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The 19th hole. It's not in the clubhouse. It's on Hatchett Creek. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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bottom, I got my first superintendent assignment.

"I had help along the way, of course, and it all began with the foremen and assistant superintendents at TPC who were willing to answer my questions and teach me the "how and why" of doing the things required on a golf course. Mitch Clark was one of those assistants at TPC and he was the biggest influence in my full development as a future superintendent when he asked me to be his assistant at the St. James Golf Club in Port St. Lucie. After two years under his tutelage, I was named to fill his shoes as superintendent when he left St. James."

After tours of duty at the 36-hole complex of Crystal Lake and Tam O'Shanter in Deerfield Beach and the Indian River Colony Club in Melbourne, Haubein came to Pelican Pointe in 2008. He joined the Suncoast Golf Course Superintendents Association and he is an eight-year member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. He is currently the secretary of the Suncoast GCSA.

Involvement in professional associations helps superintendents continue to develop not only their agronomic skills through formal education programs and networking, but also in developing communication, leadership and business skills. One of the greatest investments a golf facility can make is encouraging their superintendents to become actively involved with their

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## **HAUBEIN FUN FACTS**



Photo by Joel Jackson.

Vehicle: 2008 Ford F-150 4-door Crew Cab
I stay home to watch: Swamp People
Favorite performers: Blue Collar comedians – Jeff
Foxworthy, Bill Ingvall, Ron White and Larry the Cable Guy
What I've been reading: Fishing and turf magazines
Favorite meal: Anything but brussel sprouts
Prized possessions: My new bride and — oh yeah, my boat also
Personal heroes: My Mom and Dad
I'm better than anyone else when it comes to: Putting a

smile on my fiancee, Amy's face.

**Nobody knows that I:** Played running back in high school averaging 6.8 yards per carry was offensive player of the year.

If I could do it over: Get a college degree

**I'd give anything to meet:** Both my grandpas one more time

My fantasy is: To visit every major league ball park

The one thing I can't stand: Scalped cup plugs

If I could change one thing about myself: Grow back the hair I had in high school

**Most humbling experience:** Overseed transition in 2008. We quit overseeding greens after that.

The words that best describe me: Forgiving and patient

**My dream foursome would be:** My dad, brother and nephew

**My best fish story:** Hooking, fighting and landing a 180-pound tarpon.

**My most amazing/lucky/important golf shot:** Tee shot on TPC's infamous #17 par 3. The ball bounced off the top of the bulkhead and stopped one ball rotation from going in for a hole-in-one.

# PELICAN POINTE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB



Pelican Pointe Crew Members. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Location: Venice, FL

No. of Holes: 27 holes. The Meadows Nine, Preserve Nine and Hatchet Creek Nine. Yardage: Meadows/Preserve Course – The longest at 7,182 yards Par: 72 Slope & Rating: 140/75.5

**Ownership:** LITTLESTONE Management Group

**Playing Policy:** Semi-Private. Average 60,000 rounds per year.

Designed by: Ted McAnlis.

**Opened:** Meadows and Preserve nines opened in 1995. Hatchet Creek nine opened 2002.

**Management Team:** Club Manager Tom Weaver; Head Golf Professional Bill Neal; Superintendent Dan Haubein.

Special and Ongoing Projects: Laserleveled the par 3 tees and constructed 2 new tees for better playability yardage. Annual conditioning of our crushed concrete and shell rock cart paths. Aggressive invasive species removal program targeting Brazilian pepper trees around the borders of the property. Renovate selected bunkers, bulkheads and bridges. Removed hard concrete paths around par-3s and installed shell rock paths.

Total property acres: Acreage under

maintenance: 160. Total acres: 180 Greens: TifDwarf; average size 7200 square feet; 5.0 acres total; height of cut: .140 to .125 depending on green-speed goals. Overseeding: none. Green speed goals: In season 10 to 11; off season 9 to 10. Tees: Tifway 419. 6.0. acres HOC: .550 - .650". Overseeding: 3-Way Perennial ryegrass @ 400 lbs. per acre. Fairways: Tifway 419. 45.5 total acres; HOC: .550 - .650" Overseeding: 3-Way Perennial ryegrass @ 400 lbs. per acre.

**Roughs:** Tifway 419 Total acres: 90. HOC: 1.50 – 2.0". Overseeding: None

**Bunkers:** 73. Sand type: GA30; machine-raked. Equipment: Groom Master II with brush finish.

Landscaped and/or naturalized areas/ beds: 40-plus acres of conservation area. Crushed shell rock, native vegetation; maintained with Earth Balance.

Waterways/Lakes/Ponds: Total 40 on or bordering golf courses; 60 lakes total in the development. 39 littoral shelf plantings, 3 designated wetland areas, and Hatchet Creek flows through property from east to west. Lake maintenance by Aquagenix Lake Company.

