par 3 course nestles among the condominium villages and provides green space and recreation for the residents. Photo by Joel Jackson.

classroom education. After breaking into the business as a mechanic with the Wadsworth Golf Construction company on the Boca Rio project in 1983, superintendent Richard Lemmel persuaded Goins to stay on as his head mechanic.

One rainy day in Lemmel's office, Lemmel asked Goins what his goals and ambitions were in the industry and Goins answered,

"Someday I want your job!" After Lemmel understood Goins meant a career as a superintendent and not his particular job, he helped Goins get on track with turf and ornamental classes at Broward Community College and at the University of Florida Research and Education Center in Ft. Lauderdale. Goins added, "Richard told me way back then that the most frustrating



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Hollybrook G& TC Staff

Hollybrook Golf & Tennis Club

part of a superintendent's job will be dealing with people and he was right. At first I thought he meant dealing with the expectations of the members, but he really meant dealing with your employees as the number-one challenge. If you can master that, then the staff will help you satisfy the golfers."

Goins admits to being a perfectionist - a trait common to many superintendents, but he adds, "To be successful in this business you need to pay attention to the small details and to treat others with respect, the way you would like to be treated, and to be supportive of other superintendents."

Goins has tried to walk the talk first through his on-course work and by giving back to his profession through his service to the South Florida GCSA, the Florida GCSA and Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. He is a past president of the South Florida chapter and has served on the board and committees of the state and national associations.

Because of his leadership and service to his profession Goins and Hollybrook were selected to be the cover story of this issue. Congratulations Jim and thanks for the trip down memory lane in my old Pembroke Pines stomping grounds where I got my start in the business.

Location: Pembroke Pines

Ownership: Private

Playing policy: Members and guests only. Some charitable fundraising events approved by the board.

Number of holes: 36. 18-hole PGA Course - 6,590 yards, par 72, Course Rating 72/Slope 131. The Par 3 Course is a short layout played with medium and short irons.

Designed by: The PGA Course opened in 1970 was designed by William F. Mitchell. The origin of the Par-3 course (1972) is uncertain.

Management: President Ron Pacella, Green Chairman Mike Levine, General Manager Jeff Roarke, Head Golf Professional Joel Hyman, Golf Course Superintendent Jim Goins, CGCS.

Major renovations/Ongoing projects: Rebuilt all greens to USGA specs in 2000-01. Also rebuilt existing tees and added two sets of forward tees for higher handicap players. Currently replacing sand in all bunkers. Also removing exotic plants and replanting with native material. Landscaping lakes with aquatic vegetation.

Total acreage under maintenance: 120 acres (PGA 105 Par 3, 15)

PGA Greens: Tifdwarf; total 2 acres, avg. size 5,650 sq. ft.; HOC, .160 - .225 depending on season and weather; overseeded with *Poa trivialis* @ 10-14 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft.; green speed goals, 7.5 - 9.0

Other Turf: Tees (4 acres), fairways (35 acres) and rough (65 acres) are Tifway 419 bermudagrass and are not overseeded. HOC tees, .5-.625 in.; fairways, .625-.75 in.; roughs, 1.25-1.5 in.

Bunkers: 47 raked 5 times per week with Toro Sand Pro and Cushman Groom Master.

Native areas: 1-acre project behind maintenance shop installing transition material from upland to marsh.

Waterways/Lakes: 13 lakes, total 25 acres. Lake management is contracted out.

Irrigation: Flowtronex VFD 1800 gpm pump station. Source: surface water from storm water retention. Rain Bird Nimbus control system. Rain Bird Eagle rotor heads on 80-foot centers. 1400 gallon fertigation tank and VFD pump. Currently no watering restrictions in the South Florida WMD.

Total staff including superintendent: 16 full time, 40 hours per week, no budgeted overtime.

Leadership: Mike Wilson, assistant superintendent; Juan Olive, head mechanic; Paul Libonati, assistant mechanic; Ken Crick, irrigation technician.

Communications: Minimum of monthly GCM staff and safety meetings; monthly Green Committee meetings; monthly club newsletter articles.

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Overseeding Trends

Earning Your Stripes

This article was supposed to be about overseeding trends, but guess what? The trend has remained the same; most courses are still overseeding and the last 5-10 years of mild winters didn't really cause very many courses to back off their usual programs. Some courses with ultradwarf greens may have lowered their rates a little. The big news was the winter weather in 2002-03 and what it taught everyone.

