



SHARK'S TOOTH GOLF CLUB

Location: Lake Powell

Ownership:

St. Joe Company, managed by Troon Golf, private 8 holes, 7,204 yards, par 72, Slope/Rating 136/74.9, 12,400 avg rounds/year

Designed by: Greg Norman, opened in 2003.

Management Team:

Club Manager Mike Jansen, Head Golf Pro Mike Pazakis, Golf Course Superintendent Larry Livingston

Acreage under maintenance: 73.4.

Greens: 3.45 acres TifEagle; avg. 6,511



Shark's Tooth G.C. Maintenance Staff

Fairways and

Roughs: Fwys 43.6 acres, Roughs 20 acres; Tifway 419 bermudagrass, HOC 0.45in. on fwys and 1.5 in. on roughs. Fwys overseeded with TMI Paragon Ryegrass @ 500 lbs/acre.

Non-turf areas: 59 bunkers. Sand

sq. ft., HOC 0.110 - 0.125 in.; no overseeding. Green speed goals 10 - 11.5.

Tees: 4.65 acres Tifway 419; HOC 0.45 in., overseeded with Paragon ryegrass at 15 lbs/1,000 sq. ft.

type: Red Bay sub-angular from the Lamar Pit. Bunkers hand raked.

Irrigation, Water Conservation and Staff: included in facts about Camp Creek

The 18th green and clubhouse at Shark's Tooth. Photo by Joel Jackson

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Livingston also is involved in the school's mentoring program that exposes students to various occupational opportunities. He added, "Other mentors include doctors, architects and chefs. We donate one hour per week about six times a year to go and make presentations about our professions."

Later over lunch, Livingston offered his take on the current wave of regulations.

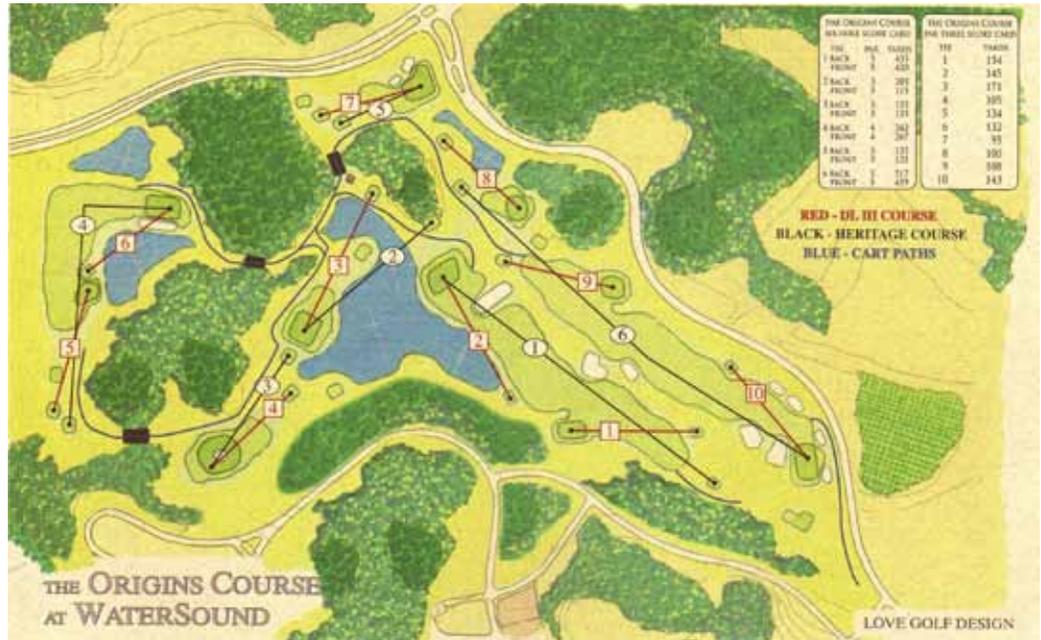
"The answer is education not regulation," he said. "You can't save the environment and exclude people, and people need to accept more responsibility for protecting our resources.

While the new soil-moisture-sensor technology is exciting, homeowners and HOA's can invest in simple rain switches or "mini-clicks" at a very low cost. And

they ought to be responsible enough to turn off the automatic systems when it is raining."

After lunch we toured the Origins Golf Course.

