



Super volunteer Paul Hamrick, left, is presented with the 2004 Lifetime Achievement Award by Jay McCord. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Squire course in St. Augustine and will graduate this May. Tim works at Marsh Landing and is a second-year student.

The NFGCSA also donated funds to the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program and to the First Tee Program of St. Johns County. First Tee

Coordinator Elliot Levercombe and one of the First Tee participants, Andrew Taylor, were on hand to receive the donation. Young Andrew gave a poignant thank you speech highlighting what the First Tee has meant to him and the others in the pro-



At the podium, 13-year-old Andrew Taylor tells the audience how important the First Tee program is in his life. Looking on: Andy MacGuire, NFGCSA president, left, and Elliot Levercombe, First Tee coordinator. Photo by Joel Jackson.

gram. He especially cited the mentoring and positive influence the program has had on his education and outlook on life.

Long-time NFGCSA member and super volunteer, Paul

Hamrick, was presented with the Alan MacCarrach Lifetime Achievement Award for his consistent and persistent service to the chapter, as he jumped in and helped to run so many of the association's events.

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*This was my view every day on the shuttle bus from my hotel on Shelter Island to the convention center. We saw every type of vessel in the bay: yachts, sailboats, tuna boats, freighters, cruise ships and aircraft carriers.*

# Apology From Sportscaster Brings Down the House



*The newly expanded convention center is to the left. The towering palms and bougainvillea bushes welcomed us to downtown San Diego across the street.*



*From left: IGM's Greg Plotner and Scott Zakany presented GCSAA CEO Steve Mona with a check for \$7,500 for the Environmental Institute for Golf. The money was the proceeds from the 2003 IGM Hole-in-One Shoot Out.*

## GCSAA's 75th International Golf Course Conference & Show in San Diego

This was perhaps the most idyllic setting the conference and show

has ever had. The weather was perfect. The harbor views were spectacular. The location and transportation was flawless and there was even a PGA Tour event going on at the same time to visit if you could find a spare moment in the jam-packed week of activities.

The weeklong schedule of activities concluded with the presentation of the association's highest honor, the Old Tom Morris Award, to highly regarded golf-course architect Rees Jones. But the real surprise was at the

In addition, Mark J. Woodward, certified golf course superintendent at Dobson Ranch and Riverview golf courses in Mesa, Ariz., was elected GCSAA president. Overall attendance for the Conference and Show was 19,317, up 1,153 from last year's total of 18,164 in Atlanta. There were approximately 6,200 qualified buyers (those who make purchase decisions at a golf facility), up from the 6,045 in Atlanta. Education seminar attendance reached 6,780, again surpassing the 6,295 figure of last year. A total of 684 exhibitors covered 240,000 square feet of floor space, down slightly from the 701 exhibitors and 245,200 square feet of floor space last year.



*CBS Sports announcer Jim Nantz, the voice of the Masters, pledged to do a better job of telling the story of golf maintenance during tournament broadcasts during his presentation at the Opening Session in San Diego. Photo by Bruce Mathews.*

Opening Session as CBS Sports announcer Jim Nantz brought down the house with a pledge to do a better job of telling the golf maintenance story during golf broadcasts. He promptly followed up that promise with praiseworthy comments during the Saturday and Sunday broadcasts of the Buick Invitational at Torrey Pines.

GCSAA's International Golf Course Conference and Show is the world's largest golf course management conference/trade show, with attendance averaging more than 20,000 per year over the past nine events. Last year, according to *Tradeshow Week* magazine, GCSAA's trade show ranked



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*This was the view from my room at the Bay Club Hotel and Marina*

84th among the top 200 tradeshows (there are more than 4,500 trade shows in the U.S. annually).

GCSAA's 76th International Golf Course Conference and Show will take on a new format, appearing next year as the Golf Industry Show. It will combine the trade shows hosted by GCSAA and the National Golf Course Owners Association. Both associations will operate separate education conferences that will run concurrently with the trade show. The 2005 Golf Industry Show is set for Feb. 10-12 in Orlando, with the GCSAA education conference Feb. 7 - 12 and the NCGOA education conference Feb. 8 - 12. I think this union will help get owners more involved in the issues facing the golf business.

