



1

A floating island for aquatic plants built from PVC pipe and metal lathe. Photo by Peter Brooks.

2

Positioning a completed 4x4-foot floating island. Photo by Peter Brooks.



3

"Build it and they will come." Two Little Blue Herons enjoy their new habitat. Photo by Peter Brooks.



Floating Islands

Brooks and fellow superintendents talk and share many ideas about successful projects. The "floating island" idea came to him from Rob Kloska, superintendent at The Jupiter Island Club in Hobe Sound.

4-inch PVC pipe is used for the main outer frame with a supporting 4-inch crosspiece connected by two 4-inch T-fittings. Then metal lathe is placed on top, tied down, and holes cut in the mesh so that potted plants can fit into the structure and sit in the water.

The structure is taken out into the lake and anchored with wire and blocks.

They decided to make the structures 4ft. by 4ft. because they would be easier to handle. So far, they have constructed four floating islands for use in the lakes. Members have asked if they can make the islands larger and they are already making plans to give it a try.

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Osprey Stand

While visiting with friend Karl Schmidt at his home on Pine Island, Brooks commented on the osprey stand on the property and told Karl, "I want one of those!" Peter took photos and gave them to John Bouse, a local contractor who builds bridges and bulkheads on golf courses. Boluse built the osprey stand and, once installed, it took only seven days for an osprey to visit!



Unique osprey stand design borrowed from a friend. Photo by Peter Brooks.

Seven days after installing the stand, an osprey moved in. Photo by Peter Brooks.

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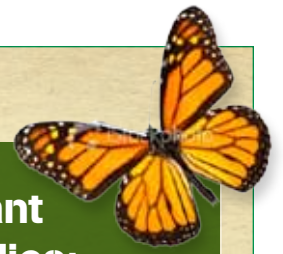
Butterfly Attracting Plant Material

The Everglades Club has also had great success in incorporating butterfly-attracting plants into the existing landscaping. They did not want a formal butterfly garden, instead they wanted to add to and complement the existing natural areas on the course. Peter worked with landscape architect Buzz Jaskela to design areas and develop specific plant lists that would attract butterflies to the property.

On a recent afternoon ride around the golf course, administrative assistant Judy Fischer identified seven butterfly species: Painted Lady, Orange Barred Sulfur, Clouded Sulfur, Julia Heliconian, Zebra Longwing, Monarch and Checkered White. Judy is very active in The Everglades Club's Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program and is currently working to develop a brochure about butterflies for member and staff education.

Conclusion

The Everglades Club is a good example of how you can enhance wildlife and habitat on a golf course in an urban environment. With careful thought and planning you can implement these projects over time without spending a lot of money and still end up with a great bang for your buck.



The Everglades Club plant list for attracting butterflies:

Firespike	Pony Tail	Cattley Guava
Fire bush	Lariope	Surinam Cherry
Croton spp.	Adams Needle	Plumbago
Heliconia spp.	Spanish Bayonet	Japanese Privet
Silver buttonwood	Dracena	Confederate Jasmine
Green Island ficus	Banana	Oleander
Bird of Paradise	Travelers Tree	Lantana
cocoplumb	Heliconia	Shrip Plant
Walters Viburnum	Ginger	Pentas
Chinele	Sea Grape	Gardenia
powder puff	Bougainvillea	Sweet Viburnum
Wax myrtle	Magnolia Little Gem	Wedelia
Staghorn fern	Loquat	Lantana
Coontie	Indian Hawthorn	Pentas
Podocarpus	American Holly	Passion Vine
Southern Red Cedar	Dahoon Holly	Plumbago
Screw Pine	Beauty Berry	Jamaican Caper
Wandering Jew	Hibiscus	
Elephant Ear	Bottle Brush	

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Team Building and Family Bonding

The father and son teams at the Sanctuary Golf Club. Left to Right: Alberga Campbell, Paul Campbell, Tim Familo, Joe Familo, Lewis Farrara, Ray Farrara, Josh Sweet and Kyle Sweet.