The first lesson was that we had indeed become spoiled by mild winters and the severe cold weather this year exposed some chinks in preparation and management techniques. Maybe we all got a little lackadaisical since the mild winters hadn't stressed the bermudagrass very much in the last five years. This year was more typical of the 70s and 80s weather some of us veterans remember, and the pitfalls of establishment and transition were magnified for all to see.

Successful overseeding can be a crap shoot under any circumstances. Timing of seeding is a blind draw depending on Mother Nature, so there's no guarantee that going down early or late is the solution. Extended periods of rainy weather and the onset of cold weather early in the season can severely limit the quality of establishment just as much as an overly warm fall season. Here are some thoughts from your peers on this year's overseeding trials and tribulations.

Gainesville CC Overseeding Is a Year-Round Responsibility



"What you do to your greens all year affects your overseeding program."

- Buddy Keene, GCS

What you do to your greens all year long affects your overseeding program. We are always verticutting and topdressing our greens throughout the spring and summer. That



January 2003 Overseeding stripes at Deltona Hills G&CC. Photo by Joel Jackson

way when we apply our seed we do not need to go in and do any major verticutting or heavy topdressing. We also aerify at least three times annually. We apply our seed sometime between mid-to-late October. This gives us a two-three-week window in case the weather is not favorable on the first attempt.

The near-record cold winter of 2002-03 did not catch us by surprise because we watch and read all weather-related data available like the Weather Channel and the Farmer's Almanac. Laugh if you want but the Almanac is a pretty good resource. We communicate to our membership with a monthly newsletter about what to expect with the weather and how it affects turf conditions and aesthetics. Our members are well informed. They don't like surprises any more than we do. Our overseeding went very well the last couple of years so I do not anticipate changing a thing.

We use straight *Poa trivialis* on our greens at 10-12 pounds per 1,000 square feet. We do not go heavy because it may result in transition difficulties. We would rather be a little thin on the overseeding because it favors better transition in the spring. As far as the tees and fairways we go out at 400 pounds per acre with a three-way blend, that way we have different seed varieties in the mix for every environmental stress that we may encounter. We could go heavier on the rate, but we have Ormond bermuda-

grass fairways and a lot of shade. The Ormond does not come out of the cold very well especially if it has a lot of competition from the ryegrass.

The fertility program on our greens is all soluble with the spray rig, with maybe some granular during transition. We believe it is better to spray a little every week instead of a lot all at once. This method alleviates all of the peaks and valleys in the plant nutrition program. Obviously, we have to periodically adjust due to the weather and other stresses, but we pretty much keep it on an even keel. Our fairways and tees are handled a little differently from our greens. We use granular fertilizer blends and fertigation. We use soil and tissue tests to determine what to apply and go from there.

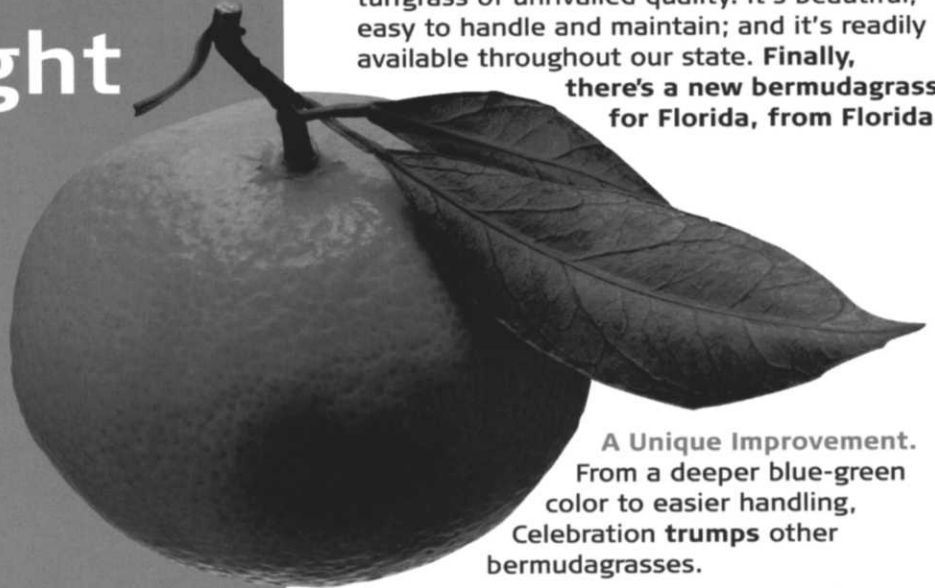
As for as our spray program for pre-emergence control, we use Barricade everywhere in the irrigated areas where we do not want tracked-off volunteer rye seed to germinate and this also controls a variety of weeds in our irrigated areas. We try to apply other pre-emergent applications well ahead of any forecast rain event in non-irrigated areas. For post-emergent control we use Manor, Kerb, Princep and others. Once our overseeded grasses are up and established we try to topdress once every three-four weeks or as needed.

