



Landscape Manager Jeff Kinsey oversees a 20-person crew taking care of more than 40 acres of common grounds areas and landscaped areas on the golf courses. Photo by Joel Jackson.

and mapped for special treatment in the off season, so are slow-draining, heavy-soil areas and pest infestations of weeds and insects. Kreisich says that scouting and mapping have been essential tools for efficient management of pesticide use, saving budget dollars for labor and purchases.

“We generally budget for about 30 acres worth of treatment for mole-cricket control each year. We always do all the tees because they are one of the focal points on each hole and under constant stress from traffic. We don’t need extra damage from mole crickets to deal with. With the rest of the course, we rely on our scouting and mapping of known active areas to direct where we apply the products. We know the crickets generally reappear in the same places each year, so if you map those areas you can go right to them and treat and move on. There is no justification for blanket treatment of a fairway or rough that doesn’t need it.”

In fact Kreisich says that 90 percent of all spraying and treatments at Heritage Palms is done on a “spot treatment as needed” basis. The only exceptions being pre-emergent herbicide applications to non-overseeded areas in the fall for *Poa annua* and volunteer ryegrass control and all other areas in the spring for the germination of warm-sea-



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Greg Kriesch



Greg Kriesch, left, and General Manager David Negip. Photo by Joel Jackson

Originally from: Shelby Township, Mich.

Family: Wife Samantha; sons Kevin, Ryan and Jeremy

Education: Lake City Community College, A.S. in golf course operations, 1990.

Employment history: 1985-87 Irrigation and IPM technician, Del Tura C.C., North Ft. Myers ; 1988 Lake City OJT internship, Burnt Store Marina G.C., Punta Gorda ; 1989 Lake City OJT internship, Long Cove Club, Hilton Head, SC ; 1990-91 assistant superintendent, Cape Coral Golf & Tennis Resort, Cape Coral; 1991-95 assistant superintendent, Imperial G.C., Naples; 1995-98 superintendent Palmetto Pines C.C., Cape Coral; 1998-present superintendent Heritage Palms G&CC, Fort Myers.

Professional affiliations and awards: Member of GCSAA since 1987; Everglades GCSA 1991-96; Calusa GCSA 1996-present. Calusa board member since 2001 and chapter president for 2003-04.

Mentors/Career Influence: My mother and father for instilling the moral that whatever you do, make sure you are happy; money is not everything. Above all be honest. I'm indebted to everyone I have worked for in this wonderful industry: Bob Yates who brought me into the golf business; Bob Sanderson for influencing me to attend college; Kent Stier, Scott Hamm, Roy Bates, Jerry Redden, Dave Smith and Joe Fenner and many others I have worked with; all have in some way helped me along the way.

Goals: Become certified as a CGCS and our course in the ACSF. Be the best father and husband I can be for my family. Get my bachelors degree, probably in business administration. When I retire some day, I would like to purchase a motor home and travel the U.S. and Canada.

Accomplishments: College degree; became a Class A superintendent; completed a new course grow-in, a very rewarding experience; just being happy in what I do and enjoying the people I meet in this profession. Once in a great while when things aren't going my way, I wonder what else I would do. I haven't come up with anything yet.

Work philosophy: Be honest. Work hard. Always

leave work at work and put your family first. Don't be afraid to make mistakes. The only people who don't make mistakes are those who don't try anything. Don't be hesitant to ask for help when faced with issues you are unsure of. You can ask a co-worker or another superintendent or other industry professional. There are hundreds of people out there who are more than happy to help.

Memorable/humorous moments: The birth of my two sons and cutting the umbilical cords. I was the one crying like a baby. Meeting Michael Jordan while I was interning at Long Cove on Hilton Head Island, SC.

On my honeymoon in Colorado with Samantha, my wonderful Florida cracker wife, who had never seen snow before we stopped to take a photo of a field of unblemished snow. I told her to take a running head start and jump out into the snow so no footprints could be seen. The snow was waist deep and she ended up face first, which I sort of knew might happen to a rookie.

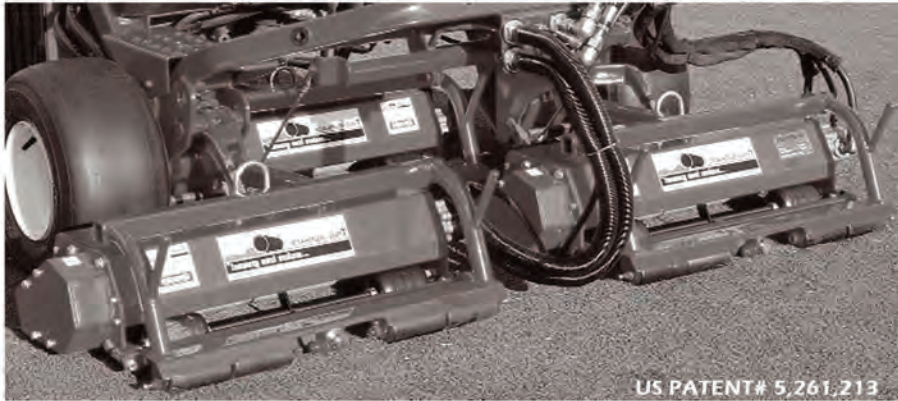
Hobbies/Interests: Assistant coach San Carlos Scorpions Soccer League since 2002 and assistant coach San Carlos Little League since 2003. Ice hockey (I am from Michigan) – season ticket holder of the Florida Everblades. Doing yard work. Playing cribbage with Samantha on weekends. Spending time with family and friends. Fishing when I can find the time.



