

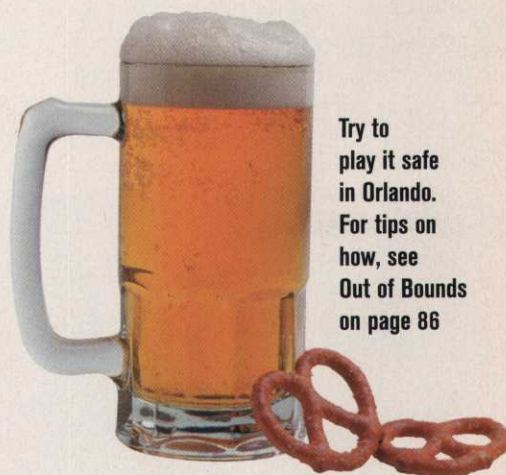
No Offense, Mickey

Here's how to get off Orlando's beaten path for a little R&R during the greatest show on Earth . . . err . . . turf

BY JOEL D. JACKSON

after all-day seminars and trekking the GCSAA trade-show floor at Orlando's Orange County Convention Center, it's a good bet you'll be ready for a break. While there are plenty of hotels and restaurants on popular International Drive, there are just as many nearby local hangouts if you want to get away from the crowd, have a cool brew and get some reasonably priced food.

Those seeking the sports bar/grill experience won't be disappointed. Venues include two Orlando Ale Houses, one on Kirkman Road (just



Try to play it safe in Orlando. For tips on how, see *Out of Bounds* on page 86

north of the International Drive area) and one in Lake Buena Vista (on State Route 535, about 10 minutes west on Interstate 4). Each Ale House has a gazillion TVs covering sports 24/7, dollar beers and good food. J.B.'s Sports Bar (also on Kirkman Road) is another good bet.

Take Kirkman a little farther north, and you'll find Sam Snead's Tavern. Sam's golf memorabilia is on display, with good food to boot. Another recently remodeled golf bar is the Fairways Lounge at the Grand Cypress Club in the Lake Buena Vista area. If you must do Disney, there's the ESPN Club at the Boardwalk/Epcot complex. It's easy to get to from the convention center and is about a 15-minute ride.

Other local favorites include J.T.'s restaurant and bar. Hooters features three outlets near the

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GCSAA Preview

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convention center. The outlet at Pointe Orlando on International Drive will probably be mobbed, so you might want to hit the one on Kirkman Road for more elbow room (notice how Kirkman Road keeps coming up?), located just past Universal Studios. There's also a Hooters in Lake Buena Vista.

Pointe Orlando also sports The Players Club and Dan Marino's Tavern, but they're a little pricier than the others.

If you want to go primitive and visit a dive that has survived all the Disney-related flash and dash, don't miss The Big Bamboo Bar off State Route 535 and U.S. 192 in Kissimmee, not far from the convention center. This plain, ramshackle concrete-block bar with dirt parking lot and a screen door for air conditioning is a real urban legend that doesn't make the guidebooks. The walls are adorned with business cards of practically everyone who has worked at Disney, along with cartoon

sketches by original Disney animators. The furnishings are early flea market — rear seats from Econoline vans are used for booth seats along with wooden-cable spools for tables. The atmosphere may be rustic, but the beer is cold.

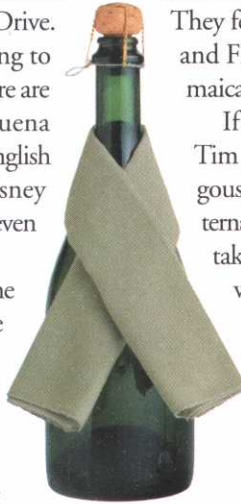
The international brethren can get a little slice of home or a pint at the Cricketeer Arms Pub in the Mercado complex on International Drive. For those ale lovers wanting to shake the tourist traffic, there are Kitty O'Shea's at Lake Buena Vista and The Stagedoor English pub on West 192 past Disney (friendly folks, full bar and even karaoke).

If you do have champagne tastes, there's always the Wyndham Palace Hotel in Lake Buena Vista. It features free champagne at sunset in the piano lounge on the 27th floor while over-

looking Disney fireworks. There is excellent five-star dining at Arthur's 27 and the Outback (not the chain), where reservations are required to sample the kangaroo and ostrich.

