

members, Bill Entwistle, Bob Klitz, Bill McKee, Jim Goins, Dale Kuehner, Joe Pantaleo, Bryan Singleton, and Bill Rayside, were presented with plaques commemorating 18 years of support for NCMEC. SFGCSA members brought unwrapped Christmas presents for kids for the annual holiday party at Emerald Hills on Dec. 14.

Suncoast

At the Annual Suncoast Grounds Maintenance Conference at



2003 Missing & Exploited Children Committee. SFGCSA Members from left: Bryan Singleton; Bill McKee; Jim Goins, CGCS; Dale Kuehner, CGCS; Joe Pantaleo and Bob Klitz, CGCS.

Selby Gardens, Dr. Jim Beard spoke on management of the new bermudagrasses and water resources. Dr. Ed Gilman of UF/IFAS spoke on tree care on golf



With everyone on the team scoring in the 70s, Bob Harper (center) captured low gross honors and led the South Florida Chapter team to a 13-shot victory over the rest of the field. (Left to right): Jim Torba, Seth Strickland, Harper, Joe Pantaleo and Kelly Cragin. Photo by Joel Jackson.

courses. Dr. Lee Bernt, Edison Community College spoke on "Pest Management to Enhance Water Quality" and EMT Scott Montgomery gave a presentation about medical emergencies on golf courses. Rhett Baugh hosted the annual Pro-Superintendent meeting and tournament at Lakewood Ranch C.C. Winners were Chip Copeman/Ted Green (62), Supplier/Supplier Mark Gulick/Paul Goff (5). Royce Steward will host the annual Suncoast Christmas Party at the Gasparilla Inn on Boca Grande Dec. 6-7. Talk about an ideal venue



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Treasure Coast

The 2002 Blue Pearl, a premiere environmental project fundraiser was held on Sept. 23 at Mark Heater's Loxahatchee Club. The event raised \$15,500. NuCrane was again the presenting sponsor. There were tee gifts by Syngenta, Liquid Ag and Hector Turf. Winners were Gross Division - Roy McDonald, Mark Henderson, Gary Fischer and Roy Kimberly, Net Division - Fred Hinkle, Jason Riley, Mike Neary and Tim Cann. In October, Kevin Downing, CGCS was presented with a FGCSA Presidents Award for Lifetime Service at the TCGCSA/Palm Beach joint meeting. Congratulations and thanks Kevin for all the work you have done for the association. On Nov. 7-8 the chapter hosted a special program titled "Dealing with Activists" presented by Dr. Tom Morgan and Dr. Michael Coffman. The next day selected members of the TCGCSA board took part in Dr. Morgan's spokesperson training session which takes a small group of chapter leaders through the how's and why's of dealing with the media.

West Coast

39th Annual Bud Quandt Tournament - Guest Speaker was

GCSAA Past President Scott Woodhead, who now works as the director of membership for the GCSAA. Scott gave a presentation of all the services and programs available to GCSAA members to help them with their careers. Joel Jackson, gave an update on government-relations issues facing the FGCSA. All proceeds from the event will be donated to Environmental Turfgrass Research, All Children's Hospital, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and student scholarships.

At the November meeting, Matt Taylor is scheduled to give Monica Elliott's presentation on mole crickets and grubs and Todd Lowe, from the USGA, will be speaking to us about overseeding. As we move forward we plan to continue our promise to deliver quality education along with CEU's at as many meetings as possible. If anyone has any suggestions for speakers or would like to serve on the education committee please contact any board member.

We have scheduled a vendor appreciation day Dec. 5 at the USF athletic field. We would like to encourage all our members to bring their assistants and key employees to this fun day. Door prizes and a 50/50 drawing will



GCSAA Director of Membership Scott Woodhead (left) was the keynote speaker at the West Coast GCSA's Bud Quandt Fundraiser. Chapter President Jim Sharpe, CGCS is on the right. Photo by Joel Jackson.

be conducted throughout the day. Our affiliate members will have the opportunity to stage/set up any products and/or supplies they wish. There will be no cost for any of our members or employees to attend. A barbecue will be provided throughout the day that will be provided by the affiliate members attending and the FWCGCSA.

Florida GCSA

The Turf Research Account received a helpful boost with a \$5,000 donation by the Everglades Chapter at the fall board meeting at the Bay Hill Club in Orlando. "Over 150 attendees learned how to certify their courses at four statwide ACSP workshops held in

December. Director of Communications Joel Jackson, CGCS made news by being tapped recently for FTGA Wreath of Grass and GCSAA Distinguished Service Award Honors. Secretary/Treasurer Dale Walters, CGCS has left the Royal Palm CC and taken a position with the Lesco Company. Since he is no longer a Class A superintendent he is not eligible to serve on the board. President David Court has appointed South Florida External Vice President Joe Pantaleo to fill Walter's office for the remainder of the year.



