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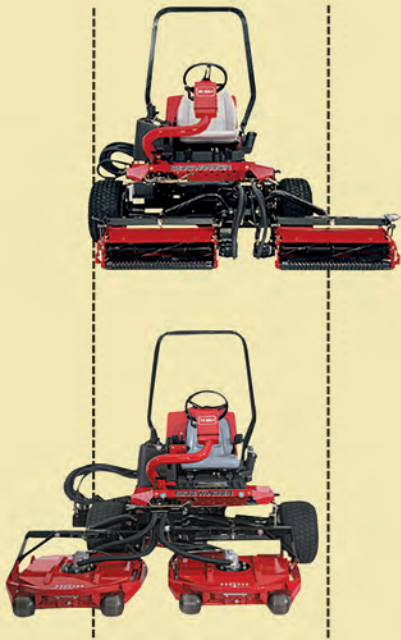
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I have tried to recruit other young superintendents in my age group, but they seem to be reluctant to step up and I'm sorry to say I really don't know why.

While earning his spurs and learning the ropes as a head superintendent, Bagwell has not just been taking from his peers without giving something back. This young superintendent has already put in more than four years on the South Florida GCSA board and has rotated through all the chairs from director to vice president. Look for Bagwell to become the next president of the South Florida Chapter at their annual meeting later this summer.

And to add to Bagwell's range of new experiences, the fact that he is the proud father of a six-month-old daughter Sarah. Says Bagwell, "So far Kathleen has been carrying most of the new baby load – feeding, changing, etc, but I know it won't be long before my life will change significantly as we get more involved as she grows up."

Bagwell is also an avid fisherman and scuba diver. His 25-foot boat is set up as a fishing machine, but it also has a small cuddy cabin so the family can get out of the weather when needed. In fact Bagwell was slated to attend a captain's meeting later that week for the Palm Beach GCSA's annual chapter fishing tournament. Fishing is almost universally a get-away activity of Sunshine State superintendents.

Since participation and volunteerism across the industry has been down in recent years I asked Bagwell if he had any insights into the problem. He said, "I have tried to recruit other young superintendents in my age group, but they seem to be reluctant to step up and I'm sorry to say I really don't know why." We surmised that lack of confidence in being away from the job site and worn-out excuse of not having

Fun Facts



Jason loves boating and fishing. Here he is with a sailfish caught off Costa Rica.

1. **Vehicle:** Ford F150 4x4.
2. **Last good movie I saw:** Wedding Crashers.
3. **I stay home to watch:** Golf Central.
4. **The book I've been reading:** *Life In and Out of The Rough* by John Daly.
5. **Favorite meal:** Steak and Florida lobster – on my grill.
6. **Favorite performers:** A dolphin (gamefish) on the end of my line.
7. **Prized possessions:** Our new daughter Sarah (6 months old).
8. **Personal heroes:** Tiger Woods.
9. **Nobody knows that I:** Can still ride a skateboard pretty well.
10. **I'm better than anyone else when it comes to:** Problem solving.
11. **I'd give anything to meet:** Jimmy

- Page – lead singer for Led Zepplin.
12. **My fantasy is:** Owning a yacht.
13. **The one thing I can't stand:** Golfers not obeying cart rules for the day.
14. **If I could change one thing about myself:** Take better care of my body.
15. **Most humbling experience:** Birth of my daughter.
16. **The words that best describe me:** Impatient.
17. **My dream foursome would be:** Mike Weir, Phil Mickelson, Tiger Woods and me.
18. **My best fish story:** Long before cell phones – getting dropped off with two friends for a 3-day hiking and trout fishing trip and forgetting my fishing rod in the car.

enough time were among the many reasons.

For Bagwell, it was obvious very early in his career that there was extraordinary value in attending superintendent meetings, conferences and trade shows. "Don't get me wrong, the formal education and speakers are good and necessary for PDI points, but what I learned just talking and networking

with other superintendents has been a fantastic education you can't get any other way. Meeting people who become friends and contacts in the business has been very worthwhile."

There's no question that most successful superintendents have had the support of their general manager, club president and green chairman. And the best of the best make sure they

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Number 18 is a 525-yard, par 5. The majestic 82-year-old clubhouse in the background is a North Miami landmark. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

cultivate excellent working relationships with other department heads. For Bagwell, one of the key persons at Westview is the General Manager Louis Garcell, who has been at the club since 1976 when he started as a waiter. He is a consummate professional and he demonstrated his respect for his fellow employees as he rose through the ranks from waiter to maitre d' to assistant manager and eventually general manager.

Garcell has regular meetings with Bagwell to ensure all things are in order on the course, but he respects Bagwell's knowledge of turf management and allows him to do his job, which is tending to the golf course and clubhouse grounds.

By supporting Bagwell's involvement in superintendent meetings and association activities, Garcell is ensuring that Westview's superintendent will be in the company of the region's most successful turf managers and he will

stay on the leading edge of technology and information that can in turn help the club to be successful. It is not a new formula for success, but one that often seems to get lost in the shuffle at many clubs.

One example of how Westview gained an advantage by having an active superintendent was last year's decision not to overseed the golf course. Bagwell learned at meetings that more and more clubs were not overseeding and he presented the idea to his club. The main resistance to the idea came from golfers who really enjoyed seeing those striped fairways during the winter. But with the opportunity to save significant dollars in seed, labor, watering and chemical costs, the club agreed to give it a try.