You will have to see this layout in order to really understand what I'm about to tell you. There are six regulation holes and 10 par-3 holes on the course. Many holes share the same green by using two



Scorecard for the 6-hole regulation and 10-hole, par-3 Origins courses. At right, a tee sign shows combination regulation and par 3 holes on the Origins course. Photos by Joel Jackson



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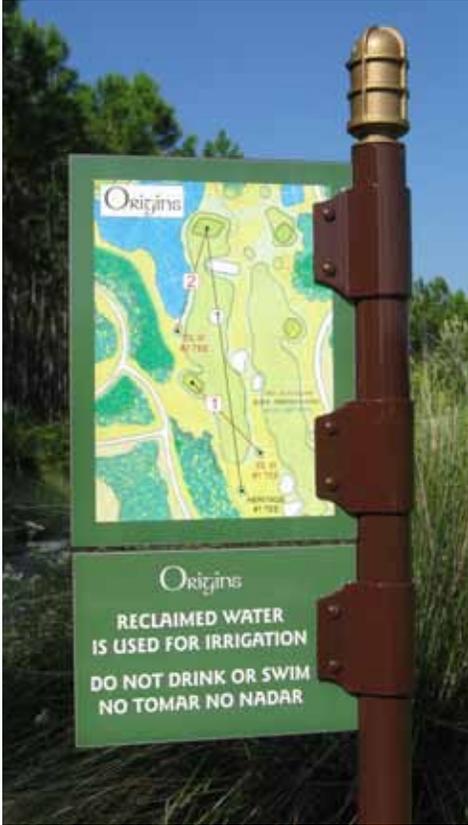
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ORIGINS GOLF COURSE

Location: WaterSound

Ownership: St. Joe Company, managed by Troon Golf; private/resort

6 regulation holes: 10 par-3 holes. Heritage Course: 1,748 yds. Par 3 Course: 1,296 yds.

Designed by: Davis Love, constructed in-house and opened in 2006.

Management Team: Club Manager Mike Jansen, Head Golf Professional Jaxon Hardy, Golf Course Superintendent Larry Livingston

Turf type: Monostand of Sea Isle Supreme Seashore Paspalum for the entire golf course.

Greens: 2 acres, HOC 0.110 - 0.125 in.; Tees 1 acre, HOC 0.45 in., Fairways 12 acres, HOC 0.45 in., Roughs 6 acres. No overseeding.

Non-turf areas: 12 bunkers and 3 waste areas with native plants.

Irrigation: Effluent water source with groundwater backup. Flowtronex VFD 800 gpm with two 25 hp booster pumps. Toro Touch Net Controls. 327 heads with part circles along perimeters.

Staff: Assistant Superintendent Jay Weber with support from Camp Creek as needed.



JAY WEBER, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Photo by Joel Jackson.

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There's a bunker in the middle of this double green on the Origins course. Photo by Joel Jackson

different colored flags for the Davis Love or Heritage layouts, and at the request of the golfers, a nine-hole configuration is being mapped out. It is a great course for more casual golf and beginners or for an afternoon family outing.

I asked Livingston how he viewed his

position given his responsibilities seemed like a mini-regional superintendent.

“I have no title other than golf course superintendent and that’s the way I like it,” he said. “I can’t say enough about the maintenance crews at each course.

They make my overall job very easy and

I want to give them the recognition they deserve. We are part of a big team with the partnership of Troon and St. Joe. Our job – my job – is to make sure the whole team is successful.”



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SUPERINTENDENT FACTS

Born in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Raised in Tupelo, Mississippi. **Family:** Married to wife, Suzanne. Two daughters, Emily is a freshman at U. of South Florida and Lucy is a high school senior.

Education: B.S. in Agronomy, Mississippi State U., 1976.

Employment: Golf Course Superintendent over three courses:

2000 – Present, Camp Creek GC, and 2006 – Present, The Origins GC located in Water-Sound, FL (Enrolled in AI Silver Sanctuary Program) and 2007-Present, Shark's Tooth GC, Panama City Beach, FL (Certified AI Silver Sanctuary). 1990 – 2000, Golf Course Superintendent, River Hills GC, Valrico; 1982 – 1990, Golf Course Superintendent Gator Creek GC, Sarasota; 1981 – 1982, Assist. Superintendent CC of Birmingham, AL; 1980-1983, Co-owner Livingston Lawn, Birmingham, AL; 1978-1980, Golf Course Superintendent Geen Valley CC (now Hoover CC); 1976-1978, Golf Course Superintendent Tupelo CC, Tupelo, MS.

