

than four hours, which was broken into two days. I continued to tweak the slides until the day before the presentation. When I finished the presentation I e-mailed it to several people including those listed above and to other friends. The comments I got back were very helpful. You can set up the presentation so that the presenter can check notes when showing a slide and these notes will not be obvious to people in the audience. I practiced my script in front of my wife the night before and twice the day of the presentation.

The day of the presentation I got to the meeting room 30 minutes early to make sure everything was set up, including the microphone. I tried to relieve some of my nervousness by greeting people as they entered the room. About 50-55 people attended the meeting. The presentation lasted about 35 minutes and there were about 20 minutes of questions that followed. Most of the questions were positive in nature and I believe that most people were surprised and impressed with our efforts.

The next time you get that call with an opportunity to speak with a group remember all of the people that are willing to help and all of the resources available. Power Point is a great way to communicate to a group and it is very easy to use.

**Author's Note:** *The group I spoke with is the Environmental Issues Group. It is a Shell Point resident-led group. They are an active group that does things such as pick up trash along a 1.5-mile stretch of a local road, maintain the bike path, many are active in bird watching and counting, most volunteer at John Ding Darling Wildlife Preserve on Sanibel Island. They also lobby the local administration for more native plants and other issues.*



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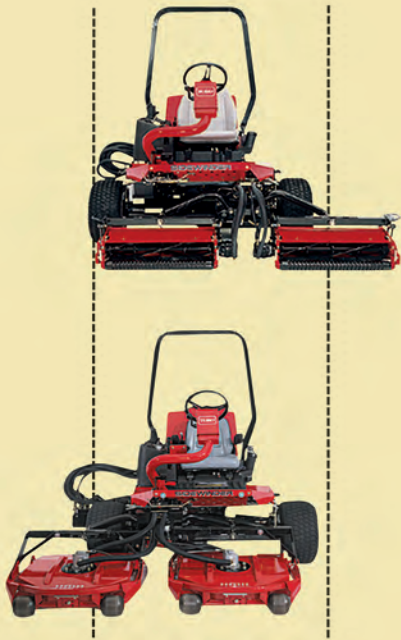
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**Managing a tree program at Timuquana CC has been a very challenging task. Numerous members have grown to love the lush forest that was planted by the membership in the 1960s, but this has put a tremendous amount of pressure on the golf maintenance staff.**

*Limb trimming and tree thinning is done in-house with a rented lift. The work is done on Mondays when the course is closed and in the winter when the turf is dormant and mowing hours are minimized. Photo by Chris Neff.*

## Beating the Shade!

*By Chris Neff* the golf course turf and keep the membership happy and satisfied with the program.

Timuquana Country Club is a private country club in Jacksonville. The golf course was built in 1923 by Donald Ross and restored by Bobby Weed in 1996. I have been the superintendent at Timuquana CC since September 2001.

Managing a tree program at Timuquana CC has been a very challenging task. Numerous members have grown to love the lush forest that was planted by the membership in the 1960s, but this has put a tremendous amount of pressure on the golf maintenance staff at Timuquana to manage

When the golf course was renovated in 1996, architect Weed found three different sets of 150-yard markers (cedar trees and ligustrum shrubs) in the overgrown forest that had changed the design of Donald Ross over 70 years. More than 800 trees were taken out throughout the golf course during the renovation in 1996. This cleared some of the forest and alleviated some of the shaded turf issues... but only for a short time.

In 2002, Timuquana CC hosted

the U.S. Senior Amateur. Once the Senior Amateur was over, I wanted to bring the golf course to another level of conditioning. I knew the only way to accomplish this was to establish a formal tree program.

The program was started in June of 2003 and still continues to be a feature in our maintenance plan throughout the year. Elements in this tree program include not only eliminating shade issues from the golf course, but also trimming limbs of the pines and oaks and brush clearing of vines and scrubby plant material.

#### HOW DID I SELL THE TREE PROGRAM?

Selling the tree program was not easy by any means. The Green Committee was the first group I had to convince. I drew a detailed map from our base map to show where the detrimental shaded areas actually occurred on the golf course and then I showed how the golf course was affected by the shade in those areas.

When I showed the map of the shade areas, I also brought out old aerial photos of the golf course from the 1940s through the renovation in 1996 and this showed Donald Ross's original design philosophy and then how the golf course quickly got overgrown through the years. This raised many eyebrows and got the attention of the committee.

The Green Committee accepted my ideas and I was told to put a dollar amount on the program and a time-frame. Once I completed the proposed plan, I then had to sell the Board of Governors.

After many meetings on the golf course with the board and my tree surgeon, approval was finally given. We were budgeted \$50,000 and a month to finish the two holes of tree work that just happened to be the worst shade and overgrown areas on the course.