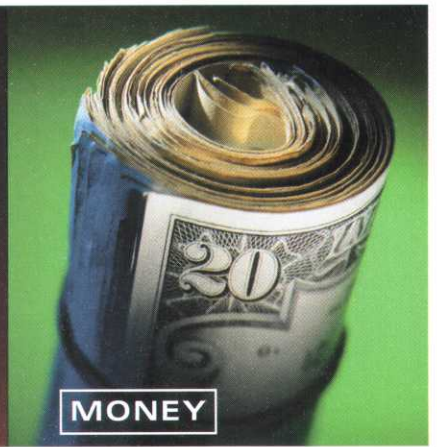
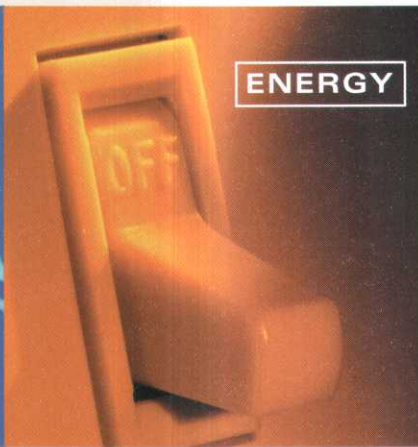
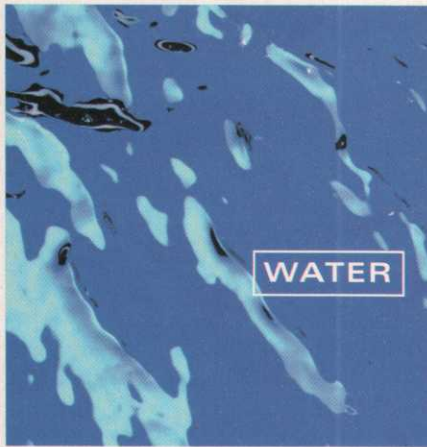
Less expensive but very popular are the two Bahamas Breeze restaurants, one on International Drive and the other on State Route 535 near Lake Buena Vista. They feature rum drinks, reggae music and Floribbean cuisine. I like the Jamaican Wings, which are huge.

If guys want to shop and do the Tim Allen grunt, there's the humongous Bass Pro Shops store on the International Drive north extension. Just take a right on International Drive, which is off — you guessed it — Kirkman Road. ■



Jackson, Golfdom's contributing editor and an Orlando resident, knows the city's scene better than the chamber of commerce.

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What's New?

Here are some of the new items you'll find on the GCSAA trade-show floor

BY LARRY AYLWARD, EDITOR

it's always one of the first questions after the event: Was the trade show crowded? But, for a change, let's pose that question before the 73rd GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show takes place Feb. 3-9 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando. Of course, a few things need to be considered.

One — Sept. 11. Attendance will be down because people are afraid to fly.

Two — The economy. Attendance will be down because people don't have the money to travel.

Three — Orlando ain't rainy, chilly and boring like Dallas. Remember the heavy traffic on the floor last year because there was nowhere cool to sneak off to? But Orlando has its Dis(ne)ytractions.

The bottom line: If you make it to the show and spend some time on the floor, you'll see some cool things. You usually do.

If you stop by The Scotts Co.'s booth, you'll probably be impressed with its research on Roundup Ready Creeping Bentgrass. Eric Nelson, a senior turfgrass scientist at Scotts, says the product will be the "most thoroughly studied bentgrass

cultivar ever" before it hits the market in 2003.

Scotts and Monsanto, who are working on the technology together, say that *Poa annua*, *Poa triv* and bermudagrass are difficult to control selectively or suppress in conventional creeping bentgrass without also damaging the bentgrass. "Roundup Ready creeping bentgrass should permit selective control of both grassy and broadleaf weeds without any observable phytotoxic reaction on the bentgrass," according to the companies.

Initially, the product's seed will be used for fairways, but eventually it will be used for greens. Scotts and Monsanto are currently seeking regulatory approval for the product.

Roundup Ready Creeping Bentgrass is currently being tested by selected superintendents across the country. Representatives from Scotts and Monsanto will be at Scotts' booth to answer questions about the product. They'll also be handing out educational bulletins.

If you happen by BASF Professional Turf's booth, you might ask someone about the company's new fungicide, Insignia, to be released early this year. The fungicide offers broad-spectrum control of several turf diseases, in addition to suppression of dollar spot, the company says.

If you stop by Pursell Technologies' booth, make sure to ask about its polymer-coated insecticide formulated with its patented PRECISE coating technology, which allows gradual release of pesticides through osmotic diffusion. It works in every stage of an insect's growth, either as a preventative application or a curative control for adult insects.

If you happen by John Deere's booth, you'll want to check out its new 180B/220B/ 260B Walk-Behind Greens Mowers. Deere claims they're the lightest greens mowers made today. To decrease noise, the mowers are equipped with smaller-pitched chain and new chain

adjusters, as well as a larger muffler with high-impact resistant polymer chain covers.

If you see more orange than normal, don't be alarmed. You're probably just nearing Textron Golf, Turf & Specialty Products booth. In October, Textron announced it was dumping its Ransomes brand in the United States and adopting one major primary color — orange — to market its major brands, which also include Jacobsen, Cushman and Ryan. Therefore, Textron will showcase many "new" orange products.

Other new products you'll see on the show floor:

Debris blowers

The Toro Co. offers its Debris Blower 400 and Debris Blower 600, which clean areas



of leaves, twigs, pine needles, clippings and other debris. The blowers are also for clearing dew, the company says.