The immaculately manicured entrance next to the 6th green on the Royal Course. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

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A large serpentine bunker complex guards the 4th hole on the Sabal Course. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.



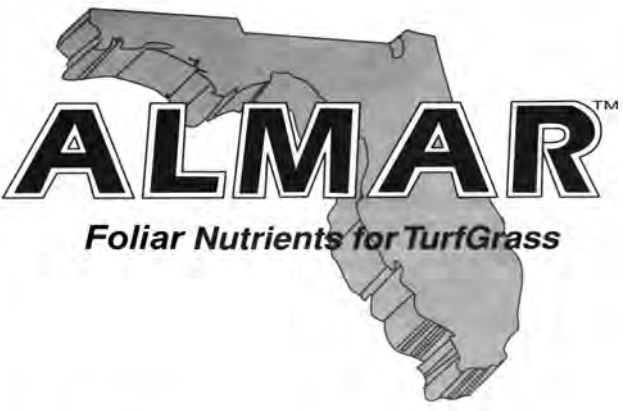
Replacing seasonal annuals in the tee beds with flowering native perennial plants like these Crown of Thorns, Firecracker and Fire bush plants saves money in labor and materials and doesn't sacrifice color and appeal. Photo by Joel Jackson.

son weeds like crabgrass and goosegrass.

"We are making three applications a year," Kriesch said. "We used to do only two, but we found that in January and February the fall application was wearing off and unsightly *Poa Annua* and ryegrass clumps were popping up. Now we treat in

the fall, after the first of the year and in the spring using Barricade. For post-emergent applications to control these winter grasses in bermudagrass, we have experimented with the new products like TransXit, Revolver and Monument, and Monument seems to work best for us."

Speaking of overseeding, Kriesch has been contemplating some possible changes to the



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Manager Becomes First Lady



Samantha Kriesch, association manager, Calusa GCSA

Five years after assuming the role as the association manager in 1999, Samantha Kriesch also finds herself the First Lady of the Calusa chapter thanks to hubby Greg's current presidency. She says that combination has its pros and cons.

"Well as Association Manager it's pretty easy to get a hold of the Chapter president when I need him," she says, "but as husband and wife, we have to sometimes work at keeping association business and family time balanced."

With an AS degree in administrative sciences and computers and her two sons in school, Samantha was looking for work she could do at home. When the chapter began to get very active and pursue GCSAA affiliation, it became clear that busy superintendents in a very golf-competitive region could use some help with the administrative paperwork that comes with being

an active and progressive chapter. It has been a good fit.

Her primary duties are putting together the chapter newsletter, handling member applications, keeping the association checkbook in order and serving as administrative liaison between the FGCSA and GCSAA when member rosters and paperwork is due. Currently she is organizing the first directory for the 160-member chapter and proudly announced that the chapter's new Web site, www.calusagcsa.com, is making its debut.

The best part of the job says Samantha is meeting a lot of wonderful people, "Now I have a face to go with a name when members call with questions." The best part for the Calusa chapter is that the members have a dedicated person like Samantha to help with the administrative workload that comes with a volunteer association.

program.

"Currently we do the greens, collars and approaches, the par-3 tees and the driving-range tee.

Next year we will likely add all the rest of the tee tops to give us a good growing surface all winter. My dilemma is the greens; whether to overseed or

not. It's a case of battling possible transition problems in the spring when we do oversee versus the possible damage from all that traffic if we don't

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overseed. I'm concerned about the survival of the turf if we have any long severe cold snaps in the fall and winter.

"The reason for the dilemma is that in the late spring we start to have what is known as reciprocal play and our members can go play some of the private clubs in the area that are not accessible during the season. Many of these courses with lower rounds and less traffic have elected not to overseed anymore. When our members go play them and come back they don't always understand that we are dealing with transition issues while those courses aren't. All they see are greens with thin spots. It isn't fair to compare apples and oranges, but it happens. I just don't know how our greens would react to our 95,000 rounds of golf if we didn't have that overseeding insurance. If someone can guarantee me a mild winter in writing next year maybe we could try it."