This was done and was accepted by the majority of the membership. The biggest difference was the difference of growth in the turfgrass over that month. This created a new line item in the budget and they committed at least five years to the tree program.



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## WORK APPROVAL AND AUTHORITY

All work is approved by the Board of Governors and Green Committee. If the areas are related to shade, the approval is normally very easy but sometimes the membership doesn't want to part with a certain tree, and the shade damage and results are understood and tolerated. Most times digital pictures are taken throughout the day and shown at meetings. Then we go to the specific areas to show the shade and decisions are then made. Same thing goes for removing brush or limbing trees. Approval comes first from the Board of Governors and the Green Committee and then work proceeds. Removing dead trees is completely up to me and then I report the work back to the Green Committee.

## HOW AND WHEN IS THE TREE WORK DONE?

An outside contractor does most of the work. We have used the same tree company for the five years I've been here. This contractor specializes in golf courses and realizes the importance of the trees and how we manage them. It really helps having the same company because they know the golf course and how to move around the course without doing any damage. This contractor is at Timuquana on average three to five days



Forty years of unmanaged tree planting was causing serious shade problems on the golf course. Photo by Chris Neff.

a month all year long.

Our staff performs all brush clearing and limbing of pines and oaks. This work is performed with a rented high-reach lift at various times of the year. We have a large inventory of chain saws, pruning saws, and Bush Hogs to help remove this excess foliage. Most large work that may affect play or cause disruption is done on closed Mondays. This also lets us perform the work without being seen during the day and doesn't cause 19th Hole talk. We perform all this work during the winter when the golf course and grounds are dormant, and we don't overseed fairways or roughs, which would require lots of mowing.

## STORM EFFECTS

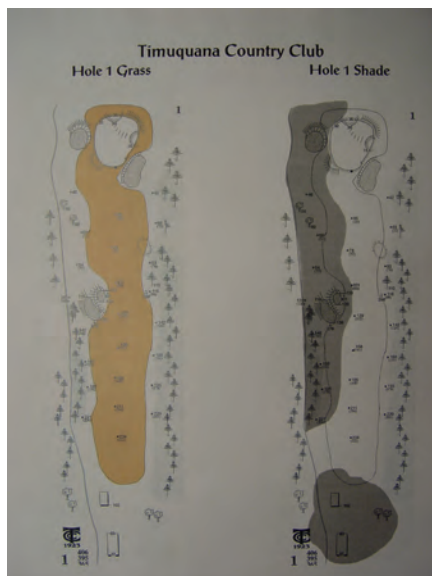
We lost about 100 trees in the storms of 2004. Most of the trees were out of play but a few affected some areas. The trimming of the pines and oaks benefited the course tremendously as the amount of debris on the course was minimal and very easy to clean up. Since the storms, we have experienced many issues in certain areas of the course where the pine bark beetle has infested many pine trees. We have managed this problem by removing the trees immediately after identifying that the beetle has affected a tree. This pest damage has caused about another 75 trees to be lost throughout the golf course and grounds. We are hoping that the winter temperatures will slow this infestation and let us concentrate on working on more needed areas that are causing shade to the turf.

## GUIDELINES AND POLICY FOR MEMORIAL AND BEAUTIFICATION TREES.

Timuquana has a very strict policy when it comes to planting memorial trees or donated plant material on the grounds! After the renovation in 1996, the Green Committee proposed to the Board of Governors to make a policy in the club bylaws to not allow anyone to plant trees or ornamentals for beautification or memorials without the approval of a golf course architect. This helps my answer when I'm constantly asked to plant something for a certain person or for a committee. Also, this keeps the character of the golf course intact from the original designer without getting crazy with plant material that doesn't keep the same character or may cause serious shade problems when the trees mature.

Each year the tree program gets a little bit easier. Now we're in our third year of the program and I feel like the accomplishments are finally showing their benefits for themselves. The turf is performing better in these areas and aesthetically the golf course has a different feel and look that really shows off the true beauty of the property. I'm hopeful that this program will be continued in the future. As we prepare for a potential renovation in 2008 we accomplished a lot that will help that project be successful.

I would like to thank the membership of Timuquana CC for the continued support of this program and most important to my staff for going above and beyond the call of duty during this time. Thanks!



Shade maps and old aerial photos showed the Green Committee and the Board of Governors how trees had changed the golf course design. Photo by Chris Neff.