Professional Affiliations & Offices Held: Class A, Certified Golf Course Superintendent of the GCSAA since 1988. Past Director, Mississippi Turfgrass Assn; Past President Suncoast GCSA; Past Director FTGA;

Goals & Accomplishments: GCSAA Conference Speaker, 59th International Golf Course Conference and Show, Houston, TX (1989); 1997 Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary, River Hills GC; 2004 Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary, Camp Creek GC; Oversaw construction of The Origins GC in 2006; Volunteer for Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance taking water samples for Florida Lake Watch in Western Lake since 2004..

Hobbies & Interests: Golf, tennis, scuba diving, fishing, kayaking, environmental protection



LARRY LIVINGSTON, CGCS

Photo by Joel Jackson.

FUN FACTS

Personal heroes: Chuck Yeager and Charles Lindberg I'd give anything to meet: The four people who raised my mother and father

My fantasy is: Going into space

My most amazing golf shot: Two double eagles, both made at the Tupelo C.C.

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*Before photo of cart path area to be naturalized.
Photo by Kyle Sweet.*



*Photo-shopped version of what conversion might look like.
Photo by Kyle Sweet.*

By Kyle D. Sweet, CGCS

As we all know, being a Golf Course Superintendent in Florida is a nonstop job. We're busy with the golfers in the winter and then fill our summers with course renovations and improvement projects. As managers, we are all skilled in getting the daily course duties accomplished for our players. Summer projects, however, can be a much bigger challenge to get planned and successfully completed. We have always taken on in house projects and with the current economy we are all doing more ourselves or working alongside contractors to make every dollar count.

Fortunately, I have been involved in a very effective process for the past three years that has put our in-house skills to the test as well as involved an outside contractor, Country Club Services. A committee was formed that included the G&G Chairman, Golf Chairman, Club President, Director of Golf, select committee members and myself. This group is dubbed the Aesthetics and

Playability Committee and annually travels the course together looking at improvements ranging from course conditioning to manipulation of several aspects of the course. After the course is reviewed a list is compiled, prioritized and approved: we contact our golf course architect Arthur Hills for approval and recommendations on how any design changes should be implemented.

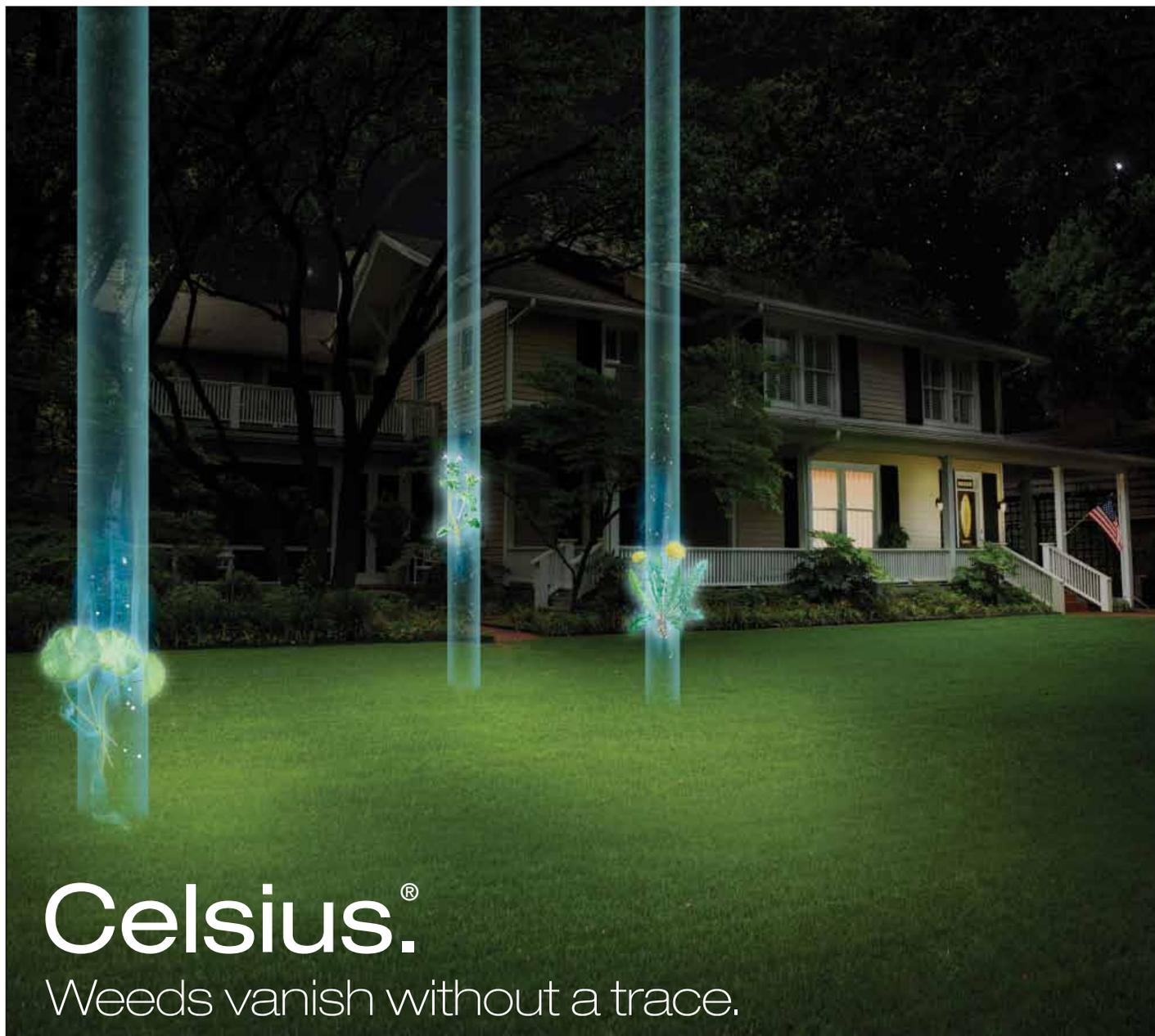
I have been photographing the course for nearly 15 years and it has never been more important that it is now with this new program in place. Each proposed change, regardless of size and scope is photographed before, during and after and kept for reference. It has become second nature to provide project progress photos to our membership during the summer months. This year, for the first time, we utilized Photoshop to show both our members and Art Hills what we anticipated the finished outcome of the projects to be. The use of Adobe Photoshop proved effective in the approval from both parties and is a part of the project process that we intend to carry out in future years.