My good friend, Monroe S. Miller, golf course superintendent at Blackhawk Country Club in Madison, Wis., for the past 30 years, was presented the Green Section Award from the United States Golf Association at its education session. The award is given annually by a panel of experts in the turfgrass field and recognizes distinguished contributions to golf through work with turfgrass.

Gordon LaFontaine, Danny H. Quast, CGCS, and Gordon C. Witteveen were selected as recipients of the GCSAA's Distinguished Service Award. LaFontaine, known for his leadership in Michigan turfgrass affairs has worked with the Florida Turfgrass Association during an independent review of the IFAS program at the University of Florida and Gordon



*Scott Bell, Red Stick GC, left, and Gary Morgan of UHS agree on weed control.*



*From left: Jay McCord, John Foy and Greg Pheneger catch up with each other at the FGCSA Reception. Around 400 Floridians got together at the Wyndham Emerald Plaza to nosh on shrimp cocktail, see old friends and meet new ones.*



*Kim Shine, Windsor Parke GC in Jacksonville was checking out tee signs at the trade show.*



*I flagged down Steve Ciardullo, Mountain Lake CC, for a snapshot while he cruised the show.*



*I spied a couple of our IFAS Turf cohorts, Dr. George Snyder, left, and Dr. John Cisar at the Milorganite booth.*



*A lot of us were away from home on Valentines Day. Hey, I got lonely.*

Witteveen, a well known author, columnist and Canadian superintendent, is a member of the Florida West

Coast GCSA. He winters in Tarpon Springs and visits area courses and

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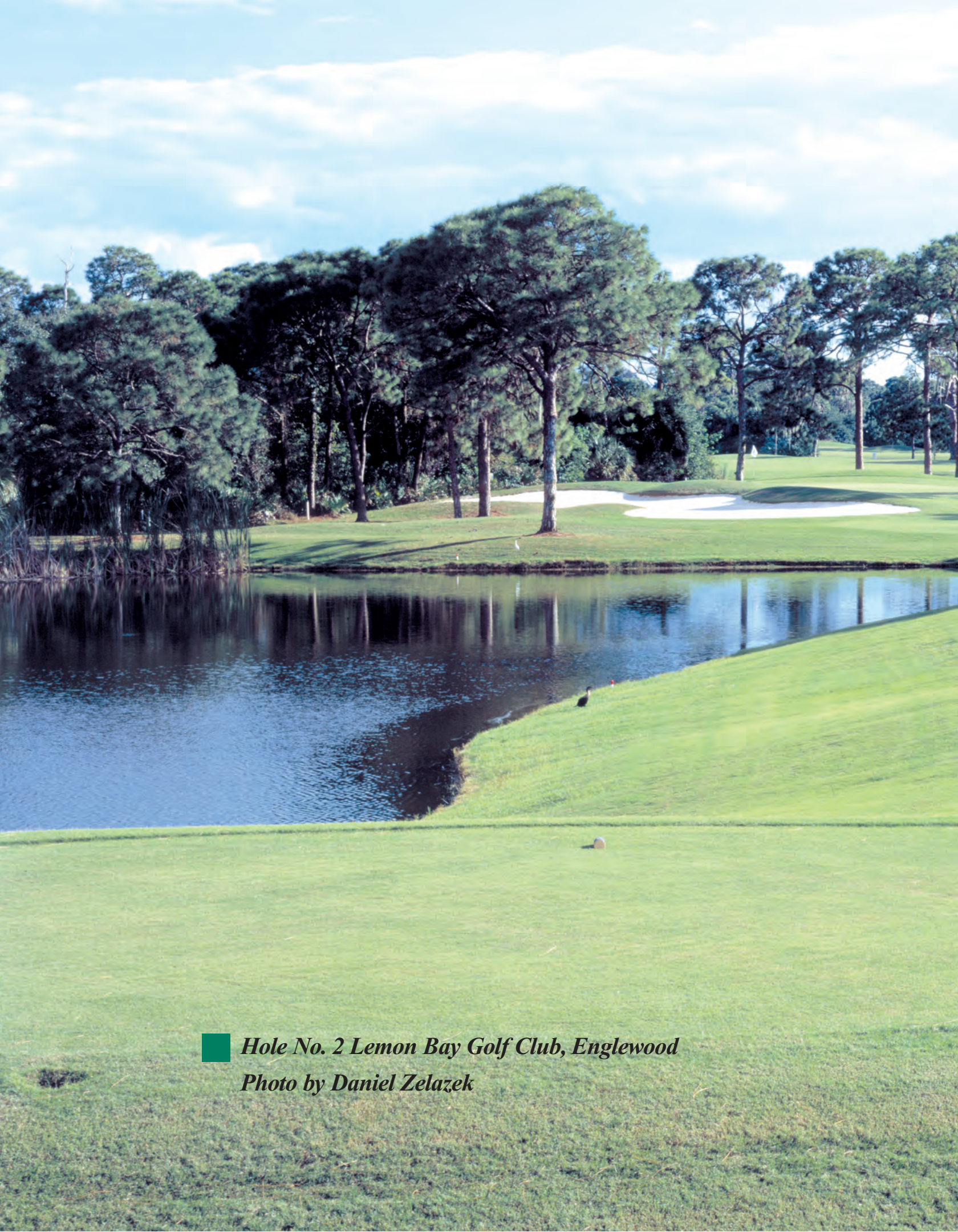
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 *Hole No. 2 Lemon Bay Golf Club, Englewood*  
*Photo by Daniel Zelazek*





