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saucers, rubs and seasonings. No Kraft or Sweet Baby Ray's touches his grill.

I think we need to have a cook-off between these two at one of our state events.

After dinner, you might find Sunderman picking up a guitar and playing a little blues or classic rock. He says his equipment manager's son is a professional musician and his own 13-year old son, Trent, isn't too shabby either. Sunderman admitted, "I like to perform in front of people. I'm not great but I love the rush. Sometimes I think Trent and I could practice a little more and maybe do some father-son outdoor patio gigs at a restaurant."

A generational leadership transition is taking place across our industry and our associations. It will be Sunderman's talents as a leader

in that generation that will be needed to help the FGCSA serve its members and remain a meaningful voice in the Florida golf industry.



View down the 1st hole from the putting green and tee complex. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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ANNUAL CENTRAL FLORIDA

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## ISLA DEL SOL YACHT &amp; COUNTRY CLUB



*Isla Del Sol Maintenance Staff. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

**Location:** St. Petersburg, FL

**No. of Holes:** 18 Yardage: 6,307  
Par: 71 Slope & Rating: 130/69.1

**Ownership:** Member owned.

**Playing Policy:** Private. Some limited public play in the summer.

**Designed by:** Mark Mahannah.

**Opened:** 1997

**Management Team:** Club Manager Robert Rankin; Head Golf Professional Fred Curtis; Director of Grounds Kevin Sunderman

**Projects:** Converted greens from TifDwarf to SeaIsle Supreme Paspalum in 2007. We conduct progressive annual renovations of tees, bunkers and bulkheads and landscaped areas. In 2009 we did a total upgrade to all clubhouse landscaping.

**Total property acres:** 105. Acreage under maintenance: 100

**Greens:** Turf Type: SeaIsle Supreme.

Average size (sq.ft.): 6,200. Acres: 3.0

Height of Cut (Bench setting - .070 to .115 with goal in the field of .100 - .115.

Overseeding: none. Green speed goals:

Average 9.5 depending on season or event.

**Tees:** Turf Type: Celebration bermudagrass some 419 and SeaIsle Supreme. Acres: 2.0. HOC: .375 - .500" in season, .500 in summer. Overseeding (type & rate): Perennial ryegrass @ 400# per acre.

**Fairways:** Turf Type: Tifway 419. Total acres: 20. HOC: .500 - .600"

Overseeding: None

**Roughs:** Turf Type: Tifway 419 Total acres: 50. HOC: 1.25".

Overseeding: None

**Bunkers:** Number of bunkers 54. Sand type: 37M Machine raked; Equipment: John Deere 1200H

**Landscaped and naturalized areas/beds:** One naturalized area right side of first hole due to constant shade and cart traffic from teeing area. Multiple accent and functional landscaped beds.

**Waterways/Lakes/Ponds:** Total number: 23. Acres: 20. Lake maintenance by Lake Masters.

**Irrigation:** 100 percent direct piped effluent water. Two 75 hp VFD booster pumps by Citrus Seven Pump Services. Controls: Rainbird PAR 24 retrofitted to a

Nimbus II central controller. Heads: 1,100/75-ft. spacing. No fertigation system.

**Water Restrictions:** No restrictions by ordinance. Submit water-use BMP plans during times of low supply. We share the irrigation water with all the condominium associations. Due to shared water we can only irrigate wall-to-wall on Tuesday and Fridays. Other five days limited to about 150,000 gallons.

**Water Management/Conservation practices:** Numerous detailed "Hot Spot" programs. Utilize hand watering. Use wetting agents.

**Staff:** Total including superintendent: 16. Schedule: 36 hours straight time. Weekend crews gets 42 hours. Additional payroll for summer months used for either temporary workers, overtime or additional employees.

**Key Staff:** Assistant Fernando Collazo, 24 years with IDYCC; Assistant Chris Hewitt, 14 years at IDYCC; Equipment Technician Larry Jordan (6 years).

**Meetings/ Communications:** Daily assistant meetings. Monthly or special Club Department Head meetings.

*Top: Early morning on the 10th hole at Isla Del Sol. Photo by Joel Jackson*

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*The normally stately Great Blue Heron is all fluffed up by the windy day.*

*Waterways plus fish equals ospreys.*



# *Feathered Friends on the Fairways*

Photos by Joel Jackson

*The Bird of Paradise plant behind the crotons looks like tall heron in the bushes.*



*Cormorants hunker down in the chilly October breeze.*



*This Great Blue let me get really close.*



*Roseate Spoonbills like the Tampa Bay area.*



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# Sand Solutions

Finer-textured turf varieties are commonplace on greens these days and the old standby topdressing products and methods have had to change as well to accommodate good turf management. Higher golfer expectations also have required more attention to detail and esthetic considerations and the age of colored divot sand was born. But the tides of change ebb and flow and right now they're ebbing and cost is more of concern during these challenging times. We asked superintendents to chime in on the methods and products they are currently using.

## **Bill Davidson, CGCS, Country Club of Naples,**

Greens' topdressing sands as fine as talc powder! I think this is an issue that came about in the age of ultralow mowing and trying to find a way to get the sand into the canopy. I used to mow my greens at .100-inch or lower and constantly apply sand and then pick it up with mowers.

Due to the dense, tight-cut canopy, a lot of people – including myself – started looking for finer, screened sands to incorporate into the turf to get the benefits of doing such. I was using sand called “ideal” sand. It is dried and screened sand. Now, with newer programs of mowing higher and rolling more, I no longer worry about sand incorporation into the putting surface.

I mow my greens at .125-inch year-around and no longer buy special screened sands in the winter months when the canopy tightens up. I use 200-seive sand in the summer and 180-seive sand after the last aerification.

Divot sand preference varies widely as well. I no longer buy the green-dyed sand because the green latex colorant used to dye the sand never degrades. I've dug up



*Topdressing materials and methods are changing with the times. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

old range tees after 10 years of green sand being used to fill divots and the colorant is just as vibrant as the day the divots were filled.

In replacing the green-dyed sands, I use sand that has been blended with a screened compost to darken the sand. I believe the darker sand attracts more heat and thus stimulates recovery better in the

winter, and the compost helps the sand hold more water and nutrients as well. I've heard of people using sand dyed black, but my fear is the sand colorant will have the same fate in the soil as the green and be around way too long.

My divot sand sizing is whatever they have left over to blend with the compost. It's usually around a 220-sieve size, but I really don't care. I just want as inexpensive a sand as I can get – the Celebration bermudagrass will grow through concrete.

## **Kevin Sunderman, Isla Del Sol Yacht & Country Club**

We use green sand only for divots. It is straight sand with no amendments. I proposed using natural color sand in the summer as a cost saver, but the members vetoed the suggestion, preferring the green sand look.

Natural colored sand is used for all topdressing. I continue

to topdress with straight sand that closely matches the greens mix in particle size. I emphasize a lot of big holes during aerification and do my best to incorporate as much sand as possible during this time.

While it doesn't eliminate the need for light topdressing throughout the year, I have been able to cut back these applications and still have a tight canopy that