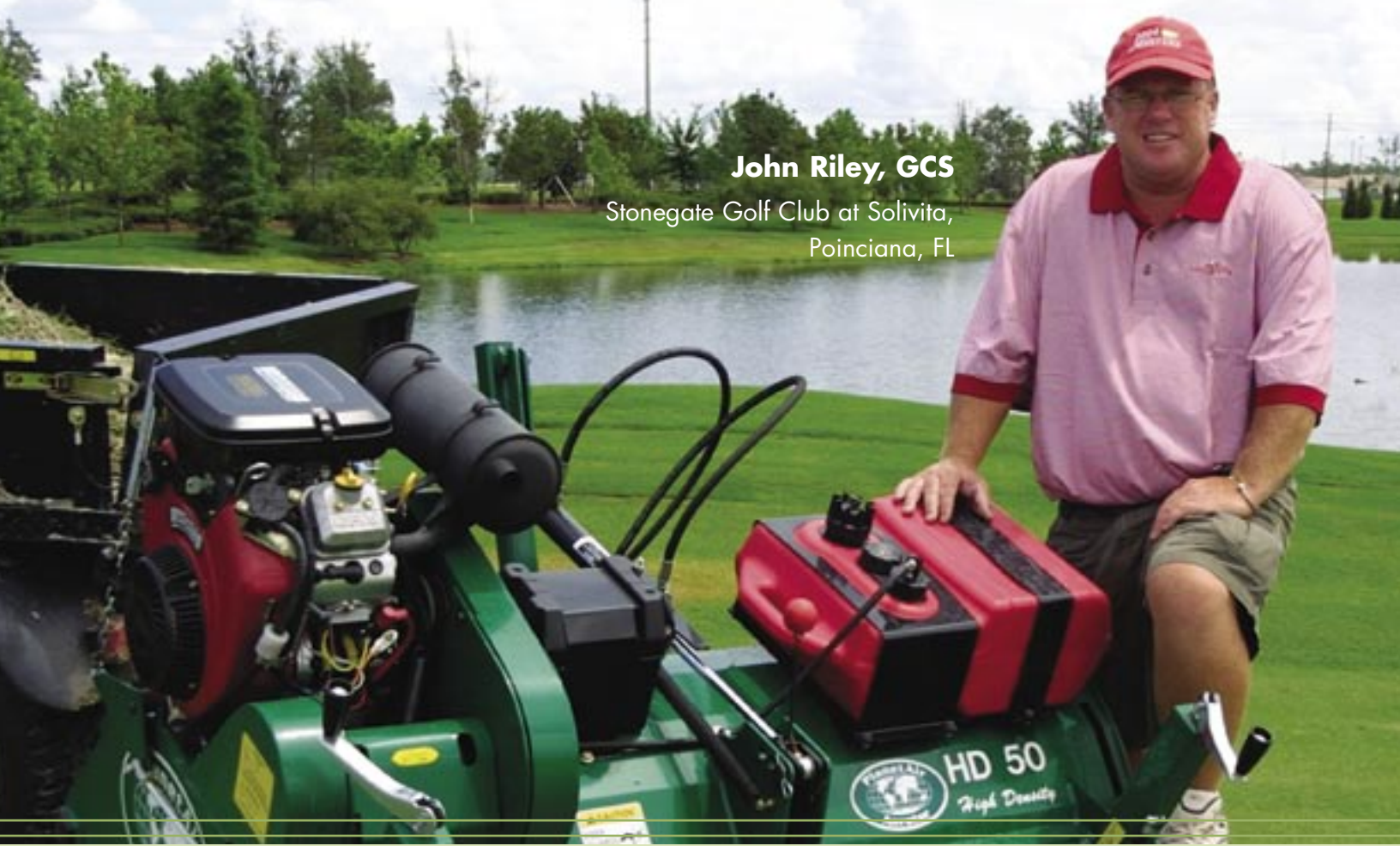


John Riley, GCS

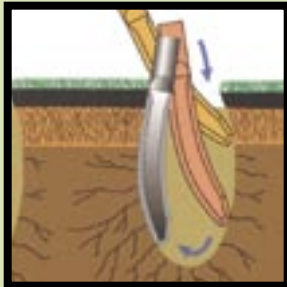
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More than 900 say 'Farewell' to Marie

More than 900 FGCSA members, sponsors and guests bid Marie Roberts a fond farewell as she officially retired from service as the association manager of the Florida GCSA at the Florida Reception during the Golf Industry Show in Orlando Jan. 31.