EGCSA's Dale Walters, CGCS (left) presented FGCSA President David Court, CGCS with a check for \$5,000 for the state's Turf Research Account

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- Whit Derrick, Tournament Director
- West Coast GCSA



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Number 10, 371 Yards, Par 4
Photo by Daniel Zelazek



SAN JOSE COUNTRY CLUB

A Traditional Family-Style Club

By Joel Jackson, CGCS

Born in the Florida land boom of the Roaring 20s, the San Jose County Club was envisioned as a resort and a planned community on the eastern shore of the St. Johns River just five miles south of the heart of downtown Jacksonville. Back in those boom days, the San Jose site was accessible by boat on the river on its western boundary and by car and train as U.S. Highway 1 and the Florida East Coast Railroad ran north and south just east of the property.

Those booming 1920s saw a number of Donald Ross golf courses built across Florida, and the original San Jose course was one of them when it opened in 1925. But the land boom was followed

by the historic bust and depression of the early 1930s and the course languished as a daily fee facility until 1947 when 300 members organized, bought the course and created the private club that exists today. There are 15 of those charter members still active in the club, and the membership spans generations of families from grandparents to grandchildren.

It is that sense of belonging and family that leads Director of Golf Course and Grounds Clayton Estes, CGCS to call San Jose “a traditional Old Florida style club.”

Estes says, “Our members live here, work here, play here and eat here. There is a strong family atmosphere here. They utilize the club to the maximum from the formal Saturday night and holi-



The recently remodeled clubhouse is a classic backdrop for the 408 yard, 18th hole. Photo by Daneil Zelazek.

day dinners to business lunches during the week. The junior golf program has been expanded thanks to the efforts of Head Golf Professional Todd Bork. The kids split time in the summer between the swimming pool and the golf course.

“Lots of the junior golfers walk the course since the 1920s-style course design kept greens and tees close together. In fact almost 25 percent of our play, of all ages, is walkers. We don’t have a formal caddy program, but some folks bring their own. The clubhouse just completed a major renovation which provided better access to the club’s dining and meeting areas, and there are plans for a display area to showcase some of Donald Ross’ original sketches of the course and other historical memorabilia of the club.”

But the clubhouse isn’t the only focal point on the property for socializing. Twice a year the members are invited down to the maintenance facility. There is a golf course maintenance appreciation tournament in February, and everyone meets at the shop after golf for a barbecue dinner and to thank the staff for its efforts. Proceeds from the event go to course projects like landscaping and lightning protection. In October the maintenance facility hosts a member/member event with a square-dance caller and country and western band. Around Christmas time, Estes and the green committee host a staff/vendor tournament. The event has become so popular that Estes has had to make it an invitation-only affair.

Even though the course sits in a densely populated suburban area, the mature trees and shrubs conceal most of the houses, maintaining that parkland atmosphere traditional to the old Ross courses.

The club is located on SR 13 (San Jose Blvd.), which parallels the St. Johns River from Jacksonville to Palatka. The property is bounded by waterways and wetlands. Christopher Creek lies to the north, Pottsborg Creek Swamp to the east, Goodbys Creek to the south and of course the St. Johns about 300 yards to the west. Being in this watershed environment requires Estes to be ever

mindful of his management programs so they don’t add to the environmental impact of the residential development surrounding the course.

To be a good provider for the members, a good neighbor to the residents and a good steward of the environment of the area, Estes and his staff use sound Integrated Pest Management techniques and follow Best Management Practices to minimize chemical and fertilizer inputs on the course and grounds.

Says Estes, “We have established a 15-

foot no-spray setback around all water bodies. We also raise the height of cut on the lake banks to five inches to help filter any possible runoff. Whenever we must control weeds, turf disease, or insect infestations, we do so by only spot treating with small hand-operated sprayers and do not use large boom-type sprayers. That gives us precise control of the applications in those sensitive areas.”

Estes says his secret weapon for safe, efficient pest control on the golf course is Scott Strickland.

“Scott is a 10-year veteran of San Jose and the key to our success is his commitment to scouting and mapping of pest infestations. Through his diligence and vigilance we apply fewer pesticides and only when and where they are needed to control a problem. This is good business and good stewardship.

“We are currently alternating Merit and Chipco Choice applications to control grubs and mole crickets. We did treat 20 acres on our fairways with Curfew with good results. If we do develop any hot spots, we tend to use Orthene for control. But we rely on Scott’s scouting and mapping and soap flushes to ID problem areas and we treat only those problem areas.