By Kyle D. Sweet, CGCS

How many of us have had the chance to follow in our fathers' footsteps? How many of those footsteps have been on the dew-covered grass as the sun rises on a golf course? At our place, The Sanctuary Golf Club, Sanibel Island, we have promoted an environment that makes that possible each day during the summer months for four father-son teams.

Having employees who are willing to recommend friends for job openings – and in

this case, family – has been very fortunate for our operation. In two cases, Ted Campbell, equipment operator and Tim Familo, clubhouse landscape manager, were employed first and then we secured their sons afterwards when positions became available. Ray Farrara, equipment manager, and I have been lucky enough to have our sons out on the course as they grew up and they are now able to work for us during their summers away from school. In all cases, the work environment has benefited and the bond between father

and son has grown.

We have promoted this situation through plenty of introductions to our members, a recent newsletter photo and communication to other club departments. Our father-and-son teams have been embraced and are part of our maintenance operation culture.

Team building with family may not always work, but, when it does, it can be a benefit to your operation and to the loyal, hard-working employees who make our industry possible. ■



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**GREEN SIDE UP
BY JOEL JACKSON**

The FGCSA is a busy beat. We have a lot going on. Jennifer is answering the phones and emails every day and certainly makes her share of trips to host or manage our events. This fall will go down in the history books as one of the busiest for me travel-wise that I can ever recall. The first of September is always Fall *Florida Green* deadline time, so it's naturally hectic. I made a trip to Sarasota on the 12th to cover the second joint West Coast-Suncoast meeting and "Across the Bridge" golf

challenge match. Next I had to meet two deadlines for The Green Sheet and my monthly *Golfdom* column. The FTGA Turf Conference and Trade Show took up the last week of September.

On Oct. 5 the North Florida GCSA premiers its Fall Classic at Amelia Island to honor longtime member Crash Hall and to host the fifth major FGCSA golf event to name the final member of the FGCSA Golf Team for the GCSAA Championship in San Diego. Our fall FGCSA board meeting will precede that on Oct. 4 at the Amelia Island Plantation Golf Club. The following Monday, Oct. 8, the West Coast holds its annual Bud Quandt Research & Benefit Tournament at the Feather Sound Club in Largo.

Two days later on Oct 10, Jennifer and I are in Lake Buena Vista attending an Ag Institute of Florida-sponsored "Lunch & Learn" session on using social media for business and association communications.

The following week

Jennifer and I will be gathering material for the November-December *Green Sheet* deadline, and on the 18th and 19th I'll be heading down to Naples to cover the Everglades GCSA's annual CREW Tournament at the Old Corkscrew G.C. Meanwhile, Jennifer is hoping everyone has met the October deadline for names and contact information for the 2013 FGCSA Directory as she begins the process of laying out the publication.

On Oct. 28 I fly out to Kansas City for a GCSAA Environmental Programs Committee meeting, and five days later back in Orlando, I'm setting up our FGCSA booth at the 2012 Irrigation Association show on Nov. 4 at the Convention Center to network with potential sponsors and advertisers. The next day I'm airborne again, this time to Dallas to attend a day-and-a-half USGA Water Summit meeting with speakers from EPA, academia, the Green Section and our own Tim Hiers, CGCS.

The following week, on Nov. 13, it's off to Birmingham to participate in the Alabama GCSA's first-ever assistant superintendent "Boot Camp" education event. On the plus side, all the travel does generate material and topics for my writing.

Amid all this mayhem there are publication deadlines for my *Golfdom* and *Florida Golf Central* columns, and the *Florida Green* material is due again Dec. 7 and the *Green Sheet* process begins on the 15th. By now Jennifer has hopefully assembled the *Directory*, it has been proofed and is on its way to the printer. She does an amazing job of meeting planning managing the magazine advertising, the *Green Sheet* coordination and maintaining chapter communications networks.

Hopefully January will shape up to be a bit of a recovery and rehab month and you will have all your 2013 event calendars planned so we can begin again!



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