One turf management challenge that came with the property is patches of common bermudagrass in the fairways. Kriesch, like other superintendents, doesn't have any easy solutions.

"Even superintendents who have gone through painstaking eradication efforts are finding common bermudagrass coming back. The members don't really pay much attention to these patch-

es except in the spring when the prolific seed heads get their attention. I might try spraying these locations without overspraying the surrounding 419 and if we can weaken it enough maybe the 419 will take over. The main thing is I don't want to create a big eyesore."

EDITOR'S NOTE: I can sympathize with Kriesch. No matter what you decide to do, it's going to be noticeable. If you spray common bermudagrass with Round Up, it will turn yellow and die (after repeated applications), so you will have yellow and brown spots all over your fairways and roughs. When you think you have it killed off then you cut it out and re-sod it and you have that obvious patch until it blends in. Be warned: sometimes the sod never blends in even though it's also supposedly the same variety. This is one issue that needs member understanding before it's undertaken. Do a test area and show them what they will be dealing with before you go whole hog on this project.

One project looming on the horizon that Kriesch is looking forward to is making Heritage Palms a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. He said, "I have done the site assessment and I hope this summer we can really get rolling on it. I put an

...making sure that heritage of Heritage Palms is well founded for the residents and golfers

article in the club newsletter and the member response for volunteers was phenomenal from doing wildlife inventories to installing nest boxes and feeders. Their enthusiasm is heartening. I know a lot of superintendents might like to get involved in the ACSF, but they think all the work will fall on them. By simply asking I found out I already had a group ready and willing to help. I guess I shouldn't be too surprised. The last two years we have done what I call a Woody Walk, where we tour the golf course and I point out the difference species of plants and animals on the course. Those tours are always well received."

Kriesch has other projects waiting in the wings like becoming a certified golf course superintendent and working on his bachelor's degree, but for now he's content in making sure that the heritage of Heritage Palms is well founded for the residents and golfers who venture past those signature palm trees at the entrance.



Assistant superintendents Kevin Bush (left), Sabal Course, and Brandon Parker, Royal Course, take on extra responsibility as more and more calls and meetings take up more of the superintendent's daily routine. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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A Few Keys to Longevity

By Monroe S. Miller

(Editor's note: Besides being a fellow superintendent, Monroe Miller is the editor of The Grass Roots magazine, the Wisconsin GCSA's official publication. Monroe received the 2004 USGA Green Section's Distinguished Service Award in San Diego. Monroe has tremendous personal and professional integrity and credibility. When he speaks, people pay attention. I hope you will too.)

Joe Kunze, president of the Badger Turf and Grounds Club, invited me to campus on a spring evening to talk to the members of the club at their monthly meeting. I am always glad for such an invitation, maybe subconsciously pleased that someone is interested in what I might have to say.

Which, obviously is the first dilemma - what to talk about. Since Joe didn't give me much lead time, I decided the easiest topic to prepare for would be to share with them a few things I have learned on the golf course over my 30-plus-year career.

There are entire sections in bookstores dedicated to this general subject matter. Many of them are full of clichés and tend to be very trite. And I could be assured that a group of college men didn't want to hear the likes of "It's easier said than done," or "A fool and his money are soon parted," or "Water always runs downhill."

But you have to learn something when you are on the job as long as I have been, and mostly it is good advice, albeit obvious in some cases.

I would love to see a similar list from guys like Tom Harrison, Wayne Otto, Danny Quast, Randy Smith, Carl Grassl and a dozen others in that age range. Maybe they'll take a hint and send me such a list.

Missing from the list will be the obvious — agronomic advice. My starting point in this is that if you are a golf course superintendent you had better have plant and soil issues already in hand. For most of us, solving cultural problems is the most fun part of the profession.

Anyway, here's the advice I gave that class of future golf course superintendents, in no particular order:

- Use commonsense. It seems so simple, but too

often people over think problems. When you have a farm background like I do, learning commonsense was part of growing up.

- Work hard, all the time and every day at the golf course. Players/employers will notice and respect you for it.
- A complement to working hard is working smart. This sounds like a cliché, but it isn't. You can work hard at planting a tree, for example, but if it is in the wrong place you'll get to do it twice.
- Do what you are told to do when you are told to do it. Don't be offended; remember everyone has a boss.
- Be honest to the extreme with everyone you deal with: employers, employees, the DNR, col leagues, everyone. I once witnessed a golf course superintendent's attempt to blow smoke in the green chairman's ear. It didn't work and was a big mistake. Honesty pays big dividends.
- Set high standards and goals. Overreach. Strive for excellence. If you don't at least aim high, you be assured you won't get there.
- Listen. Being a good listener is essential if you are going to turn out the kind of conditions expected of you. You must listen to complaints and criticisms, but it doesn't hurt to listen to compliments, either.
- Do no harm. Sometimes doing nothing is better than doing something that could have a negative impact. The job is tough enough without shooting yourself in the foot.
- Function with enthusiasm. Nothing great was ever accomplished without it. And you will find it is contagious to those around you.
- Practice neatness in everything: the shop, your equipment, your golf course. It sets a good example for the staff, and if you are sloppy, chances are the staff will be too. Neatness presents a good first impression. Neatness can carry you through tough periods due to weather or other conditions out of your control.
- Look forward, not back. The great things you may have done last year or ten years ago don't matter much. Today and tomorrow is what count.
- Fix small problems before they become big ones. Procrastination is a terrible disease and it can really hurt you.
- Although it goes without saying, it commonly isn't done; cultivate a good relationship with your colleagues at your course — golf pro and club house manager. They see the customer first and