“Fire ants can be a problem anywhere in the south. We keep our course clean by making applications of Award fire ant bait in the spring and fall. Any mounds that are spotted are also baited with Award. Nematodes are only a real recurring problem on No. 4 fairway, No. 5 approach and can be a concern on the 2.5 acres of greens and tees and roughly 10 acres of fairway mounds. I have become a believer in using humic acid to improve the soil CEC (cation exchange coefficient) and stimulate the soil microbes. I feel this improves the turf root development and

Clayton Estes, CGCS

Originally from: Torrance, Cal.

Family: Wife JoAnne; son Jimi; Chuey, a yellow Lab; Buster, a Lab/Springer mix; and Monroe a 15-year-old tabby.

Education: A.S. golf course operations from Lake City Community College

Employment history: 1980 TPC, Jacksonville (OJT); 1980-83 Bardmoor, Largo (J.C. Penney

Classic) assistant superintendent; 1983-84 Bobby Jones GC, Sarasota, superintendent; 1984-85 Caloosa GC, Sun City Center, superintendent; 1986-89 Onion Creek, Austin, Tex. (Liberty Legends of Golf) superintendent; 1989-95 TPC Prestancia, Sarasota (Chrysler Cup and Senior PGA Q-School) superintendent; 1995 - present, San Jose CC, director of golf course & landscape grounds.

Professional affiliations and awards: NFGCSA, FGCSA, GCSAA, FTGA. President of NFGCSA 1999-2000. Currently NFGCSA external vice presi-

dent. Award: Received the Nicklaus Award for Superintendent of the Year in 1987 while at Onion Creek.

Mentors: My dad who taught me the game of golf at age 6. He wanted to go to LCCC for the GCO program, but he never got to, so I did. My grandfather who worked at Big Sandy GC in north Georgia after retiring from the farming and fencing business. Alan Maccurach was a friend and mentor who helped me tremendously in my career path.

Goals/Accomplishments/Advice: My goal is to be the best superintendent I can be. So far I feel I’ve had a well-rounded career working on all types of courses from private, daily fee, municipal and corporate owned. I’ve had the opportunity to prepare courses for several televised professional events. My advice to the younger folks would be to leave work inside the gate. It will be there tomorrow. Let your spouse/family know up front that there will be periods of time when they won’t see you for days and maybe weeks on end due to your job responsibilities.

Memorable moments: My 15 minutes of fame came during an internationally televised event when I was interviewed on how we were restoring four greens that someone dug up with a shovel just in time for the Sunday round of the 1993 LPGA Chrysler Cup.

Hobbies: Fishing





The par 3, 12th hole is guarded by one of the three lakes on the golf course which come into play on nine or ten holes. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

results in less pest pressure, which also means applying fewer pesticides.

"To minimize a lot of post emergent applications for weed control we make two pre-emergent herbicide applications (Dimension) with our spring and summer fairway and rough fertilizer applications, and we make one Spray-Hawk walking boom application of Barricade and Surflan to unseeded areas in the fall prior to overseeding. Scott then takes the 24-gallon electric sprayer and applies the pre-emergent to the bunker faces.

"This year we will oversee the fairways. We skip overseeding every third year to clean up the Poa annua, which gets out of control if you overseed continuously. The greens were seeded on Oct. 7 this year and then Mother Nature threw record-high temperatures at us two weeks later. But now that it has turned cooler they are coming along nicely. We started with 8 pounds of Poa trivialis per thousand square feet and will 'dust' them with follow-up applications of 2 lbs/M as needed not to exceed 16 lbs/M overall.

"When we fertilize our fairway and rough areas, which are done three times a year, we do not spread those no-spray areas with the tractor-mounted equipment. We use walking spreaders so we can better control the coverage of the material and make sure it doesn't get too close to the water. The Poly-on fertilizers we use are a polymer-coated product, which releases the nutrients slowly for rapid turf uptake which prevents any nitrates from leaching into the ground water. This past year we also applied calcium silicate as part of our program to achieve a quicker pH response and to strengthen the turf against disease pressure in the late fall season which can be cloudy, wet and stressful to the turfgrass."

Turf stresses can also be brought on by soil conditions.

"Actually the native soil is pretty sandy, but a lot of river bottom got dredged up and used as fill on the course. We have areas of blue clay, marl and fine sands spread over the course," Estes said. To

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The park-like atmosphere of the Donald Ross design is evident in this shot of #7 green with the 8th hole in the background. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

compensate for the reduced percolation of these fine-grained soil types, Estes instituted a regular deep-tine aerification program in 1996. Using a Soil Reliever, Estes aerifies the entire course at least once per year. The tees are done an additional two times per year and the greens are done once by Estes' crew and

twice a year by a contract service.