Wildlife Inventory: Bald eagles, hawks and songbirds of all varieties plus coyotes, red-tail fox, and gopher tortoise inhabit the uplands. Alligators, otters, turtles, waterfowl, shore birds and wading birds find food and shelter in the lakes. **Irrigation:** Effluent water plus two 100-ft. lake fill wells. Pumps: two 75 hp VFDs and two 60 hp VFDs. Controls: Toro OSMAC Site Pro CCS. Heads: 1,460, 60-foot spacing. No fertigation system.

Water Restrictions: None currently. Water Management/Conservation practices: We strive for firm and fast playing conditions. The use of adjuvants and hand watering helps maintain proper soil moisture levels.

**Staff:** Total including superintendent: 19 with 16 full time and 3 part-time crew members. Schedule: 40 hours straight time. Technicians may get up to 4 hours OT weekly.

**Key Staff:** Assistant Mike Scheyhing; Head Equipment Tech Keith Taylor; Assistant Equipment Tech Randy Plyer; Pest Control Tech Kevin Fincher; Irrigation Tech Bucky Lucey.

**Meetings/ Communications:** Daily crew meetings. Weekly technician meetings. Manager meetings weekly in season and monthly out of season. I also attend any Club or HOA meetings when scheduled.

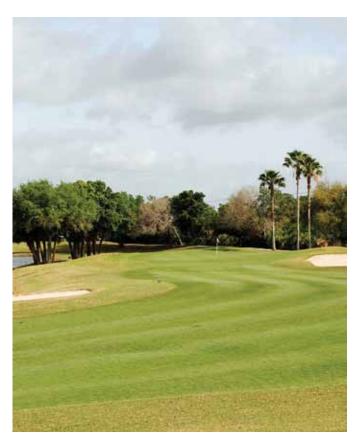


local superintendent's chapter and providing in the budget for membership dues, meetings and travel to annual regional and/or national conferences. Golf pros, club managers and golf course superintendents all have excellent continuing education programs that help all of them to do a better job for their facilities public or private.

Let's get down to some grass roots information about the turf management at Pelican Pointe. Haubein likes having a 27-hole operation. He's allowed to close nine holes for a week at a time to get necessary aerification, verticutting, top dressing and pesticide and fertilizer applications done in an orderly fashion.

Primary pest control applications include three largescale herbicide applications for weed control. In October they apply Barricade to the roughs to prevent stray fairway overseeding from popping up during germination in the fall. Then in January there is a follow up application to keep volunteer ryegrass seeds from doing late season germination. In April, Ronstar is applied with fertilizer to prevent warm season weeds from germinating and to give the native bermudagrass a boost to help with transition in the overseeded fairways. A little later in the spring — around

The 530-yard 12th hole has a wicked little dogleg right in front of the green. Photo by Joel Jackson.



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The 10th hole showing off its striped ryegrass fairway. Photo by Joel Jackson.

May and/or early June — insecticide applications are made to control mole crickets and grubs. Weed or pest activity is monitored and any outbreaks are spot-treated where needed.

Greens are aerified three times a year. Once a year, a heavy verticutting with a Mat-a Way is done for thatch removal. Thereafter greens are verticut and topdressed monthly. Primo growth regulator is applied at 5 ounces per week.

The tees, collars, approaches and fairways are aerified twice per year and verticut once. Primo is applied at 15 ounces per acre during the summer months. The roughs aerified once per year and scalped down to 3/4 inch to help remove thatch.

Each course has its unique challenges with water and soil qualities. Haubein spoke about some site-specific issues at Pelican Pointe. He said, "Holes 19, 20, 21 and 27 were built using soil dug up between the 19th tee and the 27th green. Unfortunately it contained a lot of limestone rocks and boulders. On



hole 27, the soil was so rocky and the turf cover was so thin that we had to designate that hole as "cart path only!"

"We began a very aggressive aerification program to help break up the rocks to improve drainage and root growth. We also removed some trees to allow more sunlight and air movement. By staying on a consistent program we have been able to drive carts on the 27th fairway all year long for the last three years."

Other projects and programs include laser-leveling par-3 tees and in 2010 constructing two new tees to offer better playable yardages. There is annual maintenance and renovation to the concrete and crushed shell rock cart paths and waste bunker areas. The club also embarked on an aggressive exotic plant removal program, tackling the Brazilian pepper trees bordering the property. And with 40 lakes on the site, there is always plenty of annual selective bulkhead and bridge renovation work to do.

In some of the photos for this story you'll see striped overseeded tees and fairways. However, after a disastrous greens transition in 2008, Haubein convinced the club to stop overseeding greens and just let him manage the TifDwarf greens.

We've had a generally warmer than normal winter this year and during my recent visits in January and February the greens were looking good and rolling fast and true.



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