This is not a difficult process. You will need a digital camera (at least 12 megapixel), digital photos, a photo editing program and a program to resize your photos. Most of the communication can be done via e-mail, but the purchase of a good photo printer capable of 8X10 photos is a must if providing the photography as handouts to your committee or club.

With the editing program in hand and a good original to work off of, much of the work you will be doing is accomplished with simple coloring, cropping, erasing and cloning tools. It's a lot of fun once you get started and fortunately you have infinite opportunities to edit it to look like your hopeful project outcome. Unlike working the land, you have many opportunities to get the result you envision.

Once you get the desired project outcome look using photo editing, save it and use it to get that project done that is either already planned or that you have been trying to get approved to make both your job and your course better. Good luck and have fun with it!





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Hydrocotyle spp. (Dollarweed), also called Pennywort, is a summer perennial weed common in Florida and Texas, among other warm season states. There are actually several species of dollarweed. Leaves are round in shape, approximately one inch in diameter. Weed leaves hold a bright green hue and are shiny, with scalloped margins.



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Communicating Sustainable Use of Pesticides

Pesticides are safe for all on the course when used as directed by the label.

*By Todd Burkdoll,
BASF Technical Specialist*

Superintendents are faced with all kinds of job-related questions, particularly about the agronomics of using pesticides and other chemicals on their courses. Many are having a hard time clearly explaining the benefits of chemical use to curious golfers and community members, and as a result, sometimes avoid the topic. However, communicating with the public is no longer optional; superintendents must address questions, ease concerns and take part in community education programs on a regular basis in order to continue building and sustaining community confidence.

Many people assume pesticides are toxic and harmful to their health. That belief, however, is rarely grounded in science. Antibacterial soap, dishwasher soap and laundry detergent are technically toxic pesticides because they kill germs; however, when used correctly, they do not harm humans. The same goes for chemicals that are used to protect plants. Just as soap controls harmful pathogens that humans encounter, fungicide controls



Be smart. Be Safe. Photo by Joel Jackson.

pathogens that damage plants.

Simply put, plants – like people – get sick. For example, when their systems get over-run, plants can suffer from environmental stress that creates conditions for pest pressure and disease. When that happens,

medication in the form of pesticides is required to nurse the plant back to health. Like human drugs, pesticides today are highly targeted to specific problems, including fungi, weeds and insects.