The greens at San Jose are Tifdwarf and maintained to roll 8.0 - 8.5 on the stimpmeter to compensate for the undulations on the challenging greens. But like so many courses of its generation, the greens have a certain amount of off-type contam-

ination which shows up prominently in the summer time with the close cut and necessary verticutting practices. Estes has replanted the practice green by the clubhouse with TifEagle ultradwarf for the members to evaluate for a possible change in the future.

During the winter season, when less disruption to the putting surfaces can be tolerated, Estes aerifies with solid tines on the greens, but he has added his own innovation to the process.

"We aerify with standard concrete star-drill bits instead of using the stock tapered solid tines for two reasons. First, I think they create more surface area for a more effective hole for air and water exchange and they seem to be even less disruptive than the standard tine. Second, they are a lot less expensive than the standard tines."

As with any older course with lots of mature trees, Estes has to deal with shade problems.

"Rather than try to grow turf in the roughs with lots of trees, we have created pine straw natural areas, which have been self sustaining for the past three years. We just use the tractor-mounted blower to clean up the pine needles on the fairways and blow them into the natural areas. We may have to touch up the edges by hand, but it's not as labor intensive as scattering bales of pine straw like some folks have to do."

On the flip side, Estes has to contend with the loss of 20-30 trees per year due to storm damage and lightning. If a replacement tree is warranted, Estes will generally plant an oak tree judiciously so that future



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San Jose Country Club



San Jose Country Club

Location: Jacksonville

Ownership: Non-equity membership

Playing policy: Private. 18 holes, 6,625 yards, par 72. Course/Slope rating: 71.6/128.

Designed by: Donald Ross, opened in 1925. San Jose CC established in 1947. Renovated in 1988 by Bob Walker.

Management: Chris Chapman, club manager; Steve Apple, president; Todd Bork, head golf professional; Ladson Montgomery and Victor Zambetti, green chairmen; Nick Clark, golf professional emeritus; Krista Shaunessy, director of membership services; Clayton Estes, CGCS director of golf course and grounds maintenance.

(In a touch of class, Bork, Clark and Estes are all listed on the score card.)

Major renovations/Ongoing projects: Bunkers - installing/repairing drains and replacing the sand.

Total acreage under maintenance: 115 acres

Greens: Average 5,500 sq.ft., total 2.5 acres. Turf type: Tifdwarf. HOC: .110 - .170.

Overseeding: Poa trivialis @ a total of 16 lbs/1,000 sq.ft. Green speed goals: 8.0 - 8.5.

Tees: 3 acres total of Tifway 419 bermudagrass.

HOC: .475 - .600. Overseeding: perennial ryegrass @ 40 lbs/1,000 sq.ft.

Fairways: 28 acres of Tifway 419 bermudagrass.

HOC: .475 - .650. Overseeding: perennial ryegrass @ 250 lbs/acre. No overseeding this year - Clean-up year.

Roughs: 55 acres of Tifway 419 bermudagrass.

HOC: 1.0 - 1.5. No overseeding.

Bunkers: 47 sand bunkers all machine-raked with Cushman Groom Master with tines and flap attachment.

Natural areas: 12 acres of pine straw.

Waterways/Lakes: 3 lakes, total 10.4 acres designed to capture and retain storm water runoff.

Irrigation: Irrigation lake with deep-well fill as needed. Carol Childers vertical turbine pump system. Toro 670 heads, 80-foot spacing, double-row coverage. Toro Site Pro Network 8000 computer control system. Pro Plus fertigation system with variable-speed injection pump.

Total staff including superintendent: 18 - 16 full time and 2 part time working 40-hour weeks. Lake City Community College golf operations OJT students in the summer.

Leadership: Justin Jones, first assistant superintendent; James Dick, second assistant superintendent; Teresa Xander, landscape supervisor; Ed Weaver and Antonio Lopez, equipment technicians; Scott Strickland, pest control technician; Dennis Swander (LCCC student), irrigation technician; Micha Moten, a budding gospel singer and all-around good guy!

Communications: Weekly GCM staff and safety meetings; biweekly department-head meetings; monthly green committee meetings; monthly club newsletter articles.

Challenges: Our close proximity to the St. John's River requires us to be extra vigilant with our maintenance practices. Heavy soils and shaded conditions in high traffic areas.

Cultural/IPM programs: We use all slow-release granular fertilizers and also spoon feed nutrients with our fertigation system. 75% of our spray program for herbicides is done by hand with a 24-gal. sprayer. In 1996 we began an in-house, deep-tine aerification program, the first time since course was built in 1925.

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