Transition management can be difficult if the weather is not favorable. We do not spray out our overseeding. We let it check out on its own with very little encouragement from our

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Photo 1. Old Colliers displays flags of the countries represented by staff members.

Super Tips by Darren Davis Keep Your Employees; Pay Attention to Detail

Recently I spent a few hours with my colleague Tim Hiers, golf course manager at The Old Collier Golf Club in Naples. With Tim's tenure in the profession, he has witnessed many innovations, seen countless trends in the business and is a very valuable source of information. Taking advantage of his knowledge, I challenged Tim with this question, "If you could offer only one piece of advice to a fellow Golf Course Superintendent, and he had no prior knowledge of the individual's operation or their duration in the industry, what secret to success would he offer?"

After a brief pause he responded, "Always treat people well, but even more importantly clean up your facility; a clean, organized facility will give outsiders the impression that you truly care about the investment that you are maintaining and the safety of your biggest asset, your employees."

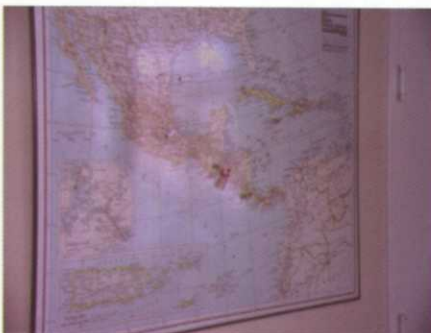


Photo 2. World Maps with pins representing employees also show the states and countries the staff hail from.

That piece of advice is the focus of this "Super Tip".

Employee Morale

Flags from around the world, representing the employee's country of origin, hang from the ceiling (Photo 1) The flags are an employee morale technique that Tim has employed to provide staff members a connection to their homeland. Tim admits that the idea is one that he had seen at other golf course facilities and he thought it was worth replicating. While some of the employees may only be temporary residents of the United States, Tim feels as long as they are in our country and employed at Old Collier, he wants these individuals to feel that they are part of an "extended family" or the "team at Old Collier". Tim added, "It is also a way to bring home into work and create a conversation piece among employees." This was also the motivation for mounting several large scale maps on the wall of the equipment storage



Photo 3. Pegboard wall covering in the shop helps deaden sound and keep items neatly organized and stored.

area where he has labeled the "home" of each employee (Photo 2).

Pegboard

In the equipment repair area at Old Collier, peg board has been affixed to the walls (Photo 3). The first impact that the peg board had on my impression in the area was aesthetics. The area took on an organized "warehouse type" look, which is atypical of what I have seen at many other golf course facilities. The pegboard was also functional as hooks can be installed to hang and organize tools and other items. A third benefit is that the pegboard serves as a good sound absorber by buffering noise echoed from the building's metal walls and concrete floors.

Equipment Storage

In the equipment storage area, after each piece of equipment has been cleaned and put away for the night, all of the seats, beds and cowlings are raised to increase drying potential (Photo 4). Tim commented, "It is common sense that when you combine moisture and metal for an extended period of time rust becomes an issue." Ceiling fans are connected to a timer switch that turns the fans on from 6 pm to 10 pm each night to improve the drying process to protect the equipment.



Photo 4. Opening up beds and cowlings helps equipment to dry quickly and completely to help prevent corrosion.

end. This is because our bermudagrass does not come out of the cool weather very well primarily due to our nematode populations and shade. We keep the overseeding as long as possible without impeding the growth of the bermudagrass. We do lower the height of cut gradually, and brush, verti-groom and vertical mow, but we have never used any herbicides to take out our overseeding. We also do a lot of hand watering of the hot spots to prevent premature thinning before the bermudagrass is actively growing.

Buddy Keene

Southwest Florida Weather is the Wild Card in Game Of Overseeding



"It was the coldest, wettest, busiest winter with the quickest spring warm up we've ever had."

- Stuart Taylor, GCS

Transition woes this spring had Stuart Taylor

of the Riverwood GC in Port Charlotte scratching his head in disbelief. Says Taylor, "We used the same cultural practices we have used successfully the past five years and we used the same Poa trivialis (75 percent) and bentgrass (25 percent) blend that we used and liked last year."

