

Boca Rio GC uses new technology to solve drainage problems

By TERRY BUCHEN

BOCA RATON, Fla. — We have all had it drilled into our heads, from educators and experienced superintendents alike, that drainage is the most important aspect of growing good, quality turfgrass. The equation is further complicated when trying to drain a golf course that has little or no elevation change, as is found on many courses in the Southeast United States.

But a relatively new drainage technique is proving worthwhile on many courses in that region.

Illustrating the success of the method is Matthew R. Quinn, superintendent at the Boca Rio Golf Club here.

Boca Rio, built in 1960, has little elevation change and is surrounded by a canal drainage and irrigation water system around its borders.

"We had to come up with a better way to drain some of our bunkers and a few fairways, so we have experimented and tested a turf drain siphoning system that is working great so far," Quinn said. "This type system will not relieve water to an elevation higher than where it was collected, as obviously you would need a pump to do that. However, the siphon system will transport water through higher elevations as it goes to a lower point of elevation."

Quinn has experimented and is currently testing this system in a greenside bunker, where crews have installed the plastic pipe covered with a geotextile cloth.



"X" marks the spot where the drainage grate is covered with a geotextile filter cloth.



Siphon drainage 8-by-1-inch pipe is installed vertically in the trench.



ON THE GREEN

The course has a permanent installation hook-up to its irrigation system so that the system can initially be primed and flushed if it ever becomes contaminated with any dirt or debris, he said.

"Shooting traditional grades is not needed," Quinn said, "as we only need to shoot the elevation difference

between the points that we are going to install the collection drainage basin and grate, and the point that we are going to relieve the water."

These systems are designed primarily to enable the course to install seepage drainage. With seepage drainage, depth is more critical than volume.

The objective with the siphon system is to allow people to drain the profile to a depth so that they create storage areas for the next rainfall. By lowering the water table in between rainfalls, the system creates a storage area for future rainwaters, Quinn explained.

The turf drain siphon system has no moving parts once it is primed, he said. After the initial priming, all valves are opened manually except for the pressurized valve attached to the irrigation system. From this point on there are no floats, pumps, and valves and like a gravity system it is very easy to maintain.

"We have high expectations about this system and feel confident that it will work on our relatively flat golf course," Quinn said.

Carolinas supers cited for leadership

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Six golf course superintendents from North and South Carolina received awards from Bayer Corp., Garden & Professional Care (GPC), during a ceremony held Oct. 2, at Kiawah Island Golf and Tennis Resort in South Carolina.

The program, sponsored by Bayer Corp., rewards superintendents in the Carolinas for participation and leadership in local golf course association, continuing education including the attendance of workshops held by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and other associations, as well as for environmental stewardship.

Award-winning superintendents were

Terry Carland of Etowah Valley Country Club; Mark Burnette, Myers Park Country Club.

Also, Bill Maynard of Champion Hills Country Club; Keith McKenzie of Sapona Country Club; Mike Claffey, Cape Fear Country Club; and David Downing II of Wild Wing Plantation.

"We essentially look for golf course superintendents who consistently set an example of what a superintendent should be," said Jeff Vannoy, Bayer sales representative and program coordinator.

Candidates for the award were nominated by the distributors with whom they do business.

The awards ceremony was part of a three-day outing at Kiawah Island.

Audubon International's Project Flight Plan

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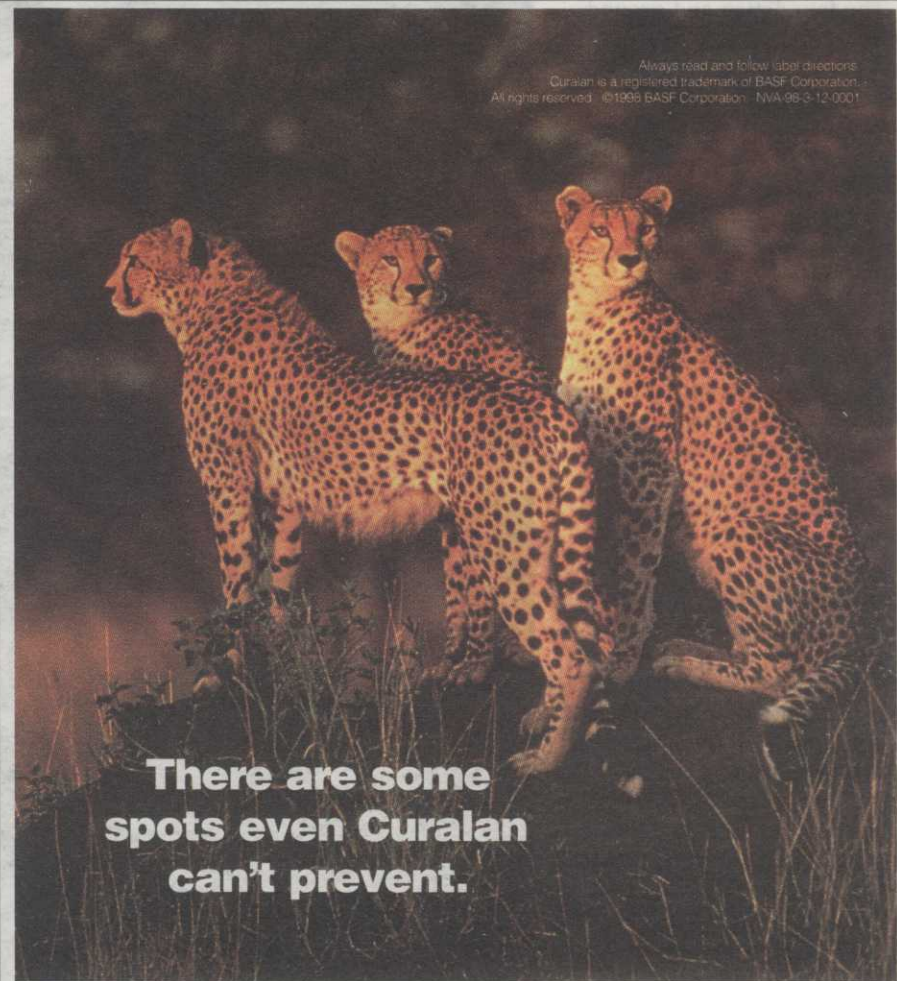
information and projects to enhance habitat for migratory birds. Projects can include planting native trees, adding a bird feeder, leaving fields unmown for ground-nesting species, leaving standing dead trees and decaying logs to promote beneficial insect activity and nesting cavities, and keeping a bird inventory.

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