The Moorings Club - Vero Beach FL  
Craig Weyandt, Golf Course Superintendent



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lower mowing heights. With frequent brushing, grooming and light top dressings, TifEagle requires less verticutting to control thatch buildup than the other ultradwarfs. TifEagle also recovers more quickly from injury, has better color, and is extremely cold hardy, drought tolerant and disease resistant. So whether you're involved with the repair or restoration of your existing greens, or installing an entire new course, insist on the best. Specify TifEagle Bermudagrass by name. You can sod it, sprig it or even no-till it under the right conditions. Call for more information.



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USGA UPDATE

## Long-Range Planning for Florida Greens

By Todd Lowe  
USGA Consulting Agronomist

Many recent visits throughout the region have focused on long-range planning projects such as putting-green regrassing, tee leveling, and bunker refurbishment. These are important projects that should be undertaken at some point for successful golf courses in our region; and we enjoy assisting golf courses by sharing our knowledge and insights.



A particularly important issue with many courses is selecting the proper turfgrass for putting greens. Tifdwarf has been the standard for Florida putting greens for nearly 40 years, but advancements in turfgrass genetics now allow improved putting conditions.

The ultradwarfs have a finer leaf texture, increased shoot density, and are able to tolerate lower heights of cut compared to Tifdwarf. This in turn provides significantly better playing conditions consistently. TifEagle and Champion are the most common ultradwarf bermudagrasses in the region, but Mini-Verde is a new variety that provides similar playing conditions.

These newer grasses often require increased grooming, aeration, and sand topdressing to maintain high standards. There are no set guidelines for ultradwarf putting green management, and the intensity is governed by the expectations at each particular course. There must be a commitment by the course to provide the necessary maintenance practices to achieve the expected performance standards.

There are a variety of construction techniques for golf course putting greens, but no technique has received as much research and scrutiny as the "USGA Recommendations for a Method of Putting Green Construction." Drainage is particularly

important for Florida golf courses as they receive more rainfall than other regions, particularly heavy rainfall with frequent summer thunderstorms.

A new technique that has been implemented on some golf courses is "no-till" construction, where new turfgrass sprigs are planted directly into the existing putting green following herbicide treatments. This method is less expensive and disruptive than reconstruction; but there is significant apprehension with no-till construction concerning reduced drainage and genetic purity. Time will tell whether the no-till method is a viable alternative.

Regardless of bermudagrass variety or construction method, a good growing environment is vital to provide quality putting greens throughout the year. No grass or construction method can overcome problems caused by lack of sunlight or airflow, inadequate surface area, inadequate entry or exit points, improper surface drainage or irrigation coverage/quality. These are important factors that must be addressed prior to renovation for the project to be successful. For more information, refer to the article at: [http://www.usga.org/turf/articles/management/greens/helping\\_your\\_greens.html](http://www.usga.org/turf/articles/management/greens/helping_your_greens.html).

Please do not hesitate to contact us for help in evaluating each of these factors with your next project.

## Hanna Receives TPI Membership Award At 2006 Mid-Winter Conference

Internationally renowned turfgrass breeder Dr. Wayne Hanna was awarded the Turfgrass Producers International Honorary Member Award at the 2006 TPI Midwinter Conference in Savannah, Ga., Feb. 14-17.

Dr. Hanna, famous for his breeding work throughout a 30-year career with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service, is now retired, but continues to work full-time as a professor and



Wayne Hanna, Ph.D.  
USGA Turfgrass Breeder, retired

turfgrass breeder with the University of Georgia.

The TPI Foundation's Honorary Member Award is presented to individuals who have improved the turfgrass industry in a significant way. It is the highest honor the organization can bestow. Hanna joins 23 previous recipients over the last 33 years. Ben Copeland, Sr., a past president of TPI who has known Dr. Hanna for 32 years, introduced him and praised his "tremendous contribution to the turfgrass industry throughout his career," noting that "he has been responsible for the breeding and release of TifSport and TifEagle bermudagrass and TifBlair centipedegrass, which are all the leading warm-season turfgrasses."

Dr. Hanna's achievements are well known to the industry. His TifSport bermudagrass, which he released in 1996, is a grass to consider for golf course fairways, tees and roughs. As Dr. Hanna recalls, "My main goal was to develop a new variety that was superior to Tifway 419. We wanted a grass with superior color, cold-hardiness and disease resistance. We concentrated on turf density, turf strength and turf quality, and we wanted TifSport to be able to tolerate frequent lower mowing heights."

You can see TifSport in action at venues as varied as the Redskin's FedEx



Field in Landover Md., the Georgia Governor's Mansion, and the lush fairways of the Sunset Course at Mirasola Golf Club in Palm Beach Gardens, home of this year's Honda Classic.