Marie was joined by her daughters Suzanne Turner and Colleen Patterson and her son Mark as well as several close friends from the Stuart area to celebrate the occasion which was highlighted by some testimonial comments beginning with Past President Tom Burrows who originally drafted Marie into service back in 1984 by asking if she would mind typing a few letters for him. And the rest is a wonderful history and legacy of unselfish service to our association.

Matt Taylor (speaking for Tim Hiers), Paul Crawford, Greg Pheneger and Joel Jackson each paid tribute to Marie for various

aspects of her service and accomplishments on behalf of the FGCSA members. Jackson ended his "roast" of Marie with an ode to commemorate her tenure as association manager.

Thanks to the donations from the local chapters, Marie was given an all-expense-paid trip for two to Las Vegas. Special thanks to Gail Pheneger who rounded up dozens of family photos and pictures of Marie at FGCSA functions to create a Power Point slide presentation of the life and times of Marie Roberts.

While Marie has "retired" from FGCSA service, she will continue to provide executive administrative assistance to the Palm Beach and South Florida chapters.

She said, "I'm glad I have the chapters to work for. It would be too hard to just quit cold turkey and not be around all these great people I have met working for the FGCSA. Thank you all for what you have meant to me."



The Belle of the Ball Marie Roberts escorted by FGCSA President Matt Taylor and FGCSA Reception Chairman Paul Crawford as the guest of honor at her retirement celebration in Orlando.



Entrance to the FGCSA Reception at the Golf Industry Show in Orlando Jan. 31 The first hour was dedicated to honoring Association Manager Marie, who retired after 24 years of service.

Ode to Marie

*A voice of conscience, of thought and reason.
The glue holding us together, whatever the season.*

*Recorder of thoughts. Keeper of ledgers.
Historian for all of our timely treasurers.*

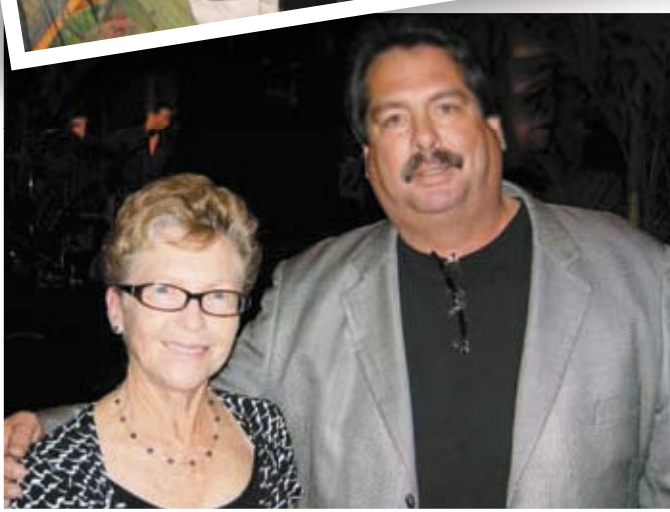
*Confessor, counselor, critic and voice,
To guide and remind us to make the best choice.*

*Professional, reliable and always steadfast.
A beacon, a rock for these 20 plus years past.*

*Always willing and giving and doing your best.
From early morning phone calls to last minute request.
Serving us with decorum and with humor and jest.*

*Time has flown so swiftly, all the work and the fun.
Marie, sweet Marie, you are our number one.*

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 - A N D -
Marie Roberts
Retirement Celebration



Marie, Thank you for the past 24 years of service!

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**Special thanks to all the Florida GCSA chapters
 who donated for Marie's farewell reception and farewell gift.**

Celebrating Two Decades of Turf Research Fundraising

Interlachen Country Club's golf course superintendent Stuart Leventhal, CGCS and club manager Don Emery welcomed 34 teams of golf course superintendents and club officials to the 20th annual Central Florida Turf Research Tournament benefitting the Florida Turfgrass Association's Research Foundation.

Leventhal reported that over \$80,000 has been raised by the event which is a cooperative undertaking by the Interlachen Club and the Central Florida GCSA. The club donates the use of the course, golf carts, greens fees and clubhouse meeting and dining facilities and the Central Florida GCSA picks

up the food costs for the luncheon. All net proceeds from the event are donated for turfgrass research projects.