The need for plant medication, so to speak, is understood by most people. But they may need more explanation about the science behind responsible chemical use.

The Safety Stance. Scientifically proving with reasonable certainty that a pesticide will not harm people or the environment is a fundamental part of the product-approval process. The United States has one of the strictest registration processes in the world. Federal law requires that before selling or distributing a pesticide in the United States, a person or company must obtain registration, or license, from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Before registering a new pesticide – or a new use for a registered pesticide – the EPA must first assure the public that the pesticide is considered safe, when used according to label directions. To make such determinations, the EPA requires more than 100 different scientific studies and tests from applicants.

Even before they go through government review, these chemical compounds are tested for toxicity by non-biased, third-parties. If a pesticide receives a “strike” against it at any point during testing process, the manufacturer does not approve it for government testing.

Once the product is registered, it is selected and applied by highly trained professionals. Just as a pharmacist would recommend medicine for a specific ailment, superintendents work with industry experts – including chemical applicators with years of formal education – to prescribe a pesticide for a specific problem.

Not all pesticides are equal. Toxicity levels vary by product and instructions for use are clearly outlined on each pesticide’s label. Labels are designed to explain the correct application procedure, so the chemical has little or no direct negative impact on organisms beyond the targeted pest. As a rule, chemical experts consistently stress the importance of reading and following the pesticide label.

As a precautionary measure, most pesticides cannot be bought over the counter. Some products also require applicators to post signs or flags that alert the public that a given area has been treated recently. The signs, which usually are left standing for 24 hours, are simply informative, since no danger to humans or animals exists after application. In many cases, the majority of pesticides break down naturally in the soil after controlling target pests.

What is your role? Some superintendents have taken a proactive communication approach to combating the general public’s misperceptions and fear of pesticides. Superintendent Jed Spencer, CGCS, for Chenal Country Club in Little Rock, Ark., participates in monthly Greens Committee meetings and now hosts annual open houses to give all members a behind-the-scenes look at how he maintains his course. In addition to addressing topics such as chemical and fertilizer use, maintenance and even golf etiquette, his crew operates equipment for participants, allowing them to get a firsthand look at what his crew does and how they do it. Spencer’s goal is to educate the community, and show members the purpose behind his crew’s actions.

“The response to our communication efforts has been extremely positive,” Spencer said. “Community members really appreciate the visual component. It reduces concerns about the possible effects our treatment plan could have on them and their surroundings.”

Spencer has taken additional steps to show his concern for the environment, which the community has applauded. Three years ago, he formed a partnership with Ducks Unlimited to establish a wood duck colony on the course, which helps attract the birds and allows his crew to manage the population. He also maintains a chemical building on his property that houses a 1,000-gallon storage tank for recycling chemicals.

Fred Gehrish, superintendent for Highlands Fall Country Club in Highlands, N.C., holds educational forums for residents living on or near his course to explain what his crew is spraying and why. He also writes a regular column for his local newspaper that addresses course issues such as the scientific benefits of safely controlling disease and



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*The food chain thrives on golf courses.
Photo by Joe Hubbard.*

invasive plants on his course.

Gehrisch also is involved in a study under way by the University of Missouri on salamanders at 10 courses in the area – including his – to see how they are affected by chemical use. Along with the university, he regularly works with environmental groups, whether it is coordinating joint speaking engagements or donating his staff to support a local event.

Gehrisch says most people he speaks with are relieved once they learn the chemicals he uses are similar to everyday household products.

“I have found that using common medications as examples is the most effective way to demonstrate why they do not need to fear the products we use,” Gehrisch said. “I read a list of side effects and lead them to believe it is a chemical I am using to treat turf disease when, in reality, it is aspirin.”

Communicating with the public falls under the many day-to-day responsibilities of a superintendent, and more of them are taking it upon themselves to go above and beyond that duty. At a minimum, superintendents should be able to confidently explain the parallels between plant and human disease, and how science helps alleviate damage in both cases.

“We talk a lot within our inner circle about what needs to be done, but as an industry, we tend to be slower in responding to the public than we should,” Gehrisch said. “For any change to happen, supers need to leave their desks and get out in front of their communities.”

Despite the fact that pesticides are useful tools that can provide significant benefits to our communities, the debate over whether to use them will undoubtedly continue. By basing communications on science instead of emotion, superintendents can help community members appreciate the time, labor and money-saving benefits of environmentally sound chemicals.