LEMON BAY GOLF CLUB

# A Course That Scores a Couple of Eagles

*By Joel Jackson*

Every course has a story to tell and Lemon Bay is a book with several chapters. In many ways it could be called a rags-to-riches story.

There's the course-history chapter that takes an 1890s lemon grove and transforms it into a public golf course in 1981 only to fall into disrepair and be rescued by the members in 1989. The member-owners became so successful that they had to expand and incorporate the Long Marsh

Golf Club at Rotunda to serve the long waiting list for membership.

There's a chapter on the superintendent Chip Copeman, who guided the transformation of the golf course from a weed-infested wreck to a beautifully manicured gem of a golf course. Copeman graduated from the school of hard knocks and is a throwback to the days of the apprentice learning his trade at the side of a master craftsman. Now he's the vice president of the Suncoast Chapter and is a firm supporter of con-

tinuing education. His annual trips to the Masters Tournament in Augusta were part of his inspiration to excel in his profession.

Lemon Bay is a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. Certainly another tale worth telling filled with creative ideas on how to accomplish that goal and be a better steward of the area's natural resources. When there's a pair of bald eagles living in an eight-acre preserve in the middle of your golf course, it pays to be a good environmental steward because first, it's the right



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Gator left, great egret right, and one of Lemon Bay's 18 lakes in the middle guard the fifth green. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

## Chip Copeman



Chip Copeman

**Originally from:** Orlando

**Family:** Married to wife Lisa for 11 years. Son Kevin, daughter Lindsay

**Education:** Practical experience in the early years.

Accredited turf management seminars and continuing education at GCSAA, FTGA and FGCSA events.

**Employment history:** 1982-87 crew member

Myakka Pines GC; 1987-91 assistant superintendent, Plantation G&CC; 1991 to present superintendent/director of turf maintenance at Lemon Bay and Long Marsh courses.

**Professional affiliations and awards:** Member of GCSAA and FTGA. Currently vice president of the Suncoast GCSA chapter. Served on the board since 2000.

**How did you get into the business?** My dad got me started in golf at the age of 9 at the Winter Pines GC in Winter Park. My mother worked in the snack bar and we got to play golf for free. At age 12 I was a range rat and picked up range balls after school. I was in and around golf for most of my life and I knew I had a passion for the game and industry.