After introductions and comments by host superintendent Leventhal, Gary Myers, CGCS, President of the Central Florida Chapter presented a \$1,500 scholarship to UF turf student Justin Toy.

Casey Wohl Pace, executive director of the FTGA and Joel Jackson, executive director of the Florida GCSA reported on association and turf industry news and events. Following those presentations, the keynote speaker was golf course architect Steve Smyers, who discussed his



At the CFGCSA Research Tournament, Justin Toy (left) received a \$1,500 scholarship check from CFGCSA President Gary Myers to assist him with his turf science studies at the U of Florida. Justin was a summer intern on the Palm GC at Disney.

recent renovations to the golf course.

Smyers gave a slide presentation to show how subtle changes to the course were made to change views and shot making values. The greens were re-worked to improve drainage and create new putting surface contouring and fairway problem areas had additional drainage added as well.

Competitors in the two-person team scramble event got to see all the changes

first hand after lunch as they experienced the "new" Interlachen. Hal Richburg and Matt Payne from the Victoria Hills Golf Club in Deland successfully defended their Low Gross Winner's title from last year. The playing conditions and club hospitality were superb as always. Special thanks to the entire staff at Interlachen for making this another great event which raised \$3,800 for turf research.

Golf Results

1st Flight Gross: Hal Richburg and Matt Payne

1st Flight Net: Kevin Rotti and Alan Self

2nd Flight Gross: Alan Lichter and Rodney Reiffsnider

2nd Flight Net: Steve Wright and Robert Anderson

3rd Flight Gross: Scott Fabulich and Harold Laymas

3rd Flight Net: Jason Morris and John Andal



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– Jeff Taylor, Golf Course Superintendent
Boca Pointe Country Club



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Number 18
Par 4 , 423 yards
Timuquana C.C.
Photo by Daniel Zelazek



Timuquana Country Club Planning Ahead and Embracing Change

By Joel Jackson, CGCS Retired

Nestled in the woods on the banks of the St. Johns River a few miles south of downtown Jacksonville lays the Timuquana Country Club. The course is a Donald Ross design and, according to club history, was established in 1923.

The course has maintained its classic design over the past 85 years, but the members aren't opposed to

making changes that will modernize the infrastructure and allow golf course superintendent Chris Neff to maintain the original look and feel, but with modern maintenance equipment and practices.

The members' desire to preserve the parkland look so prevalent in the 1920's is appreciated by golfers who enjoy getting a taste of the history of the game. I found an unsigned course review when I searched golfink.

com for background on Timuquana Country Club for this story.

The review reads: *In a city overrun with tricked-up, cookie-cutter designs, this Ross layout (and Weed re-design) represents a refreshing departure from fairway moguls and 650-yard par 5s. It is a classic course featuring tree-lined fairways and trademark Ross greens. Position off the tee is priority No. 1, and you'll be asked to hit more than just driver off the tee. Front nine par*

COURSE FACTS



Timuquana Country Club

Location: Jacksonville

Ownership: Equity membership

Number of Holes: 18; 6,849 yards; par 72; Slope/Rating: 125 / 73.3

Design: Donald Ross, established 1923. Redesign by Bobby Weed in 1996, construction by MacCurrach Golf

Management: Vince McCormack, president; Russell Skinner, green chairman; Deborah Johnson, club manager; Clint Avert, head golf professional; Rusty Nicholas, building supervisor; Chris Neff, Class A GCSAA Member, golf course superintendent

Major renovations or ongoing projects: Recent tree removal and pruning project to allow sunlight and air circulation for the health and sustainability of the putting greens and turf areas in play. Longrange plan to renovate greens, tees, bunkers and the irrigation system in the summer of 2009. A new landscape plan and practice facility will be incorporated in a new plan for the entire club grounds and high-visibility areas on the golf course.

Total acreage under maintenance: 80

Greens: TifEagle, avg 4,000 sq. ft., 3.0 A; HOC .125 winter .150 summer; overseeding: Cypress Poa trivialis at 10 lbs/1,000 sq. ft.