TifEagle bermudagrass, which Dr. Hanna released in the spring of 1998, is the third generation of bermudagrass varieties developed exclusively for golf greens at the Coastal Plains Experiment Station in Tifton, Ga. While Tifdwarf had been the warm-season standard for putting greens during the last three decades of the 20th century, TifEagle was bred to meet the challenges faced by today's golf superintendents and the expectations of a new generation of golfers. It can tolerate the intense management program necessary to deliver the putting speed and consistency even club players have come to expect. Traditional grasses, and even many of the new superdwarfs, can't stand up to the physical stress of the lower mowing heights and frequent verticuttings

required to control thatch build-up. TifEagle recovers quickly from mechanical injury, has excellent color, and is extremely cold hardy, drought tolerant and disease resistant.

Dr. Hanna has another legacy, perhaps just as important as his meticulous breeding work. From the beginning, he has insisted that stringent oversight protocols be established for all of his new grasses. TifSport, TifEagle and TifBlair are patented varieties that can only be sold as certified sod, sprigs or seed (TifBlair), and only by licensed sod producers who are required to become members of carefully monitored growers associations. In short, Dr. Hanna has made sure his grasses are grown, inspected and sold under a rigorous set of rules and guidelines designed to promote ongoing purity and uniformity. This concern for the maintenance of varietal purity was a major factor leading to the development of the International Turfgrass Genetic

Assurance Program (ITGAP), the first-of-its-kind effort to maintain the integrity of certified varieties in international turfgrass markets.

Dr. Hanna is currently working on a new shade-tolerant bermudagrass, which he hopes to release in 2007.

#### GCSAA UPDATE

## Kuehner Picks Winners in GCSAA Elections

In this year with a slate of very strong and qualified candidates, it is amazing that the FGCSA voting delegate, Dale Kuehner, CGCS, was able to handicap the field so accurately. Kuehner's recommendation to support Pat Finlen and Sanford "Sandy" Queen was prophetic as they emerged as winners of the two director seats out of five candidates. See election results below.



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Meanwhile, Sean A. Hoolehan, certified golf course superintendent at Wildhorse Resort and Casino in Pendleton, Ore., was elected the 70th president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America at the association's annual meeting, Feb. 10 in Atlanta.

The annual meeting was among the activities conducted during the 2006 GCSAA Education Conference, Feb. 6-11. The conference is the education complement to the Golf Industry Show held Feb. 9 - 11.

Elected vice president was Ricky D. Heine, CGCS, general manager and director of grounds at The Golf Club Star Ranch in Austin, Texas, while David S. Downing II, CGCS at Rivers Edge Golf Club in Shallotte, N.C., was elected as secretary/treasurer.

Two new directors were elected to the board: Patrick R. Finlen, CGCS, director of golf maintenance operations, Olympic Club, San Francisco, Calif.



*Sean Hoolehan, CGCS elected president of GCSAA in Atlanta.*

Sanford G. Queen, CGCS, manager of golf course operations, Overland Park (Kan.) Golf Club

Those remaining on the board and fulfilling their terms include

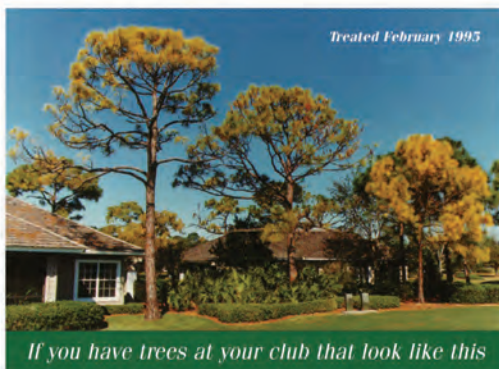
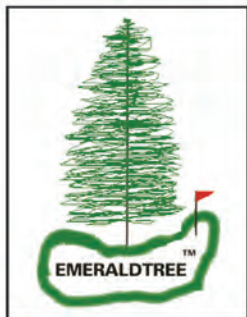
Mark D. Kuhns, CGCS, director of grounds, Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, N.J.; James R. Fitzroy, CGCS, director Wollaston Recreational Facility/Presidents Golf Course, North Quincy, Mass; and our own Robert M. Randquist, CGCS, director of golf course and grounds, Boca Rio Golf Club, Boca Raton.

Timothy T. O'Neill, CGCS at the Country Club of Darien (Conn.), also remains on the board as immediate past president.

**METHYL BROMIDE TOPIC DISCUSSED IN ATLANTA**

A special meeting of GCSAA staff, including CEO Steve Mona, GCSAA directors, industry officials and a delegation from Florida including Dr. Bryan Unruh and FGCSA members met Feb. 11 to discuss the methyl bromide issue and the possibility of re-submitting a critical-use exemption application. The group achieved a consensus to

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