The 400 is a compact unit, and the 600 features a powerful 36-inch diameter fan. For more information, contact 952-888-8801 or www.toro.com.

Utility mower

National Mower Co. introduces the IM25 utility mower, a walk-behind reel mower designed to cut tees, clubhouse grounds

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John Deere says its new walk-behind greens mowers are light and less noisy.

What's New?

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and greens during the grow-in period. The easy-to-handle and durable IM25 tracks well for striping. The mower also features a built-in backlapping device to speed reel sharpening.

For more information, contact 888-907-3463 or www.nationalmower.com.

Syringing system

Reelcraft Industries introduces an enhanced syringing system, featuring a hose-handling concept designed to make syringing of greens easier, more efficient and economical. The system utilizes a direct underground maintenance retractable hose



reel system, known as the DGM System. It's installed permanently at each green with a 75-foot water hose.

For more information, contact 800-444-3134 or www.reelcraft.com.

Four-stroke engine

Stihl introduces a mixture-lubricated four-stroke engine known as the Stihl 4-Mix. With the technology, Stihl will not only meet the EPA's phase two emissions standards taking effect in 2005 and the regulations set forth by the California Air Resources Board, but the company will also provide professional users with the benefits of two-stroke and four-stroke engine technologies combined.

For more information, contact 800-467-8445 or www.stihlusa.com.

Electric vehicle

TH!NK Mobility, an enterprise of the Ford Motor Co., offers a zero-emission, low-speed electric battery-powered personal vehicle. The new neighbor sport package is a tailor-made solution for superintendents who want an environmentally conscious mode of golf course transportation.

For more information, contact 866-24-TH!NK or www.thinkmobility.com.

Turf reinforcement mats

North American Green introduces its Vmax3 Composite Reinforcement Series, comprised of three different Composite Turf Reinforcement Mats (C-TRMs). The products allow vegetation to be used in

many shoreline, channel and slope applications where rock riprap and concrete have been used in the past. The new Vmax3 series contains two new products, SC250 and P550. The third product in the series is North American Green's well-established C350.

For more information, contact 800-772-2040 or www.nagreem.com.

Water cooler station

Par Aide Products offers a new water cooler station, which features recycled plastic wood slats over a powder-coated steel frame. A large capacity, built-in trash receptacle keeps trash out of sight with easy accessibility. Double doors allow plenty of room to take the water cooler in and out, and with inside housing there's plenty of room for cup storage and service.

For more information, contact 888-893-2433 or www.paraide.com.

Fertilizers

PRO-SOL offers its newest turf fertilizers, Chameleon and Transition, intended for direct application. Chameleon contains iron with a combination of eight essential macro, secondary and micronutrients. Transition contains potash with a combination of four essential secondary and micronutrients.

For more information, contact 800-633-7685 or www.fritinc.com.

Core processor

Selbro offers its core processor, which efficiently grinds aeration cores on the most sensitive turf areas, according to the company. The one-person operated



machines features one-pass operation and can load into a utility vehicle quickly.

For more information, contact 800-973-5276.

Hose reel

Coxreels' 1125 Series has been improved for greater operator efficiency. Special features have been added and existing features modified to enhance its ease of use. New features include a low-profile outlet riser and open hose slot for even coiling of the hose onto the reel; a more

comfortable round-tapered handle; and a longer, more accessible drum-locking pin. For more information, contact 800-269-7335 or www.coxreels.com.

Herbicides

PBI/Gordon received EPA acceptance for three new herbicides containing the active ingredient carfentrazone-ethyl. The new combination products are called SpeedZone, SpeedZone St. Augustine Formula and PowerZone.



They're marketed

under Gordon's new ProForm brand.

The products contain carfentrazone-ethyl in combination with phenoxies and dicamba. Adding phenoxy actives and dicamba broadens the weed-control spectrum and adds systemic activity to the contact activity of carfentrazone-ethyl for multiple modes of action.

For more information, contact 800-821-7925 or www.pbigordon.com.

Biopesticide

MicroBio, a subsidiary company of Becker Underwood, introduces Nematac S, a bio-pesticide that uses a natural enemy instead of chemicals to control the pesky mole cricket.

Nematac S is a nematode-based biopesticide formulated in a water dispersed carrier that is applied as a high volume spray. The beneficial nematodes in Nematac S become active when applied to a soil profile and use mole crickets as hosts. The microscopic nematodes enter inside the mole crickets and release bacteria, which is lethal to the pest.

For more information contact www.bucolor.com

Fungicide

Medallion, from **Syngenta Professional Products**, has received a new label from the EPA for control of pink snow mold and the more difficult to manage gray snow mold. When applied at .5 oz per 1,000 square feet in the fall before snow cover, Medallion gives superintendents the just-in-time protection against snow mold, according to Syngenta.

Although Medallion is a contact fungicide, research in the Pacific Northwest, the Northeast and the Rocky Mountains shows that it actually controls the disease in the thatch and near the surface of the soil.

For more information, contact 336-632-2115 or www.syngentaprofessionalprod