Tees, Fairways and Roughs: Tees are El Toro Zoysiagrass and Tifway 419, 3.0 A, HOC 7/16 in.; overseed bermuda tees only with Paragon ryegrass at 250 lbs/A. Fairways 27 A of "a Heinz 57 variety of 419, Tifway II and common, HOC 1/2 in., no overseeding. Roughs 41 A, HOC 2.0, no overseeding.

Bunkers: 82 bunkers, Florida Rock masonry sand No. 302; hand- and machine-raked with John Deere 1200A.

Natural areas: 40 A palmetto thickets and oak and pine wooded areas. Maintenance: Simple spot treating for weed control. Some "touch up" pine straw applications. Most areas are self-mulching under the native trees.

Waterways: 5 ponds with aeration fountains. Total 2 A; contract maintenance with Clear Waters company. Addition of aerators to offset nutrients from reclaimed water storage.

Irrigation water source: Reclaimed water from Jax Naval Air Station with secondary artesian well if needed.

Irrigation equipment: Syncroflo pump station, 742 heads, Rainbird Stratus II System; fertigation system: Apply N-Control, 28-0-0 and 4-0-8 with minor nutrients.

Water Management and Conservation practices: No restrictions currently since we primarily just use reclaimed water. We do not overseed fairways and roughs in the winter. I have to monitor pH levels due to reclaimed water.

Staff: 20 including superintendent (18 full time and 2 part time).

Key staff members: Assistant Superintendent Don Bryant; Equipment Technician Chris Shackelford; Pest Control Technician Jerry Weir; Irrigation Technician Chris Maynard; Landscape Foreman Billy Silvia.


Communications/Meetings: Weekly department head meetings; weekly staff meetings with assistants and technicians; daily morning meeting with entire staff; Monthly Green Committee meetings.

5s (Nos. 4 and 6) are reachable in two, but greens are difficult to hit and putt. Course is always in immaculate condition.

One of the best decisions the club made in 1996 was to partner with next-door neighbor, the Jacksonville Naval Air Station (NAS) to take as much of their treated waste water as they could to irrigate the golf course. With the concerns over water use, quality and availability now for the future, this agreement turned out to be a monumental decision and investment by the club to secure irrigation water for the future.

Neff works closely with the engineers at the NAS to discuss periodic water quality tests and other necessary system maintenance programs. Neff does his own independent water testing annually to check the levels of sodium, chlorine and other compounds that actually make it onto the golf course from his irrigation lake that stores the water coming from the NAS.

As mentioned in the review, Golf Course Architect Bobby Weed did a major restoration and renovation of the course in 1996 in conjunction with the irrigation conversion from well water to reclaimed water. Weed will be returning in 2009 to oversee a change-over to a new grass on the greens and some improvements to the tee and bunker complexes. At that time, the irrigation system will also undergo some technology improvements to



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SUPERINTENDENT FACTS



Superintendent Chris Neff is testing MiniVerde as the possible new turf for the Timuquana greens. Photo by Joel Jackson.

**Chris Neff, Class
A Golf Course
Superintendent**

Originally from Philadelphia, PA.
Moved to Kissimmee in 1984.

Wife: Billie

Education: BA in Environmental Horticulture from the University of Florida

Employment: 2001-Present, superintendent Timuquana Country Club; 1996-2001 assistant superintendent TPC Sawgrass; 1996 assistant superintendent Saddlebrook Resort; 1992 intern Isleworth Country Club; 1991-95; intern Gainesville Country Club; 1990-91 crew member Grand Cypress Resort.

Professional Affiliations: Member of the GCSAA. Active in the NFGCSA - past president in 2005. FGCSA board member 2006.

How did you get into the business?

I took a job on the crew at the Grand Cypress Resort and was hooked. Four people who helped shape my career: Tom Alex, Buck Buckner, Jeff Hayden and Fred Klauk. They instilled core personal and professional values in me that I have never forgotten such as: Be a hard worker, good communicator, and good listener and use common sense before you act.

Accomplishments: College degree, Set-up and preparation for five TPC Player Championship tour events, and USGA Senior Amateur event.

Goals: Working on becoming a CGCS. Finish long-range plan at Timuquana and achieve Audubon Certified Status for the club.

Work philosophy and advice: Work hard. Set achievable goals and once attained create new goals. Surround yourself with great people. You will only be as good as your staff.

Memorable moments: Working at a PGA Tour Event

Hobbies: Fishing and I love to read. I'm a real magazine buff.