So what was the difference?

"There was an immense difference in the weather this year. We have been averaging 10 frosts a year the last few years. This year we had 30 frosts. The winter was wetter.

Riverwood Overseeding Practices

Preparation

- Verticut greens 3 ways.
- Verticut tees and fairways 2 ways
- Scalp roughs

Seeding Rates

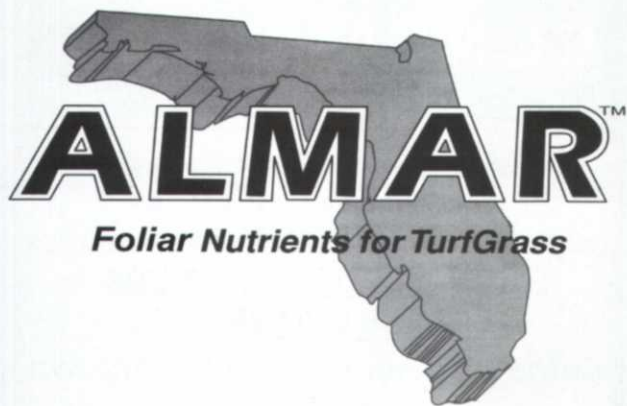
- Greens 8 lbs/M Poa trivialis/bentgrass blend (75%/25%)
- Tees 400 lbs/A; Fairways 320 lbs/A; Roughs 210 lbs/A

We had 25 inches more rainfall than normal, and we had more traffic than ever as we experienced our busiest winter season ever with around 240 rounds a day. It didn't get much better going into spring. We had frost on April 1st and seven days later it was 85 degrees. The grass didn't know whether to come or go. It was very difficult to manage since the conditions were so atypical and changeable"

The transition frustration for Taylor was magnified by the fact that he felt like he had a great overseeding establishment. "Everything looked great in the fall. The seed went down smoothly, germinated and grew in. For nine months beginning in September, we had the best greens we've ever had, and then for 30 days beginning in May we've had the worst greens in five years. They are coming around now.

"We are on the frost line on the west coast. Thirty miles south and maybe overseeding could be optional, but we are also a development course so aesthetics are a critical issue year round for real estate sales and member satisfaction. So, overseeding is not optional. The trade-off is the members are kept informed and we brought in the USGA to also help explain transition problems."

"Some of our worst areas were on



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greens that came back with the best soil tests. Some of the thin areas were problematic since they were on shady greens to begin with. Others thin spots tended to occur in hydrophobic areas. To address this we are going to aerify with 3/4" hollow tines and topdress with a sand and Profile mix for more uniform moisture control along with a program of using Cascade and other wetting agent materials."

Stuart Taylor

Central-Northeast Programs Haven't Responded to Milder Winters



*"This year reminded me of the winters of the 70s and 80s."
- Butch Singo, Harrell's, Inc.*

Butch Singo is a sales representative for the Harrell's Fertilizer Company, and his territory runs from Kissimmee to

Jacksonville. I asked Butch his take on this year's overseeding challenges.

"Overseeding programs have not changed much in my territory in response to the mild winters," he said. "As usual, some courses experienced rougher transitions than others. Most of my customers know that the weather can be unpredictable and cause havoc to playing conditions in the winter without the insurance of overseeding."

"Successful establishment was very weather dependent as usual. Those who tended to go early in the fall had better luck than those who were scheduled later and got caught when the rainy weather hit and washed a lot of seed away. Mild weather early belied the density of the overseeding and when the severe cold weather hit and the bermudagrass went dormant, people found out much or how little seed they really had established."

This year really reminded me of the winters I experienced as a superintendent in the 70s and 80s when we would typically have 20-30 frosts a year. A lot of superintendents and golfers haven't seen those kinds of winters in a long time and golfers often have short memories. Now since the second week in May, we've had high temperatures and low humidity, causing the overseeding to check

out too quickly and everyone is scrambling to push the bermudagrass to fill in as quickly as possible."

Butch Singo

West-Northwest Down Time is Nice; Preparation is Real Key To Success



"Preparation is the key to success."

- John Cunningham, GCS

John Cunningham, GCS at Black Diamond Ranch in Lecanto had the luxury of closing his course for two weeks to prepare and

overseed his courses. Black Diamond isn't the only club to recognize the importance of providing proper agronomic conditions to manage the turf, but it is rare. Some public-access courses and resorts simply can't shut down for more than a day or two, but clubs need to take a hard look at short-term convenience versus

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