**Mentors:** My dad obviously who got me started playing the game. Pat McClain, superintendent at Myakka Pines, who gave me my first maintenance job and the opportunity to learn all the jobs on a golf course to begin my steps to becoming a superintendent some day. In 1987 I went to work for Eddie Fatica at the Plantation G&CC and within 30 days he promoted me to assistant superintendent.

**Goals:** Maintain the natural integrity of the golf course and continue my education and the crew's education on environmental issues. Create and maintain a close relationship with the surrounding community, with regard to their environmental concerns.

**Accomplishments:** Getting Lemon Bay and Long Marsh certified in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. Lemon Bay was the 25th course in the state and 115th in the world to be certified. In May 2003, Long Marsh became the 60th in Florida and 438th in the world to attain certification.

**Work philosophy:** Choose goals. Prepare plans to achieve those goals. Have the discipline to follow your plan and your goals will be met. Always remember, there's more than one way to get downtown. Some roads just take a little longer to get there.

**Advice:** Be involved in your local, state and GCSAA associations. Stay informed and have the right answers. Never guess or pretend to know the answer.

**Memorable moments:** (1) My wedding day, 12-12-92, beautiful blue sky and cool weather on Boca Grande Island. (2) The death of my good friend Tom Crawford. (3) When I started at Lemon Bay we didn't have power in the maintenance building. We had to run a small generator, but it was so small we would first brew a pot of coffee and then turn on the lights to check the fuel and oil levels on the equipment after the coffee was made.

**Hobbies/Interests, community, church involvement:** (1) Golf, hunting, fishing, and wood working; (2) Consult and help with Lemon Bay High School sports fields; (3) Christian faith believer



## Lemon Bay Wildlife Inventory

### MAMMALS

Armadillo  
Bobcat  
Gray fox  
Red fox  
Skunk  
Rabbit  
Raccoon  
Palmetto rat

### REPTILES

Alligator  
Chameleons  
Coral Snakes  
Indigo Snakes  
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnakes  
Gopher Tortoise  
Leatherback turtles

### FISH

Bream  
Catfish  
Largemouth bass

### BIRDS

Anhinga  
Bald Eagle  
Blue Heron  
Blue Jay  
Cardinal  
Coots  
Crow  
Dove  
Gallinules  
Grackles  
Glossy Ibis  
Great Blue Heron  
Great White Egret  
Green Heron  
Hawks (several varieties)  
Kingfisher  
Limpkin  
Louisiana Heron  
Moorhens  
Night Heron  
Owls (several varieties)  
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## Lemon Bay Golf Club



*Lemon Bay Golf Club*

**Location:** Englewood

**Ownership:** Members

**Playing policy:** Private (October-April); Semi-Private (May-September)

**Number of holes:** 18; 6,180 yards; Par 71; **Course Rating** 69.9/Slope 126.

**Designed by:** Jim Petrides. Opened in 1981.

**Management:** Club President Bonnie Tyler; Club Manager Peter Hodson; Green Chairman Joe Anderson; Head Golf Professional Missy Eldridge; Director of Turf Maintenance Chip Copeman.

**Major renovations:** Greens, tees and bunker redesign/renovation by Chip Powell in 1997.

**Ongoing vegetation plan:** Adding trees and native plants.

**Total acreage under maintenance:** 90

**Greens:** TifDwarf, Avg. Size = 5,000 sq. ft., Total = 3 acres; HOC = 5/32 inch summer, 1/8 inch winter;

**Overseeding:** Princeville blend @ 10 lbs/1,000 sq. ft. Green speed goals: 8.0 summer, 9.0 winter.

**Tees:** Turf - Tifway 419 Bermudagrass, 4.0 acres; HOC: 5/8 inch; No overseeding.

**Fairways:** Turf - 419 Tifway Bermudagrass, 35 acres; HOC: 5/8 inch. No overseeding.

**Bunkers:** 35 = 1.21 acres; Sand type: 38 Special; machine raked with Toro Sand Pro, hand rake edges.

**Native areas:** 8-acre eagle preserve in the center of the course. Buck Creek and Lemon Creek run through the course from the Lemon Bay waterway. We have 3.5 acres of pine-straw ground cover in the large pine-tree areas in the roughs.