last and can be a help to you. It may not always be easy, but it is the smart thing to do.

- Realize early on in your career that learning never stops. Continuing education should be a top priority of yours until you retire. You have to always try to get better; it is more than just a matter of keeping up.
- Support the land grant institution in the state where you work, even it isn't your alma mater. Science is the solution to many of the problems we face, and agricultural research goes on at our land grant colleges. You can still root for the football team fielded by the college you attended, but local problems are solved locally.
- Give something back to your profession. Be an officer holder, serve on a committee, host a meeting, attend the phosphorus ban hearing and participate in some way. Don't always let the other person do it.
- Don't ever forget this; your security depends on the turf product you turn out each day, not on diplomas, CGCS awards, golf scores or anything else.
- Communicate on all levels within your organization. This is not the same as socializing.
- Fiscal responsibility is paramount. Not many of us work where a budget doesn't matter. In fact, the superintendents I respect the most are those turning out a quality golf course with a modest amount of money. They get the maximum for the money they have because they must.
- Be a good representative of your organization. Make them proud of you.
- Understand golf and its rules. This, of course, does not mean you have to play golf, just understand it. Many of us do not appreciate a busman's holiday and shouldn't have to suffer such because someone thinks we should.
- In all things and all matters at work — sincerity. It is easy to spot a disingenuous person.
- Do your part in helping train the next generation of golf course superintendents. Provide the practical and vocational training they need and the mentoring that can be so important. As professor James R. Love always said, this is the best way to repay those you helped you along the way.

It took an invitation from some college guys to precipitate my thoughts about longevity. Maybe this list will be a catalyst for you to do the same. If so, let me know. We can share advice with others, demonstrating that to some extent golf course superintendents are all fairway philosophers.

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Aquatic Management: From Vegetation to Water Quality

By Joel Jackson, CGCS

In doing cover stories on golf courses for the *Florida Green* for more than 14 years, I seldom come across a superintendent who does his own lake or waterway maintenance. It is little wonder I suppose because I also seldom hear about aquatic management in the agronomic curriculum of our major turf schools.

However in today's world, superintendents still must consider how they can impact the water bodies with their turf maintenance programs, and they must be knowledgeable about the basics of aquatic systems so they can enhance their appearance and quality.

Consequently I turned to articles in *Golf Course Management*, IFAS publications and to Mike Martin, president of Lake Masters for information for this issue, since no superintendents jumped all over

this topic and bombarded me with articles. Here's what I found out.

The bad news is that there are many factors at work in your lakes and ponds that are in some cases beyond your control, but still fall under your watch. So the trick is to learn how to mitigate and/or correct those factors to minimize negative outcomes. Don't try this unless you're a trained professional. In fact just go ahead and budget for a professional aquatic management service like you do for any of the other contract services for your course maintenance.

Golf course waterways are like any other part of the golf course; they need to be on a regular maintenance program to prevent algae, weeds, bottom sludge, odors, poor water clarity, and the dreaded fish kill. These problems are often related and can stem from the following factors:

Key Points

- Algae, aquatic weeds, fish kills, and odors are all caused by build-up of debris and lack of oxygen.
 - Reduce organic matter suspended in the water adjust pH of water to favor chemical breakdown and improve oxygen content to maintain lake's appearance.
 - Make sure lakes are designed and constructed properly to prevent problems.
 - Protect against nutrient loading by maintenance practices
 - Lakes are worth the investment in maintenance by a knowledgeable professional.
- Nutrient overload – natural organics and runoff
 - Water Temperature – a function of lake depth, sun light and circulation
 - Water Depth – affects light penetration and plant growth and temperature
 - Dissolved oxygen – aerobic digestion of nutrients is critical

Nutrient Overload

Obviously when the nutrient influx outpaces aerobic bacteria's ability to digest organic nutrients, the lake can become out of balance, and unwanted



Course employee harvests unwanted weeds. Poor lake design and construction means unwanted emergent vegetation and algae in this shallow lake will be a constant maintenance burden to keep it looking good. Photo by Joel Jackson.