Bagwell had his mowers burn-in the stripes by mowing the same pattern in the bermudagrass fairways until the stripes were established. With some of the savings from not overseed-

ing he purchased a fertigation system to spoon-feed the turf and keep the desired color during the winter season. Meanwhile the golfers were not inconvenienced by preparing the greens for seeding or the daily syringing to keep the seed damp during establishment. And in the spring, there were no thin greens or ragged looking fairways and roughs from transition. The experiment born out of networking conversations was successful and it was a win for all concerned.

Bagwell was happy to see that Westview took the big-picture view at his idea. He was also pleased to know that club has a history of longevity for most of its employees including former superintendents and certainly Garcell's tenure is almost legendary in country-club circles these days. With more new members joining the club, it's not a case of them having to learn the old ways as much as it is that everything old is new again. ■

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Jason Bagwell and his
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Cover Story.*



Managing Nuisance Wildlife

Photo by Teri Hoisington.

By Joel Jackson

The rash of recent fatal alligator attacks on humans has focused our attention on the wildlife-human interface as growth and development moves into former wilderness. Thankfully fatal encounters such as these are extremely rare in the big scheme of things, but other natural behaviors of animals as they learn to adapt to man's presence can be a nightmare if you are maintaining a golf course.

Wildlife inventories on golf courses commonly include large vertebrates like alligators, armadillos, coyotes, deer, fox, opossum, raccoons and snakes. Other animals that don't make the list but can be a nuisance are feral cats and dogs and the lowly mole that loves to tunnel under the turf.

It is the daily feeding and foraging habits of many of these animals that become the major nuisance for golf course superintendents. What are some of the damages done by these critters? Sand traps become playgrounds for deer and dogs. Bunker edges are constantly dug out by armadillos in search of food. The hole is not the only problem; the soil scattered into the bunker contaminates the sand.

Any area on the golf course is subject to damage as armadillos, opossum, skunks, raccoons and sandhill cranes search for grubs and worms. I can vividly remember numerous sections of fairway on the 16th hole on Disney's Magnolia Course being ripped up during the night and requiring extra mow-

ing and grooming in the morning. This was taking place during the PGA Tour's annual Disney Classic in October.

It also didn't take long to discover that colorful annual beds weren't much more than a sumptuous salad bar for our large resident deer population. Meanwhile, I must admit some of the aggravation is worth it to have the daily opportunity to observe wildlife on the course. However, our primary job is to maintain the golf course and help ensure the safety of our golfers. In that spirit, I offer some tips and resources to help you do your job.

GET THE FACTS

Thanks to the Internet you can get specific information on a wide range of nuisance animal problems. If you can't find a solution from your local chapter peers try going to the Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission site (www.myfwc.com) and search for Nuisance Animals or Animal Control. Your local county Extension office may have literature on nuisance animals and, if not, you can access UF/IFAS information on its Web site: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>. You can also Google Animal Control or Nuisance Animals and get a wider range of choices. The first ones mentioned above will be more Florida specific naturally, but you may find access to control products cheaper on the web.

GENERAL RULES OR POLICIES

Post signs in or around the clubhouse and 1st and 10th tees – Do Not Feed the Animals (or Wildlife). Animals

lose their fear of man and come to associate man as a food source.

Don't leave food or personal items open or accessible in golf carts. I have seen everything from squirrels, crows, Muscovy ducks and raccoons rummaging through a golf cart and everything from fruit, chips, sandwiches and gold watches have been pilfered.

Do not use any lethal means of removal until you have checked local regulations and game laws. Some species may be protected or some means of removal (firearms) may be illegal in your location. Even catch-and-release trapping should be investigated for legality.

The Florida Constitution has designated the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission as the legal steward of the native wildlife resources of the state. There are various laws and rules governing the taking and possessing of wildlife, so be aware of the rules like this one:

Chapter 39-12.009, F.A.C. allows the killing of destructive mammals except deer, fox, or bear on your property by means other than gun and light, steel traps or poison, provided that the destructive mammals are killed only within the immediate locality where damage is occurring. Using a gun and light at night, poison, or traps for the purpose of killing damaging birds or mammals may be authorized by a permit issued by the Commission. Birds other than blackbirds, cowbirds, grackles, and crows may be killed only under authority of a special permit issued by



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the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

This rule and other laws and tips for managing nuisance animals can be found in document WEC-20, one of a series of the Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Department Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication: December, 1990, as SS-WIS-20.

ALLIGATORS

Keep clear of large alligators. Period. Mating season and nest defense can make these reptiles unpredictable. I once had a 2-3 footer bump the toe of my rubber boot as I was planting some spike rush in the shallows along a lake bank on the Disney Osprey Ridge Course. Scared the beejebers out of me, but I wasn't worried about an actual attack from one that size.

Golf clubs have different policies regarding what they consider nuisance

gators. Some wait until threatening or suspicious behavior is reported before taking action. Other clubs set size limits on gators that they feel they can tolerate without danger. Many clubs set limits at 4 to 6 feet. Once a gator reaches that size or larger, a club may call the nuisance gator hotline at 866-FWC-Gator (866-392-4286) for removal by a licensed trapper. You should be aware that most of the trapped gators are killed and their hides and meat sold by the trapper. That is how the state is able to pay for the service.

ARMADILLOS

Who among us hasn't bemoaned the damage done by armadillos rooting on the golf course? More than 90 percent of the armadillo's diet is made up of insects and their larvae that live in the soil. They also feed on earthworms, scorpions, spiders, and other invertebrates. Armadillos are most



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