**Waterways/Lakes:** 18 lakes/ponds. Aquatic weed control done by outside contractor.

**Irrigation:** Reclaimed water; VFD Flotronex pump station; Toro Osmac radio controlled/computerized control system; Heads on 70-ft. spacing; Fertigation: 1,650-gallon tank. No watering restrictions.

**Total staff including superintendent:** 12 full time and 1 part time. 40 hours straight time and 4 hours overtime per week.

**Leadership:** Assistant Superintendent Bruce Crocker; Equipment Technician Bob Himmelhauer; Pest Control Technician Mike Sharpe; Administrative assistance by club's Executive Secretary Cindy Claude.

**Communications:** Monthly crew/safety meeting. Bimonthly green committee meetings. Quarterly newsletter.

**Cultural Programs:** Aerification - Greens 4x/year; Tees, fairways, and roughs 3x/year. Verticut fairways 1x/year. Fertilization - Greens every 14-21 days @ 0.5 lb N/1000 sq. ft; Tees, fairways and roughs 6x/year @ 1.0 lb. N/1000 sq. ft. Light fertigation of supplemental nutrients to greens November to February. Periodic light greens topdressing as needed.

**Management Challenges:** Green speed, nematodes, and pine tree decline.

**Environment:** Fully certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. We have a nesting pair of eagles in our preserve area and we are fortunate to see young eagles fledged each spring. We maintain a 20 foot "no spray zone" around all lakes and ponds. Daily visual scouting and monitoring of pest problems and threshold levels to assess the actual locations and need to apply pesticides.

thing to do, and second because there are laws that protect our national symbol. Certification became a natural way to go and Lemon Bay got help from local high school students - an idea anyone can borrow to help with the process.

Every course has its unique set of operational challenges, such as soil, drainage, turf management, landscape and weather - which is another chapter in the Lemon Bay story. Seasons come and go, each one bringing different growing conditions. After years of drought, Lemon Bay endured 48 inches of rain from June to September in 2003. The normal average is 52 inches per year.

### Chapter One: History

The Lemon Bay Golf Club is located just off State Road 775, which snakes its way south on the mainland from Englewood to Placida on Florida's southwest coast. West of the course lie mangroves, Lemon Bay and Don Pedro Island. To the east lie the Rotunda and Port Charlotte communities and the pine and palmetto scrubland flats of southwest Florida.

In 1981 the course rose from the overgrown acres of a pioneer lemon grove. It was designed by Jim Petrides, who had also designed the nearby Rotunda community golf course. It opened and operated as a public golf course for many years but, for whatever reason, the course conditions declined and it became an eyesore. The irrigation system was in a shambles. Smutgrass grew everywhere and nematodes devoured the turf, creating large bare areas on the course. In 1989 a group of members bought the course and began to turn it around.

It took man working with nature and some good agronomy from three to five years to get the course looking respectable, but at the end of the five years they had been so successful they had to cap the membership. A seven-to-ten-year waiting list ensued. The nearby Long Marsh Golf Club, located two miles away in Rotunda, came on the market and the Lemon Bay members group bought it to serve the waiting list.

### Chapter Two: The Superintendent

Born in Orlando, Chip Copeman was around golf courses and landscaping for most of his childhood and early adult life. His mother Pat worked at the Winter Pines Golf Club in the snack bar. This gave him access to the course and his dad started him playing the game at the age of nine. Copeman became a "range rat" who worked picking up range balls after school and in return had the run of the golf course. Thus began a lifelong love affair with the game. He currently maintains a six handicap.

After working at a variety of landscape jobs, Copeman knew golf was his passion. In 1982 he